

# M.C.C.A.

Richard Dutremble, President  
York County

Norm Fournier, Vice President  
Aroostook County

George Jabar, Secretary-Treasurer  
Kennebec County

Stephen Gorden, Past President  
Cumberland County

William Blodgett, Emeritus  
Lincoln County



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Lauren Haven  
Administrator

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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 12th, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am.

##### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Admin. Clarice Proctor proxy for Comm. Garrett Mason  
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker proxy for Comm. John Wombacher  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill  
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

##### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill

##### OTHERS PRESENT:

Cumberland – Manager Jim Gailey  
Franklin – Admin. Amy Bernard  
Knox – Admin. Andy Hart  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer  
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
Penobscot – Admin. Scott Adkins  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams  
Somerset – Admin. Tim Curtis  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Jim Cohen and Brody Haverly-Johndro

2. Consent Agenda:
  - 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
  - 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
  - 2.3. Finance Reports – Lauren Haven

Comm. Baldacci **moved** to approve the consent agenda **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

3. Officer Reports:
  - 3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar
  - 3.2. Vice President, Norm FournierComm. Fournier said there was nothing to report at this time.

- 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

President Richard Dutremble reported that the Maine legislature passed budget without the requested jail funding increase. He said ideally, we need to work to secure an annual CPI increase (consumer price index) instead of fighting to get supplemental jail funding every year.

4. Standing Committee Reports:
  - 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Baldacci reported that NACo Annual Conference was coming up in a couple of weeks, July 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in Travis County, Texas. He asked if any other counties were sending people to attend the conference. Penobscot County was sending three people. The cost was estimated to be approximately \$2,500 per person. The conference cost varied according to venue and location of the conference. Comm. Pohlman said she expected to participate in the conference sessions online.

- 4.2. Convention Planning Committee – Lauren Haven
    - 4.2.1. Convention Planning Update

Admin. Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee (CPC) met on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the results gathered from the educational session topic survey. The topics that were considered of high interest would be prioritized as such. Committee members would try to find speakers for these topics. The CPC would meet again on July 21<sup>st</sup> and then twice in August as time was short to make all the arrangements.

Comm. Steve Gorden said there were several educational session topics that were legislative in nature. He suggested combining them into a legislative workshop to make the most of the time commissioners are together at the conference. The group agreed. Lauren said she would add it to the convention schedule.

#### 4.3. Legislative Policy Committee – Steve Gorden, Chair

##### 4.3.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

##### 4.3.1.1. Legislative Update

##### 4.3.1.2. Next Steps

Comm. Gorden reminded the group that the cloture for new bills had been established as Friday, September 29th.

Lobbyist Jim Cohen reported that the legislature was still in session. The record breaking amount of bills was roughly 30% more than they could handle. In his opinion, decision making was as partisan as he'd ever seen with the least amount of transparency. People were not surprisingly frustrated. Of the bills, 200 or so bills remained. The Legislature was scheduled to go back in the next two weeks to process the remaining bills. Any bills that were vetoed would have to be addressed after that.

One significant bill was passed, the paid FMLA bill, L.D. 1964 "*An Act to Create the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program*" which now provides up to twelve weeks of paid leave per year to all eligible employees in the private and public sector, except for employees of the federal government. Jim said that Maine is the 13<sup>th</sup> state with some version of paid leave. Maine's bill in particular is very generous as employees qualify after only 120 days on the job. Every employee in the state will have to pay into the fund out of their wages. Every employer will be required to participate. It even covers "affinity people" such as a friend, or neighbor that an employee wants to assist.

The Governor's budget passed with \$20 million for jails, but without the additional seven million requested. This was likely a result of the FMLA bill. No other "new" money was available. However, the budget included some important additions to legal services such as salary increases for judges.

Brody said we testified on fifty bills, and he gave the group the status of some of those bills. The rural patrol bill was carried over. Comm. Gardner asked if we should put in another bill. Jim said we needed to have some important conversations. We needed to address the issues and strategize together to achieve common goals such as jail funding and rural

patrol. We also needed to back up our position with relevant data. Scott Ferguson offered to collect the numbers and the jail professional council meeting will also talk about funding. And we need to develop legislation for next year.

Comm. Sharyn Pohlman reported that a bill coming out in January would affect counties that have airports. It was an act to eliminate excise tax. Many airports were not charging excise tax, but for those that were like Knox County, it would be a loss of revenue.

Comm. Fournier asked if there was still money available. Jim said the amounts were unclear as the Appropriations Committee had been working behind closed doors. It seemed that the easiest issues to resolve were being handled first, the ones that didn't require additional money or had consensus. Norm asked how the EMS money was going to be divided. Admin. Carrie Kipfer said they had decided to form a committee to decide how to divide that money, but that had happened a couple of months ago with no word since. It was likely a summer project.

Jim asked how we planned to come together to address issues. Comm. Gorden said he would schedule an LPC meeting to discuss next steps. The group decided the LPC meeting would be on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am by Zoom. Comm. Fournier said we needed involvement from all commissioners and suggested that the entire Board of Directors' meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> be dedicated to legislation. After some discussion, Comm. Chris Gardner **moved** to have the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in person at the MCCA offices in Augusta. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion **approved**.

5. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others.
6. Adjournment

President Dutremble invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 10:55 a.m. Comm. Baldacci made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Bill Blodgett, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



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MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar