

M.C.C.A.

Peter Baldacci, President
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Vice President
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Secretary-Treasurer
York County



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Lauren Haven
Office Manager

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes April 12, 2017

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

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Hancock* – Comm. Percy Brown; *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; *Washington* – Manager Betsy Fitzgerald proxy for Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Knox* – Admin. Andrew Hart; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *EMAD* – Sean Goodwin; *MACCAM* – Admin. Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MARP* – Kathy Ayers; *MECCA* – Owen Smith, and Legislative Specialist Charles Pray.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Sally Christner; *Franklin* – Comm. Charles Webster; *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: Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer, and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

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

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

Comm. Fournier moved and County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald seconded approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on March 8, 2017. The motion was passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Update on Executive Director Replacement

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the announcement developed by the Executive Committee has been posted on all the major online job sites through BetterTeam. Applications had been received from seventeen candidates to date. April 15th is the deadline for submissions.

B. Maine County Government Day Follow Up

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported there were eight exhibit booths with displays and materials showcased on April 3rd in the Hall of Flags in celebration of Maine County Government Day. Representatives from at least eight counties and four associations were present including six administrators/county managers. Additionally, at least five county commissioners participated in the event. Thanks to Somerset County, attendees enjoyed beverages and assorted muffins and pastries.

V. New Business

A. NACo Steering Committees

The group reviewed information provided about NACo Steering Committees. President Baldacci encouraged commissioners to consider becoming involved. Travel is not usually necessary. Most meetings are held via conference call. Interested parties should complete a nomination form before the next Board of Directors' meeting on May 10th.

B. Discussion on Criminal Justice and Public Safety Working Group

The working group met on April 11th. Attendees included Admin. Scott Cole, Sheriff Joel Merry, Sheriff Wayne Gallant, Sheriff Ken Mason and the MCCA's Legislative Specialist Charlie Pray. There may have been others not listed here. County representatives answered questions posed by Representatives Gerrish and Grohman.

Comm. Fowler suggested recommending an extra fee on tickets as a revenue source. Comm. Brown said the laws need to be changed so law breakers are not incarcerated for minor offences. Mr. Pray agreed we should make several proposals, and when they fail it would be clear the funding would need to come from the supplemental budget. President Baldacci said the number one priority is to pass the 2.9 million, then focus on long term revenue streams. Mr. Pray said the message committee members hear should be the counties and the state have a shared responsibility to fund the jails. Jail funding is not now and never has been the sole responsibility of counties to provide. Comm. Fowler commented the legislative contact list will be very helpful. It might also be helpful for committee members to have a short contact list of officials in each county who are informed and willing to reinforce the top priorities. Comm. Coward said finance people and jail administrators who are knowledgeable about the history and could quote costs reliably should be on the list. Office Manager Lauren Haven offered to create a contact list with the MCCA board members, administrator/county manager and jail administrators. Comm.

Fournier said we should explain to those contacts what the top priorities are, so there won't be any confusion or mixed messages if they are called. Comm. Blodgett said let's limit it to two items. Admin. Scott Cole said the group will meet again next Tuesday.

VI. Reports

A. Office Manager's Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented her report on the activities of the association in the last month.

B. Financial Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the March financial reports. Of note, the Executive Committee approved a one-time budget line item transfer in the amount of \$17,700 from account 5060-00 Executive Director Salary to 6032-00 Contractual Lobbying. Charles Pray, our Legislative Specialist will be paid from account 6032-00 as a private contractor.

Comm. Blodgett moved and Comm. Cote seconded approving the financial reports. The motion was approved with no opposition.

C. Legislative Report

The group discussed the status of several bills.

D. Association Reports

MACCAM: Admin. Bill Collins said there was nothing to report. The group was currently looking for a date for their next meeting.

MARP: Kennebec Register of Probate Kathy Ayers presented informational materials on 47 bills impacting probate court operations. Ms. Ayers explained the details on some LD's and answered questions. They often need more representation at public hearings. Commissioners may be requested to attend the important hearings if stronger support is deemed necessary. In particular, LD 1043, *An Act To Promote Impartiality in the Probate Court* would prohibit probate judges from practicing law while serving as a probate judge, and LD 1260, *Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Create a Plan for the Establishment of a Probate Court System with Full-time Judges.*

MECCA: Owen Smith reported on National Telecommunications Week. This celebration is held annually in April at the local, state and national level, honoring telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. Mr. Smith gave an update on fire protocol training and mentioned that overtime will be created as a result of time dedicated to training staff members.

MSA: Ms. Haven reported the Maine Sheriff's Association's Annual Conference was held on March 28th and 29th. The MCCA Risk Pool sponsored an educational session given by Lance LoRusso, "When Cops Kill" in which Mr. LoRusso discussed contributing factors, conditions and statistics. There was a session on Human Trafficking from the US Attorney's office and an interesting talk on Anti-terrorism & Muslim Culture by FBI agent, Foria Younis. The conference seemed very successful and was well attended.

E. Corrections Report

There was no further discussion on this topic.

F. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met at the MCCA offices on Friday, March 10th. Thanks to Betsy Fitzgerald, the committee selected the theme, “County Government: Resilient in Any Crisis.” Hopefully, the educational sessions will speak to the conference theme. Convention participants can make hotel reservations now. More information is available on the MCCA website. Vendor registration is expected to be open by the end of April. Venues and dates are being considered for the 2018 convention being hosted by Cumberland County due to the scarcity of adequate available space in the area. The committee will meet next on April 21st.

G. NACo Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported Comm. Amy Fowler wrote a wonderful article about her experiences on her trip to the NACo Legislative Conference. The article appeared in the March issue of the MCCA Newsletter and was included in the agenda packet.

VII. Other Business

Comm. Amy Fowler stated her appointment to the E911 Council was expiring after the completion of her two-year term. Communications Director Owen Smith said Comm. Fowler was doing a great job and was a wonderful representative. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald moved to re-nominate Comm. Amy Fowler to the E911 Council, seconded by Comm. Fournier. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

VIII. Adjournment

Comm. Cote made a motion to adjourn at approximately 11:35 a.m.; Comm. Fournier seconded the motion, which was approved with no opposition. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Cote