MCCA

Andre Cushing, President
Penobscot County

Robert Sezak, Vice President
Somerset County

Kevin Kelley, 2nd Vice President
Waldo County

David Levesque, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County

Steve Gorden, Past President
Cumberland County

Lauren Haven
Administrator

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2026 10:00 am
via Zoom conference

1. Call to Order

President Andre Cushing called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am with the list of directors and other participants below in attendance.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Jane Pentheny
Aroostook – Comm. William Dobbins
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden proxy for Comm. Tom Tyler
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton
Hancock – Comm. Samuel DiBella
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Knox – Comm. Ed Glaser
Lincoln – Comm. David Levesque
Oxford – Comm. Sawin Millett proxy for Comm. Lisa Keim
Penobscot – Comm. Andre Cushing
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis
Sagadahoc – Comm. Todd McPhee
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak
Waldo – Comm. Breanna Pinkham Bebb proxy for Comm. Kevin Kelley
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble proxy for Comm. Chenette

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Cumberland – Comm. Tom Tyler
Oxford – Comm. Lisa Keim
Waldo – Comm. Kevin Kelley
Washington – Comm. David Burns
York - Comm. Justin Chenette

OTHERS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Admin. Jeff Chute
Aroostook – Admin. Justin Tibbetts
Franklin – Comm. Fen Fowler
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker
Lincoln County – Comm. Evan Goodkowsky and Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Oxford County – Admin. Zane Loper
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
Piscataquis – Admin. Mike Williams
Unorganized Territories – Fiscal Admin Chip Jones
Verrill Dana – Lobbyist Sam Hamilton

2. Consent Agenda:

2.1. Approval of the Agenda

2.2. Approval of the Minutes

2.3. Financial Reports: Lauren Haven

Comm. Cushing requested a motion to move the consent agenda. *Comm. McPhee made the **motion seconded** by Comm. Levesque and the motion **passed**.*

3. Committee Reports:

3.1. NACo Update: George Jabar and Robert Sezak

Comm. Jabar reported on the recent Annual Conference, highlighting the many services that NACo provides to members. NACo has the advantage of seeing issues across the country and Maine members can benefit from their experiences. Comm. Cushing added his comments about the trip.

3.2. Events Committee - Lauren Haven

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the Committee continued to meet to arrange the details for the upcoming conference. She gave the group statistics on the number of vendors, sponsors and attendees who had registered. Comm. Cushing explained the educational sessions and panel discussions planned for the event. He reminded attendees to register soon.

4. Legislative Policy Committee: Jean-Marie Caterina and Kevin Kelley, Co-Chairs

4.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

4.1.1. Legislative Update

4.1.2. Next Steps

Lobbyist Sam Hamilton reported that he attended an event that all the gubernatorial candidates participated in and he had an opportunity to speak with each one afterward, explaining some of the issues that are important to counties. Tomorrow there will be a Professional Standards Council meeting. He anticipated they would discuss the budget requests. The Legislative Policy Committee was planning to meet at the convention. Comm. Gorden asked if Sam could circulate a one-page list of bullet points for talking with candidates and legislators.

Comm. Cushing reminded the group about the Candidate Forum for those individuals on the ballot for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and State of Maine Governor being hosted by Maine Sheriffs, in coordination with the MCCA. The forum was scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Brewer Community School in Brewer.

President Cushing reported that the Title 30-A Committee is meeting to clarify ambiguous language within the statute. Rather than revising the entire statute, the committee aims to focus on a few key points. Drafting legislation to resolve one or two agreed-upon issues would represent a significant step forward. Administrator Carrie Kipfer reminded the group that Lincoln County will host the next meeting on Friday, August 21, at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

5. Officer Reports

5.1. President Report, Andre Cushing

5.2. Vice President, Robert Sezak

5.3. 2nd Vice President, Kevin Kelley

5.3. Secretary/Treasurer, David Levesque

Commissioner Levesque reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier that morning to launch the 2027 budget process. Commissioner Cushing noted that the committee is developing two comparative budgets: one including an executive director position and one without. This staffing decision will directly impact upcoming contract negotiations with the lobbying team, whose current agreement expires at year-end. If hired, the executive director could assume specific legislative responsibilities. Commissioner Levesque stated that this budget comparison will facilitate further discussions and welcomed ongoing feedback from the commissioners.

6. Steel Cell Tour Report

Comm. Cushing referred to the submitted report from Admin. Tim Curtis that was included in the meeting agenda packet. Comm. Cushing talked about his experience on the trip, saying the information they gathered was very worthwhile.

In August, Tim Curtis, Jeff Chute and Andre Cushing participated in an industry-sponsored tour of the Steel Cell of North America and Titan Steel Doors manufacturing facilities in the greater Atlanta, Georgia area to gain insights into correctional facility construction costs. The group was invited by Real Time Detention alongside representatives from four other counties including officials from Maine, Texas, and South Carolina. In his report, Tim said he aimed to gather knowledge to better inform taxpayers, legislators, and the Maine CCPSC. The tour highlighted Steel Cell's 600-employee facility in Baldwin, Georgia, which produces highly customizable, rust-resistant modular cells that stack together seamlessly at a cost comparable to traditional concrete. The second stop featured Titan Steel Doors in Lavonia, Georgia, a ten-year-old company employing 100 people that customizes frames and provides all the doors integrated into Steel Cell's modular units.

7. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others

E911 Advisory Council: Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported that the E-911 Council will meet on September 1st in Hallowell as part of its quarterly schedule. The text-to-911 project has launched, and the Public Utilities Commission announced it through a press release.

8. Adjournment

President Cushing asked if there were any other comments for the good of the association. Seeing none, *President Andre Cushing invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:05 p.m. Comm. Gorden made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. McPhee, and the motion to adjourn was **passed**.*

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven