

# M.C.C.A.

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Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President  
Waldo County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Lincoln County



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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### MCCA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Senator Inn & Spa, January 9, 2019

#### I. Call to Order, Introductions, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. following the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Kennebec* – Comm. Nancy Rines and Admin. Bob Devlin; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Penobscot* – Admin. Bill Collins; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi; *York* – Comm. Al Sicard; *MARP* – Registrar Kathleen Ayers; and *MSA* – Sheriff Ken Mason.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Charles Pray, Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

#### II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

*Comm. Fowler moved and Comm. Gardner seconded approving the agenda with no additions. The motion was approved unanimously.*

#### III. Approval of December 12, 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

*Comm. Fournier moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on December 12, 2018 with no revisions. Comm. Cote seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

#### IV. President's Report

President Tom Coward reported on the activities, progress and accomplishments of 2018 including the Newly Elected Official Training. He highlighted some of the many differences between counties, their features and statistics, explaining MCCA's vision and mission statement. He encouraged commissioners to work together to present a united force in advocating for counties during this legislative session and continue the success achieved in 2018 with State support of county jail funding.

#### V. Approval of 2019 MCCA Directors

The group reviewed the proposed list. Comm. Fowler made a motion to approve the nominations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Comm. Baldacci and it was approved unanimously. Therefore the 2019 Board of Directors is as follows:

Androscoggin	Commissioner John Butler; proxy Admin. Larry Post
Aroostook	Commissioner Norman Fournier; proxy Comm. Paul Underwood
Cumberland	Commissioner Thomas Coward; proxy Comm. Stephen Gorden
Hancock	Commissioner William Clark; proxy Scott Adkins
Kennebec	Commissioner George Jabar; proxy Bob Devlin
Knox	Commissioner Sharyn Pohlman; proxy Andrew Hart
Lincoln	Commissioner William Blodgett; proxy Carrie Kipfer
Oxford	Commissioner Steven Merrill; proxy Tom Winsor
Penobscot	Commissioner Peter Baldacci; proxy Bill Collins
Piscataquis	Commissioner James Annis; proxy Tom Lizotte
Sagadahoc	Commissioner Brian Hobart; proxy Pam Hile
Somerset	Commissioner Newell Graf; proxy Dawn DiBilasi
Waldo	Commissioner Amy Fowler; proxy Comm. Betty Johnson
Washington	Commissioner Christopher Gardner; proxy Betsy Fitzgerald
York	Commissioner Michael Cote; proxy Gregory Zirser

#### VI. Nomination and Election of MCCA Officers

The Nominating Committee comprised of Comm. Norman Fournier, and Comm. Baldacci met to deliberate about the 2019 slate of officers. Comm. Blodgett was not able to attend the meeting. Comm. Fournier, representing the Committee, made a **motion** to nominate and Comm. Thomas Coward as President, Comm. Amy Fowler as Vice President and Comm. William Blodgett as Secretary-Treasurer. Comm. Gardner seconded the motion and it **passed** with a unanimous vote.

#### VII. Appointment of MCCA Legislative Policy Committee Members

President Tom Coward invited interested Board members to join the Legislative Policy Committee. All are welcome to attend and participate in conference calls which occur as needed during the legislative session. Executive Director Charles Pray will ensure new members are added to his distribution list for details about future calls and meetings.

#### VIII. Nomination of Two NACo Representatives

Commissioner Peter Baldacci explained MCCA currently has one representative on the NACo Board of Directors and another representative who is eligible to attend NACo meetings and lectures during conferences. He summarized some of the main features and benefit of the nationwide organization, touching on Stepping Up, the Discount Prescription Card Program, and the NACo sponsored Leadership Academy. President Coward requested he put together a one-page synopsis to remind county folks what is available to them. Office Manager Lauren Haven said there should be something similar on the NACo page of the MCCA website. Commissioner Gardner moved and Comm. Jabar seconded re-nominating Comm. Baldacci and Comm. Fowler as MCCA's two NACo representatives. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **IX. Approval of MCCA 2018 Budget Line Item Transfers**

Comm. Norm Fournier, representing the Budget and Finance Committee gave a brief overview of the recommended line item transfers to close out the 2018 budget. The group reviewed the list of proposed transfers. Commissioner Gardner moved and Comm. Fowler seconded approving the list with no changes. The motion was approved.

## **X. Approval of the MCCA 2019 Budget**

Comm. Fournier, again representing the Budget and Finance Committee consisting of Comm. Amy Fowler, Comm. Tom Coward, Comm. Norm Fournier and Admin. Pamela Hile, presented the proposed budget in which no changes were made after the December Board of Directors' meeting. The group reviewed the revised draft discussing in particular, the formula for membership dues and the Risk Pool assessment. After this discussion, Commissioner Fowler moved and Comm. Baldacci seconded approving the budget with no further changes. The motion was approved with one abstention.

## **XI. Reports**

### **A. Executive Director and Legislative Report**

Executive Director Charles Pray gave a status report of MCCA activities and the commencement of the 129<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature. Governor Mills has nominated Randy Liberty as Commissioner for the Department of Corrections. This pick decision weighs in our favor as he has a county background with a good understanding of the challenges faced by county government. The group discussed the other items on Executive Director report by Charles Pray particularly in reference to new legislation, placeholding bills, and county jail funding.

### **B. Financial Reports**

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the December financial reports. She reiterated the tightness of the 2018 budget and the group talked about researching long-term funding solutions with consideration to the dwindling money market account. Lauren invited questions about the reports. Hearing none, Comm. Fowler moved and Comm. Cote seconded approving the financial reports. The motion was passed with no opposition.

### **C. Professionalism in Management Committee**

Comm. Mike Cote reported on the success of the Newly Elected Official Training Day in December. Approximately thirty people participated in spite of winter weather conditions. Attendees appreciated the opportunity for this specialized education, and it's expected MCCA will continue to offer it in the future.

## D. Association Reports

*MACCAM:* Admin. Bill Collins reported the association planned to meet on Friday, January 11th. They continued to work with the jail budget numbers with assistance from Admin. Bob Devlin.

*MARP:* Kennebec County Register Kathy Ayers reported on the implementation of the many intricate and involved changes in the probate code goes into effect in July. The extent of the impact has yet to be determined, however, an immediate concern would be a fee shift and new expenditures necessary to comply with the law. Many of the forms being used will need to be updated as well as computer system changes and training. All of these changes are considered unfunded mandates. The association planned to meet with the probate judges on January 25<sup>th</sup> to work together to achieve uniformity as they proceed with these changes. Ms. Ayers promised to keep MCCA in the loop as new legislation is developed.

*MSA:* Sheriff Ken Mason reported members of the Maine Sheriffs Association planned to stand shoulder to shoulder with commissioners and other county representatives to help change Maine laws for the betterment of all counties.

## E. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to work on the details for the 2019 event. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at the MCCA offices. The meeting minutes for the December meeting were included in the agenda packet. She reported good progress was being made and they were looking into funding for a special keynote speaker.

## F. NACo Report

The upcoming NACo Legislative Conference will bring together over 1,500 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and residents. Maine representatives will have an opportunity to participate in educational sessions, interact with federal officials and attend congressional briefings and meetings. This event is scheduled for March 2 through March 6, 2019.

## XIII. Other Business

The group discussed counties opting to join the opioid multi-county action suit.

## XIV. Adjournment

*President Thomas Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:50 p.m. Comm. Fowler made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Cote, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**.* The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer

NOTE: The meeting was followed by a luncheon including presentations by Maine Speaker of the House Sara Gideon and Senate President Troy Jackson.