

# M.C.C.A.

Thomas Coward, President  
Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President  
Waldo County

Carol Maines, Secretary-Treasurer  
Knox County

Charles Pray  
Executive Director

Lauren Haven  
Office Manager



Maine County Commissioners Association  
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-623-4697  
[www.maine counties.org](http://www.maine counties.org)

---

## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes MSA Conference, Pepperell Mill Campus, March 15, 2018

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

President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:25 a.m. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Zachary Maher; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. Percy Brown; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Carol Maines; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer proxy for Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Admin. Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden and Manager Jim Gailey; *Kennebec* – Sheriff Ken Mason; *Lincoln* – Sheriff Todd Bracket; *Sagadahoc* – Sheriff Joel Merry; *York* – Comm. Cynthia Chadwick Granger and Sheriff William King; and *MSA* – Troy Morton and Executive Director Mary-Anne LaMarre.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Sally Christner; *Hancock* – Comm. Percy Brown; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis and *Somerset* - Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; 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. Cote moved and Comm. Fournier seconded approving the agenda with no additions. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **III. Approval of February 15, 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

Comm. Cote moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on February 15, 2018 noting the absence of Comm. Blodgett. Comm. Maines seconded the motion with said revision and it was approved.

### **IV. County Government Day Proclamation**

President Tom Coward invited the group to read the County Government Day Proclamation designating April as County Government Month and April 12<sup>th</sup> as County Government Day in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State House. Comm. Cote moved, and Comm. Fournier seconded approving the proclamation for the upcoming celebratory event. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **V. Reports**

#### **A. Executive Director and Legislative Report**

Executive Director Charles Pray presented information about jail budget numbers formulated by MACCAM members and supplied to legislators and committees. County representatives including commissioners and sheriffs attended the joint Appropriations and Criminal Justice Committee workshop addressing the Department of Corrections, "*Proposal for the Restructuring of Maine County Jails*". Although Commissioner Fitzpatrick did not make a presentation, many took the opportunity to testify on behalf of county jails and their individual, unique funding issues which gained assurance from Representative Warren she will work with us. Representatives Grohman and Gerrish are apparently leaning toward a regional solution. Discussions at the table reinforced solidifying a long-term plan.

The group reviewed the MCCA letter to the Department of Labor on the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act).

#### **B. Financial Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the February financial reports and highlighted a few item updates: All counties, aside from Franklin, have paid 2018 MCCA membership dues. The remainder of promised directory ad monies have been collected. Contact information for the State of Maine has been submitted to NACo for the, *NACo Roster* which will give MCCA an additional \$500 in revenues. Future monthly financial reports may include a side-by-side comparison with the last few years for overall prospective and sustainability. She invited questions about the reports.

Commissioner Gorden asked if Malcolm is handling the separation of Franklin County from the Risk Pool. Mr. Ulmer stated the county is being billed for remaining portions of claims owed to the Association. He will report any new information at future meetings.

Hearing no other questions, Comm. Cote moved, and Comm. Fournier seconded approving the financial reports. The motion was approved.

### **C. Association Reports**

**MACCAM:** Admin. Scott Cole said the association planned to meet today at the MSA conference at 1:00 pm. He expects 50% of the group to be able to attend.

**MSA:** Sheriff Troy Morton thanked the commissioners for their participation at the MSA conference. He said the association appreciated they could collaborate to address issues together. He invited the group to attend sessions. Executive Director Charles Pray said we should all visit the vendors and gather information about products and services they offer.

### **D. Annual Convention Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met March 1st at the MCCA offices. The committee was able to schedule Kevin Hancock, CEO of Hancock Lumber to be the lunch speaker on Friday. Hancock Lumber has been voted one of the best places to work in Maine for four years running. Kevin talks about empowering every employee and finding life balance. Every attendee at the Friday lunch will receive a copy of his book and he will have a table set up in the afternoon to sign books and visit with attendees.

The Committee is scheduled to meet next on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the MCCA offices. More details can be found in the meeting minutes enclosed in the agenda packet.

### **E. NACo Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven mentioned Comm. Baldacci recently attended the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. which took place March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 7<sup>th</sup>. He was scheduled to meet with Maine Senators and attend various meetings.

## **XIII. Other Business**

The group used this portion of the meeting to discuss jail funding and possible solutions. Some of the comments were as follows:

Sheriff Merry stated the legislators get their county jail expense figures from the Department of Correction which are reported to them by counties. The numbers we submit need to match the numbers they've been given to avoid confusion.

Sheriff Morton said counties have demonstrated tremendous efforts to streamline budgets and find creative ways to operate the jails with less money. We need to look at redirecting a percentage of the liquor sales tax to help fund county jails as these sales directly impact the number of people in jails. A fraction of the tax on marijuana is not going to be the answer. Local tax is not popular, but it could make a big difference. Mr. Pray said it could be easier to dedicate a percentage of tax already in place which would offset the surplus.

Sheriff Brackett said we need to take the lead and work with the right legislators to ensure any legislation introduced is county driven. Commissioner Coward said we need a study or sub-committee. Mr. Pray mentioned the solution needs to be proposed in the first year of the legislature. Sheriff Merry said we should formulate the plan this year and be ready to move forward. Admin. Scott Adkins said we need a three-headed approach with MCCA, MSA and MACCAM working together to best explain the issue and the solution.

Comm. Fournier moved to arrange an all-day workshop on June 13<sup>th</sup> with all three associations, MCCA, MSA and MACCAM. Comm. Gorden seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

#### XIV. Adjournment

President Thomas Coward invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 11:44 a.m. Admin. Carrie Kipfer made the motion seconded by Comm. Gorden, and the motion passed without opposition. The group adjourned to other MSA conference activities.

Respectfully submitted,

---

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

---

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Carol Maines