

# 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



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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes Convention of Maine Counties DoubleTree, South Portland, September 14, 2018

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

President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m. prior to the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** *Androscoggin* – Admin. Larry Post proxy for Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Hancock* – Admin Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. Percy Brown; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Carol Maines; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *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:** *Aroostook* – Comm. Paul Adams and Sandra Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Susan Witonis, Comm. Steve Gorden and Manager Jim Gailey; *Kennebec* – Comm. Nancy Rines and Admin. Bob Devlin; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Oxford* – Interim County Administrator Tom Winsor; *Penobscot* – Comm. Laura Sanborn; *York* – Comm. Sallie Chandler; *MACCAM* – Bill Collins; *MACT* – Dave Parkman; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; guests MaryMel Bryant, Arnold Chandler and State Archivist Dave Cheever.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Hancock* – Comm. Percy Brown; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *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. Fournier moved and Manager Betsy Fitzgerald seconded approving the agenda with no additions. The motion was approved unanimously.

## III. Approval of August 8, 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Fournier moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on August 8, 2018 with revisions. Comm. Blodgett seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.  
Comm. Cote abstained from the vote.

## IV. Bicentennial Project 2020

Dave Cheever, State Archivist from the office of the Secretary of State proposed the Board of Directors consider taking on a project for the Bicentennial in the Summer of 2020. The first idea is a sailing opportunity. Four teens from each county would be chosen based on whatever criteria the commissioners chose. Two teens would have a chance to sail on a saltwater craft, a "tall ship" for a salt water experience. The trip would be four days with participants boarding for travel to perhaps New London, Portland, and Halifax. Two teens would also be chosen for a whitewater raft trip constituting a fresh water experience.

In both cases, students would be given tablets and go pro cameras to share their experience via social media, Facebook, Snap Chat, Instagram, etc. Interested parties could follow the entire trip through the posts, comments, observations and pictures of the travelers. After their journey, participants would report back to their local commissioners about their adventures.

This would create great press for counties in general, relating a positive and enriching once-in-a-lifetime experience for 64 Maine students not likely to have such an opportunity otherwise. The cost per student would be approximately \$1,000 or \$4,000 per county.

Other ideas were Eastern white pine grove or a time capsule.

Commissioners requested more information be gathered about the details. The group would revisit the item at the October meeting.

## V. Reports

### A. Executive Director and Legislative Report

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his written report with updates on various topics. The group discussed items on his report, particularly the releasing of funds. It would be beneficial to adopt a universal budget format that would better reflect counties with deficit balances. Comm. Fowler suggested obtaining a report to consolidate the information to be ready to introduce to legislative committees. Grants may be available to pay for this, or it might be a project for the Muskie school. Administrator Scott Adkins recommended utilizing the county finance managers. President Coward said MACCAM would be valuable to the process as well.

The group also talked about potential legislation to ensure parole violators revert back to being the responsibility of the State and not the county.

## **B. Financial Reports**

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the August financial reports. She mentioned the receipt payments from vendors and attendees registering for the convention. More payments have been expected at the conclusion of the event. The only concerns were related to the convention costs, but we'll have a more accurate picture of the outcome in October. Ms. Haven invited questions about the reports. Hearing none, Comm. Fournier *moved* and Comm. Fowler *seconded* approving the financial reports. The *motion* was *passed* unanimously.

## **C. Association Reports**

*MACCAM*: Penobscot Admin. Bill Collins stated the wage survey formulated by Laurie Bouchard has been completed and is available now. The Association was planning to meet today at the convention.

*MECCA*: Communications Director Owen Smith reported there would be training programs in October in West Bath and in Bangor. Registration seemed to be down. He invited people to contact him for more information on the upcoming classes.

## **D. Annual Convention Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported the Convention Planning Committee met on August 17<sup>th</sup> at the MCCA offices in Augusta, and then by conference call on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee finalized details and last-minute preparations. Special thanks to Babara Arseneau who helped proofread and assemble the convention programs. The committee and county representatives met at the DoubleTree on September 13<sup>th</sup> to fill the attendee bags, make the badges, set up the check-in station and complete other tasks to be ready to welcome participants in the morning.

## **E. NACo Report**

Comm. Baldacci reported NACo's Membership Outreach Manager John Losh would be giving a talk at the Saturday luncheon on the many benefits of being a NACo member. He also was expected to have an exhibit booth to be available for convention attendees to ask questions about NACo services and programs.

## **F. Strategic Plan Review Committee**

Executive Director Charles Pray said the strategic plan update is in progress with comments and suggestions having been submitted. The project was still in progress and awaiting further attention from MCCA staff as convention preparations have taken priority. It was expected the project would still be on target to finalize the update before the end of the year.

## **VI. Other Business**

No other business was brought before the Board of Directors.

**VII. Adjournment**

President Thomas Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 10:20 a.m. Admin. Scott Adkins made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fowler, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**. The group adjourned to other convention activities.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Carol Maines