

M.C.C.A.

William Blodgett, President
Lincoln County

Peter Baldacci, Vice President
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Secretary-Treasurer
Cumberland County



Maine County Commissioners Association

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697

www.mainecounties.org

Rosemary Kulow
Executive Director

Lauren Haven
Office Manager

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., October 14, 2015

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

President William Blodgett called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Manager Peter Crichton proxy for Comm. Tom Coward; *Franklin* – Comm. Gary McGrane; *Knox* – Comm. Roger Moody; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Admin. Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Manager Betsy Fitzgerald proxy for Commissioner Chris Gardner; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote; *MACCAM* – Andrew Hart proxy for Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MARP* – Kathleen Ayers; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; *MRDA* – Julie Curtis proxy for Susan Bulay; and *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Commissioner Stephen Gorden and Assistant Manager Bill Whitten; *Penobscot* – Sheriff Troy Morton; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi and Sheriff Dale Lancaster.

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

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Comm. Moody moved and Comm. Fournier seconded approving the agenda as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Comm. Fowler **moved** and Comm. Moody **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on September 9, 2015 with the addition of Comm. Tom Davis to the attendance. The **motion** was approved unanimously.

IV. Presentation on Drug Addiction from Dr. Steven Kassels

Author Steven Kassels read excerpts from his book, "Addiction on Trial", and explained statistics, societal discrimination and biases toward drug addicts, and shedding light about this chronic illness that crosses age, gender, socio-economic, racial and religious boundaries. Following the talk Dr. Kassels answered questions and generously gave away copies of his book.

V. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

VI. New Business

A. Presentation of Proposed Amendments to MCCA Bylaws

Comm. Mike Cote outlined the proposed bylaw amendments to be voted on at the annual meeting in January 2016. In the accompanying letter, the five commissioners wrote they were bringing forward changes for consideration, "in a singular spirit of improving administration of Association affairs." Comm. Fournier suggested that some revisions be made before the vote. The item will be placed on the November agenda for discussion.

VII. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report (See attached.)

B. Financial Report (Attached.)

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her reports. Manager Peter Crichton commended Rosemary for attending commissioner meetings in each county. He mentioned it would be beneficial to give her an opportunity to speak at these meetings as well.

In response to the MCCA financial audit, Comm. Baldacci **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** putting the two year audit to a bid with an option for an additional two year period. The **motion** was unanimously approved.

Comm. Fournier made a **motion** to approve the Executive Director's Report and the Financial Report as written. Peter Crichton seconded the **motion**, which was passed unanimously.

C. Legislative Report

Ms. Kulow will schedule a Legislative Policy Committee meeting for November.

Peter Crichton stated that due to restructuring in Cumberland County, Bill Whitten will not be as available to support the MCCA Executive Director in lobbying for the interests of counties. Mr. Crichton recommended that the board take this into account when budgeting for 2016.

Sheriff Brackett expressed the importance of commissioners meeting with MSA as soon as possible to discuss the jail situation. Ms. Kulow will attempt to schedule a joint meeting of MCCA and MSA.

D. Association Reports

MACCAM: Andy Hart reported the group would be meeting on October 29 here in the Maine Farm Bureau conference room. They intend to work with the DA's office to restructure and improve the handling of restitution monies, so that receipts are given and monetary amounts are properly applied to the correct account.

MACT: David Parkman added to the previous report that treasurers would be in favor of excluding cash as an accepted form of payment. Furthermore, all payments should be routed through the office of the treasurer or financial manager.

MARP: Kathleen Ayers reported that Penobscot Register of Probate Susan Almy will be retiring in December. A new Register of Probate will be appointed.

MECCA: No report was given.

MRDA: No report was given.

MSA: Sheriff Brackett stated there was nothing to report beyond the jail issues and impact of the lack of adequate funding.

E. Corrections Report

No additional report was given.

F. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the evaluation forms received were compiled and summarized. Thank you notes have been sent out to session speakers, exhibitors and sponsors. The majority of the bills have been paid although some are not reflected in the September financial report. We should have final numbers at the November meeting.

The Convention Planning Committee is scheduled to meet October 15 to discuss what aspects of the event went well and what could be improved upon for the 2016 convention being hosted by Penobscot County.

G. NACo Report

Comm. Baldacci reported there was nothing newsworthy aside from Maine's recent achievement of 100% NACo membership.

VIII. Other Business

Peter Crichton announced that Stephen Gove has become the new Executive Director of The Maine Municipal Association (MMA). His leadership could provide an opportunity for MCCA to request an invitation to MMA Legislative Policy Committee meetings and therefore be present to explain viewpoints and challenges of counties. Executive Director Rosemary Kulow will continue to try to establish a working relationship with MMA.

IX. Adjournment

Comm. Fowler made a **motion** to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.; Comm. Blodgett seconded the **motion**, which was unanimously approved. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas S. Coward