

M.C.C.A.

Thomas Coward, President
Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President
Waldo County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Offices, March 13, 2019

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

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Manager Larry Post; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Manager Tom Winsor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; and *York* – Comm. Richard Clark proxy for Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden and Public Affairs Dir. Travis Kennedy; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Penobscot* – Comm. Cushing; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *MACCAM* - Admin. Bill Collins; *MACT* – Kathy Robinson; *MARP* – Kathleen Ayers; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; *MSA* – Kevin Joyce, Ken Mason, and Todd Brackett.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. John Butler; *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis. *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

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

Comm. Baldacci welcomed visiting Commissioner Andre Cushing.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Comm. Baldacci moved and Comm. Fournier seconded approving the agenda with no additions. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of February 21st Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Hobart **moved** to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on February 21, 2019 with no revisions requested. Comm. Baldacci **seconded** the **motion** and it **passed** unanimously.

IV. County Jail Funding Stabilization Bill Presentation by MSA

Lincoln County Sheriff Todd Brackett passed out an updated version of the concept draft for the bill LD 973 *An Act to Stabilize Maine's County and Regional Jails*. The group followed along with the PowerPoint presentation with Sheriff Brackett explaining the ideas and language still in the development stage for the bill. Attendees deliberated over various points and wording revisions and committed to work with MSA to help finalize and testify in support of the bill during the public hearing.

MSA proposed a bus tour of county jails by committee members and requested a financial contribution toward this event. The group discussed the possibility of using money from the 2019 budget and if so, which line items would be impacted. Ultimately, Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve a contribution of up to \$1,000 using MCCA's undesignated fund balance for the bus tour project which would help pay for transportation and meal expenses. The **motion** was **seconded** by Comm. Fowler and it **passed** with one abstention.

V. Bicentennial Project 2020 Update

The group reviewed the email sent to MCCA staff from David Cheever. Several attendees expressed concern about the timeline and requested Executive Director Charlie Pray get more detail as soon as possible so counties could begin the planning process to participate in the event. Mr. Pray agreed to work on this.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director and Legislative Report

The legislative talk continued, highlighting topics and positions taken by the Legislative Policy Committee. The group moved forward quickly as the associations also had bills to bring up for edification and discussion.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the January financial reports. Comm. Baldacci **moved** to accept the monthly financial reports. Comm. Fournier **seconded** the **motion**, and it **passed** with no opposition.

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Admin. Bill Collins reported the Association met on March 1st and discussed the proposed bill, LD 973 *An Act to Stabilize Maine's County and Regional Jails*. Their expertise was used to report the jail budget numbers. Admin. Bob Devlin emphasized this is simply a snapshot in time. The numbers fluctuate to some degree, but at the time the report was formulated, the numbers entered were correct. Attendees thanked the group for their work on the project.

MACT: Treasurer Kathy Robinson stated there was no news from the Association to report.

MARP: Kennebec County Register Kathleen Ayers educated the group on several bills involving the probate courts. Attendees reviewed handouts about the bills and Ms. Ayers explained the potential detrimental impact if these bills are passed, although all repercussions have not been determined. She offered to continue to update the Board during the process so county officials could testify when needed.

MECCA: Director Owen Smith also mentioned a couple of bills their Association was following. In particular, LD674 *An Act To Improve the E-9-1-1 System*, sponsored by Representative Christina Riley. Comm. Cote brought up legislation which would address the need for local and more frequent corrections trainings. The issue was a new corrections officer might not take the job if regional training was several weeks away and s/he would be without a paycheck until the training. *Comm. Cote moved to support such legislation, seconded by Comm. Hobart and it was passed unanimously.* Sheriff Brackett said he would bring the topic up to MSA members and report back to the Board. Mr. Smith also reported the three-day class held last week was very successful.

MSA: Sheriff Brackett reminded the Board of Directors' of the upcoming MSA conference at the Cross Center in Bangor on April 17th and 18th where they hoped to meet with MCCA representatives.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported Waldo County Board of Commissioners hired a professional keynote speaker for the event, Simon Anderson, recommended by Comm. Shorey who had the opportunity to hear him speak. Comm. Fowler stated Waldo County would be paying the speaker fee and would like MCCA to pay for his travel expenses. Lauren mentioned the minutes from the last Convention Planning Committee meeting was included in the agenda packet.

E. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci referred to his report included in the agenda packet on the recently attended NACo Legislative Conference held March 2 through March 6 highlighting several main points. He and Executive Director Charles Pray traveled to Washington D.C. where they participated in educational sessions, interacted with federal officials and attended congressional briefings and meetings. Kudos to Jim Gailey who is going through the Leadership Academy program!

XIII. Other Business

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported copies of the 2019 Directory of Maine Counties were available for attendees to take back to county offices and reminded the group about Maine County Government Day coming up on April 11th.

President Tom Coward stated he would be absent from the next meeting and Vice President Amy Fowler had agreed to chair the April meeting in his place.

XIV. Adjournment

President Thomas Coward invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 12:40 p.m. Comm. Gorden made the motion seconded by Comm. Baldacci, and the motion was unanimously approved. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer