

# M.C.C.A.

Peter Baldacci, President  
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Vice President  
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Secretary-Treasurer  
York County



Maine County Commissioners Association

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Rosemary Kulow  
Executive Director

Lauren Haven  
Office Manager

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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., March 9, 2016

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

President Peter Baldacci called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** *Androscoggin* – Comm. Sally Christner proxy for Comm. Beth Bell; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norm Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Franklin* – Comm. Gary McGrane; *Hancock* – Comm. Steven Joy; *Kennebec* – Administrator Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar II; *Knox* – Comm. Roger Moody; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Administrator Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Sagadahoc* – Administrator Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gordon, Manager Peter Crichton and Assistant Manager Bill Whitten; *Knox* – Administrator Andy Hart; *Somerset* – Administrator Dawn DiBlasi; *EMAD* – Sean Goodwin; *MACCAM* – Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; and *MECCA* – Owen Smith.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar II; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; and *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Rosemary Kulow (by phone), Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer, and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

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

Comm. Fowler **moved** and Comm. Joy **seconded** approving the agenda with as written. The **motion** was **approved** unanimously.

**III. Approval of February 10, 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

Comm. McGrane **moved** and Comm. Blodgett **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on February 10, 2016. The **motion** was **passed** unanimously.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Committee Assignments**

The group reviewed the committee assignments made by President Baldacci. He noted there may be a few more people added to the Convention Committee as needed.

This summer the group will work on strategies to develop new legislation for the next full session. The tax caps should be reevaluated using realistic numbers and each county will need to provide documentation to support the need to change the current formula.

**V. New Business**

Comm. Baldacci brought up issues concerning tax increment financing districts created to subsidize wind projects in unorganized territories. Hancock County has already experienced a decreased tax credit due to the reduced value of the land. Hancock is appealing the method of assessing. Penobscot Commissioners may decide to challenge the proposed aggressive depreciation schedule which will rapidly reduce the value quickly as assessed by the Maine State Revenue.

**VI. Reports**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

**B. Financial Report**

The group reviewed the reports. (See attached.) Comm. Fournier made a **motion** to approve the Executive Director's Report and the Financial Report as written. Comm. Moody seconded the **motion** which was **passed** unanimously.

**C. Legislative Report**

Cumberland County's Assistant Manager Bill Whitten updated the Board on the progress of LD 1614, *Resolve to Provide Funding for the County Jail Operations Fund*. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee voted ten to one in favor of the bill. Committee members who were absent will still be able to vote. However, even if they vote against the bill, it won't affect the outcome. It is still not fully understood how the funds will be distributed. The

language states it will be on an, “as needed” basis. Counties will be required to provide justification for any portion of this money and the jails demonstrating the greatest need will be awarded a share. It was agreed that all county representatives should contact their legislators, and regardless of differences between counties and jail budgets, we should stand together in support of this bill.

Comm. Fournier requested an update on bill 1586, *An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation in Public Proceedings*. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Judiciary Committee voted resulting in a divided report.

#### **D. Association Reports**

*EMAD*: Sean Goodwin – No report was given.

*MACCAM*: Bill Collins reported the group will meet on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kennebec County offices to recognize folks who have moved on.

*MACT*: David Parkman – No report was given.

*MECCA*: Owen Smith – No report was given.

**E. Corrections Report** - Mark Westrum was absent. No Report was given.

#### **F. Annual Convention Report**

The Convention Planning Committee enjoyed a food tasting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the convention venue, The Hilton Garden Inn Bangor. All the menu selections chosen for the convention were excellent. The required \$200 deposit was submitted when the committee met. Penobscot County Administrator Bill Collins signed the contract on behalf of MCCA President, Peter Baldacci. There is also a contract with the Hampton Inn across the street guaranteeing a block of rooms for MCCA.

The group will meet next on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Penobscot County offices in Bangor to begin work on educational sessions, entertainment and activities.

#### **G. NACo Report**

Comm. McGrane reported on the 2016 NACo Legislative Conference he attended with MCCA representative Comm. Baldacci and Executive Director Rosemary Kulow February 20-24 in Washington, DC. The meetings with three out of four of the Maine legislators went well. They did not meet with Congresswoman Pingree. However, they did meet Senator John McCain by chance when talking with Senator King.

Comm. McGrane said he concentrated on three topics in meetings with legislators: medical services in jails, Waters of the US, and the Workforce Innovation Act.

Comm. Baldacci reported the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering the establishment of a disaster deductible, requiring a predetermined level of financial or other commitment from a recipient (grantee), generally the State, Tribal, or Territorial government,

before FEMA will provide assistance under the Public Assistance Program when authorized by a Presidential major disaster declaration. The overall goal is to reduce the burden on federal taxpayers through mitigation incentives and risk-informed decisions that promote resilience.

**VII. Other Business**

Kennebec County Administrator Bob Devlin reported that Patsy Crockett has been appointed by Governor LePage as the new commissioner for District 1 in place of the late Beverly Daggett.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Comm. Blodgett made a ***motion*** to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.; Comm. Fowler seconded the ***motion***, which 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, Michael Cote