

# M.C.C.A.

Peter Baldacci, President  
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Vice President  
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Secretary-Treasurer  
York County

Charles Pray  
Executive Director

Lauren Haven  
Office Manager



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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes MCCA Offices, October 11, 2017 at 10:00 am

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

President Peter Baldacci called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Carol Maines; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Admin. Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. Jim Annis; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* - Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Knox* – Admin. Andrew Hart; *Lincoln* – Comm. Mary Trescot and Admin. Carrie Kipfer; EMAD – Sean Goodwin; MACCAM – Bill Collins; MACT – David Parkman; MECCA – Owen Smith and MRDA – Julie Curtis.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** *Androscoggin* – Comm. Sally Christner; *Franklin* – Comm. Charles Webster; *Hancock* – Comm. Percy Brown; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar, II; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf and *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner.

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

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

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

### III. Approval of September 8, 2017 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Fowler **moved** and Comm. Cote **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on September 8, 2017 with no changes requested. The **motion** was **passed**.

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Consideration of a Training for Commissioners Organized by the Professionalism in Management Committee

The group discussed the subject and decided the highest attendance would be achieved by holding the training in the afternoon on the same day as the annual meeting. Comm. Baldacci suggested focusing on two topics. Comm. Cote said the Committee could meet after lunch today to identify topics which would likely interest commissioners.

#### B. Budget and Finance Committee

President Baldacci entreated at least one commissioner to join the Budget and Finance Committee to assist with the 2018 budget proposal. Comm. Fowler volunteered. Comm. Fournier **moved** to nominate Comm. Fowler to the committee. Admin. DiBlasi **seconded** the **motion** which was **approved**. The committee will meet in the next few weeks.

### V. New Business

#### A. Consideration of County Government Day in April

Office Manager Lauren Haven requested discussion on the topic to verify interest in the event and encourage a higher level of participation in 2018. In 2017, eight counties were represented and four affiliate associations. Six county managers/administrators attended as well as five of our 58 commissioners. Board members commented the designated day was often not ideal to reach legislators. All agreed more involvement would be generated if the celebration was held on a day when the legislature was in session. Lauren was able to reserve a session day in 2018, Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Comments indicated this date will work well for this event.

#### B. Potential Legislation

Executive Director Charles Pray stated work continued on supplemental jail funding. Administrator Bob Devlin mentioned LR 2571: An Act Regarding Former Residents of Riverview Psychiatric Center Who Are Arrested for Minor Offenses. This bill would establish wards of Riverview Psychiatric Center arrested for minor assault, etc. would remain wards of the mental health facility no matter where they are located.

#### C. Consideration of a Legislative Breakfast

Prior meetings entertained discussion around arranging to meet with and educate legislators at the beginning of the legislative session. Comm. Fowler suggested it would be beneficial to both associations, for MCCA to partner with MSA in hosting their legislative breakfast. Comments around the table included, legislators would be more likely to view the groups as allies, working together if commissioners co-host the event. Legislators would also be more likely to receive one

message. And Sheriff's might be on board if MCCA offers to share in the cost of the event. Mr. Pray will contact MSA Executive Director Mary-Anne LaMarre to explore the possibility.

#### **D. Jail Forum**

Executive Director Charles Pray referred to his monthly report in which he identified pro-active proposals to improve jail funding.

- React to the Administration's as we did this year
- Present a direct request to the Legislature for actual costs related to those individuals controlled by the State, not the statutes
- Lay a foundation for the next Legislature for a recognized coverage of costs

A jail forum with a facilitator, Frank O'Hara, has been scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the MCCA offices. At this meeting, they plan to crunch the numbers and follow up with a Chairs meeting w/CJ&PS to present fair funding for Parole, non-bailed inmates awaiting trial and/or sentencing.

#### **E. Registry of Deeds and the State**

Hancock Registrar of Deeds and MRDA President Julie Curtis alerted commissioners to a new Maine Revenue rule which is expected to eventually have a negative impact on counties. Rule 104 mandates attorney's offices must fill out the form on the Maine Revenue Services website rather than simply file a paper form at the Registry. The Registers of Deeds believe once Rule 104 is in place and most forms are being filed on the Maine Revenue website, the State will move to have the tax collected by the State as well. This would mean a loss of transfer tax revenue to the counties.

Board members commented MRDA would need to show the value of Registry offices performing the screening and collection services and asked to be kept informed. Comm. Baldacci thanked Ms. Curtis for coming to this meeting to explain the issue.

Administrator Scott Cole mentioned Oxford County's pending legislation to consolidate their East and West Registry of Deeds offices to save overhead costs.

### **V. Reports**

#### **A. Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report containing an overview of activities in September. Aside from the convention and matters discussed in other portions of the meeting, he reported on the MMA annual convention, the workforce development boards, the lack of legislative language for marijuana commercial activities in the unorganized territories and the reduction of census funding. Comm. Gorden said there could be a shift in federal dollars due to the census report. He believed a third of Maine citizens are not counted in the census. The Board discussed drafting a letter to congress.

**B. Financial Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the September financial reports and invited questions. She mentioned the convention was finished, however, not all transactions have been completed. We will have a more complete picture next month. Comm. Fowler *moved* and Comm. Cote *seconded* approving the financial reports. The *motion* was *approved*.

**C. Legislative Report**

There was no further discussion on legislative matters.

**D. Association Reports**

*EMAD*: Sean Goodwin reported concern over the transition to natural gas. Inventory and reporting fees for oil are collected and used for such things as hazmat training. Natural gas doesn't have the same regulations, thus causing a loss of revenue.

*MACCAM*: Admin. Bill Collins reported the association met at the convention where they voted in the same officers. They are working together with Charles Pray on gathering jail data. Their next meeting date has yet to be determined.

**E. Corrections Report**

There was no further discussion on this topic.

**F. Annual Convention Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported there were 175 people who were registered at the convention as attendees, guests, vendors or speakers. There were 22 paid exhibits and ten sponsors/advertisers who helped pay for various parts of the event. The evaluation forms were compiled and thank you notes were sent to vendors and speakers. The final bill from the convention venue has been received and paid. The total amount due is exactly in line with calculated estimates and well within the 2017 budgeted amount for the line item. Attendance was lower than the last couple of years, but higher attendance is expected in 2018 as we plan to hold a gubernatorial debate. Less than half of the county commissioners attended. Admin. Bill Collins said the convention is part of the county budget and commissioners and other county employees should take advantage of the event. The group was in favor of the debate with the idea that only serious candidates should be invited to participate, and no proxies should be accepted in their place at the debate.

The Convention Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> in Portland to kick off event planning for the 2018 convention being hosted by Cumberland County at the Double Tree by Hilton in South Portland on September 14, 15 and 16. Several Cumberland County employees have expressed an interest in joining the committee to assist.

**G. NACo Report**

The group discussed Franklin County's notice to withdraw from NACo. In 2018, Maine will no longer be at 100% participation, and will therefore lose their second voting seat on the NACo Board.

The group talked about the proposed tax reform which moves to eliminate property and state income tax. Analysts calculate the changes will hurt more people than it will help. Admin. Pamela Hile made a **motion** to support opposing the changes, **seconded** by Admin. Scott Cole. The motion was **approved** unanimously. The Board requested the MCCA Executive Director write a letter to Maine's representatives to this effect.

**VI. Other Business**

Lauren Haven said there were Spirit of America sentiments for Androscoggin, Knox, Sagadahoc and Somerset in the office to take, as well as handouts collected at the convention and copies of the group picture taken at the Board of Directors' meeting.

**VII. Adjournment**

Comm. Cote made a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:40 a.m.; Comm. Fowler seconded the **motion**, which was **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