

# M.C.C.A.

William Blodgett, President  
Lincoln County

Peter Baldacci, Vice President  
Penobscot County

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Cumberland 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 11, 2015

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

President William Blodgett called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The attendees introduced themselves and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – County Manager Peter Crichton proxy for Comm. Tom Coward; *Franklin* – Comm. Gary McGrane; *Hancock* – Comm. Steve Joy; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar II; *Knox* – Comm. Roger Moody; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Admin. Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Interim County Manager Tom Lizotte proxy for Comm. James Annis; *Sagadahoc* – County Admin. Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote; *MACCAM* – Bill Collins; *MRODA* – Susan Bulay; and *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Sally Christner; *Cumberland* – Comm. Stephen Gorden and Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten; *Lincoln* – Admin. John O'Connell; *Knox* – Admin. Andrew Hart; and *Sagadahoc* - Sheriff and MSA President Joel Merry.

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

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

*Comm. Fowler moved and Comm. Cote seconded approving the agenda as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.*

### III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### A. Amended January 14, 2015 Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes

Comm. Moody **moved** and Comm. Joy **seconded** approving the amended minutes. The **motion** was approved unanimously.

#### B. February 11, 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Joy made a **motion** to approve the February meeting minutes as written. The **motion** was seconded by Comm. Baldacci and passed unanimously.

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Discussion of Position on LD 186 – An Act To Reverse Jail Consolidation

President Bill Blodgett referred to the “core principles” agreed to by the Board of Directors.

1. Firstly, the bill should refer to the current statute that governs the Board of Corrections and county jails.
2. Counties shall control the jails.
3. The State should provide ongoing sustained funding for county jails to pay for state obligations. Funding that the state has already dedicated for corrections programs must continue as originally intended.
4. There should be no State Board of Corrections, but counties may establish their own statewide jail authority/board to help achieve efficiencies and economies of scale among county jails.
5. The legislation should acknowledge that both sheriffs and jail authorities manage jails, depending on the circumstance.
6. Future funding increases at the local level for county jails shall be governed by the LD1 growth factor.

The group discussed these principles and gained insight into the Maine Sheriffs' Association's perspective with explanations from Sheriff Todd Brackett and Sheriff Joel Merry. They explained that sheriffs oppose a statewide board, but they are committed to working together. They also stressed that boarding rates have to be different at different jails, as their costs vary. The legislature needs to be educated about jail operations and the state funding, so they don't remove it all. Sheriff Merry emphasized how important it is for counties and sheriffs to show cooperation and collaboration.

In order to demonstrate that the counties are cooperating proactively and collectively, and are united in the pursuit to assist the county jails going forward, Comm. McGrane **moved** to establish an advisory board consisting of three county commissioners and three sheriffs.

Comm. Fournier suggested the wording of the fourth core principle be changed to:

4. Counties should establish their own statewide corrections committee, consisting of three Commissioners and three Sheriffs, to help achieve efficiencies and economies of scale among county jails.

Comm. Joy **moved** to accept the revision to the wording of the fourth core principle and proceed with establishing the advisory board as proposed. The **motion** was seconded by Administrator Bill Collins and passed with a unanimous vote.

Comm. Blodgett requested volunteers to be on the new Corrections Committee. Comm. Baldacci, Comm. Graf, Comm. McGrane and Comm. Cote offered to serve. President Blodgett will make a decision based on having representation from various types of jails, etc. The Maine Sheriffs' Association will be asked to appoint three sheriffs to this Corrections Committee as soon as possible.

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow will develop a press release as soon as possible on behalf of MCCA and MSA featuring these core principles important for any new legislation governing county jails. The committee will develop talking points with backup financial information to distribute to legislators.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of Recording MCCA Meetings**

Comm. Bell suggested recording the Board of Directors' meetings and including more detail in the meeting minutes for better recollection of the conversations that take place. Comm. Joy commented in the past the Board agreed the minutes should be clear, concise and short. The group discussed the pros and cons of recording, but no motion was made to change the current method of taking meeting minutes.

### **B. Discuss County Host of 2016 Annual MCCA Convention**

The group reviewed the list of recent convention hosts. Comm. Bell agreed to discuss the topic with the other commissioners from Androscoggin County. Penobscot will also consider being the host. The subject will be revisited at a later date.

## **VI. Reports**

### **A. Executive Director's and Financial Reports**

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow welcomed any questions regarding the attached reports. Administrator Scott Cole asked about the progress of "Waters of the U.S." proposed rule. Ms. Kulow stated that steps were being taken to clarify the rule. Comm. Baldacci **moved** and Manager Peter Crichton seconded the reports be accepted. The **motion** passed unanimously.

**B. Legislative Report**

No additional information was presented at this time. MCCA staff will continue to update the Legislative Policy Committee on public hearings and work sessions for the legislation identified as important to counties. Please see attachments, "Current Bills Related to Counties" and "127<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature LD List (County-Related Bills)".

**C. Association Reports**

*MACCAM*: Bill Collins reported the next meeting will be in Bangor on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

*MRDA*: Susan Bulay reported the association is continuing to follow LD 29 - An Act to Establish a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Tax.

A representative from the Deeds Association testified at a recent work session, and although they have officially taken the position of "Neither For Nor Against", all points they made were against.

*MSA*: Sheriff Todd Brackett led a discussion about the handout he introduced, "Chronological – Summary of Sentencing in County Jails – A Brief Legislative History of the Community Corrections Fund".

**D. Corrections Report**

No report was given.

**E. Annual Convention Report**

Comm. Joy reported the Convention Planning Committee was making progress. Hotel reservations would be possible soon. There was also an update in the Executive Director's report. Lauren Haven will be sending out minutes from the last meeting for anyone interested.

**F. NACo Report**

Comm. Baldacci reported on the annual NACo Legislative Conference he attended with Executive Director, Rosemary Kulow, Cumberland County Manager, Peter Crichton and Assistant Manager, Bill Whitten. Some topics included:

1. Working toward suspending inmates Medicaid benefits rather than having their benefits terminated. This is important to expediently re-connect people to treatment upon release.
2. The use of body cameras for community policing which saves on liability approximately \$1 in equipment cost for every \$4 in savings.
3. Better triage in jails utilizing a health professional to identify mental illness. This early intervention also translates into cost savings.

4. Encouraging full state participation in order to enjoy the many benefits and advantages of membership. Maine only needs one more county to join. The cost would be \$450 for Piscataquis to become a member of NACo.

Comm. Baldacci suggested inviting senior research analyst Dr. Natalie Ortiz to be the NACo speaker at the convention.

**VII. Other Business**

No other business was brought before the Board.

**VII. Adjournment**

*Comm. Joy made a **motion** to adjourn at 12:35 p.m.; Comm. Moody 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, Thomas S. Coward

**ATTACHMENTS:**