

# 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 Agenda February 14th, 2024 at 10:00 am via Zoom

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Deputy Admin. Tiffany Baker proxy for Comm. Bob Carlton  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Ed Glaser proxy for Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett  
Penobscot – Comm. Andre Cushing proxy for Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams proxy for Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill  
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Charles Crosby

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Kennebec – Comm. Joe Pietroski  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer  
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
Penobscot – Admin. Scott Adkins  
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. Financial Reports: Lauren Haven

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

3. Officer Reports:
  - 3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar
  - 3.2. Vice President, Norm Fournier

Comm. Fournier, who is also the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that MCCA has money in reserves in the checking account and Money Market account. He suggested investing \$50,000 in a CD. Lauren had checked with Camden National Bank, and the rate would be about 5%. This would be a better Investment than accruing the very small amount of interest we are getting with the Money Market Account. Comm. Gardner said the advantage of using a Money Market account is that they are liquid. Comm. Sezak said Camden has poor rates, but there might be other banks with better Money Market rates. Lauren said she would get rates from a couple of other local banks and then we could revisit the subject.

- 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

4. Standing Committee Reports:

- 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Both of our NACo representatives were traveling back from the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

- 4.2. Convention Planning Committee (CPC): Lauren Haven

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the Committee had been meeting on a regular basis. They had requested estimates from four potential convention venues: Atlantic Oceanside, The Samoset, The Cliff House, and Sugarloaf. These venues had been used for past conferences. The committee was keeping Poland Spring Resort in mind as a backup in case all the estimates were too high for our budget or there was no availability within the timeframe set by MCCA bylaws. Of the three venues that submitted estimates, the committee recommended Sugarloaf which came back within budget and had dates in September and October. There was some discussion about pricing. Comm. Sezak who is a member of the CPC said he would like to wait for the Samoset estimate before a final decision is made.

Lauren agreed and said we would need to sign a contract very soon or the dates might be available. Comm. Gardner moved that the CPC be given the authority to choose the venue based on cost, location and availability so the contract could be signed between board meetings. Admin. Amber Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Lauren said the Committee was meeting again on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

- Legislative Update
- Next Steps

Comm. Gorden reported that the legislative committees were winding down. Unfortunately, it seemed our concerns were not being heard. Comm. Gorden asked Jim Cohen for updates on supplemental jail funding and rural patrol.

Mr. Cohen said the good news regarding jail funding was that the Governor had put four million dollars in the supplemental budget for Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) costs. Hopefully, that didn't mean they are planning to add more MAT services, but the language hadn't been seen yet. A conversation had taken place with the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee (CJPS) about allowing time for a presentation to show the basis for requesting more funding in the budget for county jails. It looked like there might be a public hearing being scheduled. Comm. Gorden said the amount of four million had come from the request made by counties. He thanked Admin. Scott Ferguson for gathering the data. The document shows that our jails have spent 8.2 million dollars. That being the actual cost, four million isn't sufficient as there is still a shortfall for many of the county jails.

Comm. Gorden suggested forming a legislative committee would act as a whip. The mission would be to call people and get them to contact their area legislators. Not enough legislators even know what MCCA is or does. Admin. Tim Curtis said he spoke with Sheriff Lancaster and was told that Comm. Liberty was planning to distribute a one-time payment for the MAT money. The problem was that going forward we would need to obtain funding every year. Norm said Comm. Liberty was looking for some direction from us. The Professional Council asked every county about their shortfall. Mr. Curtis said this was a political move by the Governor and the money was expected to be distributed to all counties. Comm. Gardner said we needed to determine if they plan to continue to pay for the program in the future, otherwise it wasn't very helpful. He said he wasn't in favor unless there was a clear plan going forward. He recommended that his fellow commissioners work in their sphere of influence every day to make progress on this and our other objectives. He said we need to do this continuously, not only when a specific issue comes up. Joe Pietroski said MAT was

good idea, but we shouldn't have to raise taxes for it. Jim said we should wait to see the language. Regardless, it was important to get the state to partner with us.

Regarding rural patrol, MCCA's bill, LD 630, was killed when real estate transfer tax derailed the conversation. We then followed a couple of other bills that involved rural patrol. One such bill, Senator Jeffrey Timberlake introduced an emergency bill, "An Act to Maintain State Police Rural Patrol Services at 2020 Staffing Levels". We supported this bill, but it was not clearly framed when talking about the Maine State Police staffing levels. The language was awkward. A work session might be scheduled which could mean something more would be coming forth in the budget. It was up in the air at this point. There was another bill involving police unions, that addressed hiring and retaining issues. A study was planned. The bottom line was that other groups were acknowledging there is an issue. Comm. Gardner said Maine Criminal Justice Academy has put up roadblocks for counties as we are forced to follow their requirements leaving them in control of who we train and hire. Jim thought we mentioned that point in our testimony. Comm. Gorden said we tried in the past to get counties represented on the academy board without success. We should keep trying to accomplish this, to ensure counties have some input.

Jim said he was working on a memo about where we want to put our focus on legislative topics. This would help guide our strategy and tactics. We might be able to schedule tours of jails and facilities for legislators. It would also help us develop relationships. Comm. Gorden said we should be preparing for the next legislative session. All agreed.

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

6. Adjournment SG / AJ / Unanimous

President Dutremble invited a **motion to adjourn at approximately 11:50 a.m.** Comm. Gorden made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Sezak, 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