

M.C.C.A.

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Peter Baldacci, Vice President
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Rosemary Kulow
Executive Director

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., December 9, 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. Thomas Coward; *Franklin* – Comm. Gary McGrane; *Kennebec* – 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* – Comm. James Annis; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote; *MACCAM* – Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; and *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Commissioner Stephen Gorden and Assistant Manager Bill Whitten; *Kennebec* – Administrator Bob Devlin; *Knox* – Administrator Andy Hart; *Penobscot* – Administrator Bill Collins; *Piscataquis* – Interim County Manager Tom Lizotte; *Somerset* – Administrator Dawn DiBlasi.

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

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Comm. Moody **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on November 18, 2015 as presented. The **motion** was approved with one abstention.

IV. New Business

A. Senator Angus King's Staff to Discuss Senator's Position on WOTUS

Senator King's State Director Edie Smith was present, and Energy and Environment Legislative Assistant Morgan Cashwell attended the meeting via conference phone answering questions from participants. Background was given about Senator King's position and the work being done to get clarity on agricultural exemptions and more concise guidelines on compliance in the EPA-issued clean water rules. The Senator's letter to the EPA also signed by other Senators states, "However, while we cannot currently support the Federal Water Quality Protection Act, we believe the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers can and must do better to address the legitimate issues that have been raised in regards to the implementation of this rule. We call on the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to provide clearer and concise implementation guidance to ensure that the rule is effectively and consistently interpreted."

The Maine anti-heroin/opiate initiative and the efforts being made by three task forces and medical associations to move the focus of law makers and law enforcement toward treatment rather than incarceration was discussed. The goal is to put resources in place to prevent opioid addiction instead of dealing with this issue as a chronic long-term disease that ultimately takes people down a path that leads to jail. One organization helping to suggest solutions is *Young People in Recovery* (YPR) a national advocacy organization which aims to influence public policy, making it easier for youth to find and maintain their recovery from addiction. YPR establishes city and state chapters, which act as vessels, carrying out the organizations vision and mission. It was suggested that it will be important for counties to determine the percentage of inmates who are addicted, the cost to jails on treatment, and the impact on the jail budget.

B. Budget & Finance Committee's Recommendation on Audit Firm

Comm. Fournier reported that eight proposals from reputable accounting firms have been received. The Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Director Rosemary Kulow reviewed and ranked them according to criteria established by the Board of Directors. The Finance Committee recommended the firm of Ron L. Beaulieu and Company which achieved the highest score of 100. Comm. Baldacci **moved** to accept the recommendation. Comm. Cote **seconded** the motion and it was unanimously approved.

V. Old Business

A. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to MCCA Bylaws

Comm. Fournier requested a few corrections to the wording of the proposed amendments. Comm. Baldacci suggested clarifying, "one vote and only one vote per county." He also

asked if each point would be voted on separately. It is expected to be voted on as a package. However, extensions to the amendments could be submitted and debated before the vote at the general membership meeting in January. It was mentioned that only commissioners are authorized to vote on bylaw changes.

The revised copy of the proposed amendments will need to be sent out to the general membership prior to the annual meeting allowing sufficient time for review.

B. Discussion of the Proposed 2016 Budget

Ms. Kulow invited questions regarding budget line items. She pointed out the additional account number 4800-00 for MainePERS contributions. 6135-00 Comm. Retirement Plaques has been changed to 6124-00.

Comm. Baldacci suggested a modest increase of dues rather than waiting and having a large increase in the future. The proposed budget shows no increase in dues for 2016.

There will be an opportunity at the annual meeting for more discussion before the vote.

VI. Reports

A. Financial Report (Attached.)

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her reports. Comm. Moody made a **motion** to approve the Executive Director's Report and the Financial Report as written. Comm. Fournier seconded the **motion**, which was **passed** unanimously.

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

Comm. Blodgett commented that the meeting with Ms. Kulow, MMA President Stephan Bunker, and MMA Executive Director Stephen Gove was very positive. MMA plans to work with MCCA and MSA on any common goals to improve local government. It was Comm. Blodgett's sense that MMA would support the supplemental budget request as the outcome impacts local property tax. Mr. Bunker and Mr. Gove thanked MCCA for information about jail funding provided and stated they now had a better understanding of the issues. All were in favor of better communication between the organizations and plan to support each other on agreement points.

C. Legislative Report

The group discussed the requested report which will be presented to the Department of Corrections incorporating input from MCCA and MSA. This report will identify concerns and issues resulting from Public Law ch. 335 with concrete numbers that demonstrate the problems.

Comm. Baldacci made a **motion** to appoint Rosemary Kulow as the MCCA representative who will work with MSA to develop the report and meet with the Department of Corrections. Owen Smith seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The group discussed an issue concerning the court case involving the York County Probate Judge. It was not determined that MCCA should officially take a position on the matter.

D. Association Reports

MACCAM: Bill Collins reported the group will meet on January 28th in Bangor.

MACT: David Parkman reported that some counties are implementing new procedures for accepting restitution funds, adopting a “no cash” policy. In these counties, checks and money orders will be the only form of payment accepted. This will make the funds easier to track and apply to the correct account which will minimize errors.

MCAA: Comm. Cote reported that the Jail Standard Board would be meeting on Monday. There may be only two more meetings necessary to complete the task of combining redundant standards and omitting obsolete standards.

MECCA: Owen Smith reported the Association is developing rules for fire and medical protocols that will be put in place by the end of 2017. These protocols will contribute to new legislation. The group will elect an MCCA representative at their next meeting.

MSA: Sheriff Todd Brackett said there is a MSA meeting scheduled for December 17th. They plan to work through the jail legislation. They anticipate holding a media event to draw attention to the jails. They expect to publish a public service announcement for this purpose.

E. Annual Convention Report

Administrator Bill Collins reported that Penobscot County is planning to determine a date to tour possible venues for the 2016 convention.

F. NACo Report

The 2016 NACo Legislative Conference will be held February 20-24 in Washington, DC. The newest MCCA representative, Comm. McGrane, has made arrangements to attend with Penobscot Comm. Peter Baldacci and MCCA Executive Director Rosemary Kulow.

VII. Other Business - No other business was brought before the Board.

VIII. Adjournment

*Comm. Moody made a **motion** to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.; Comm. Fournier 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