

# M.C.C.A.

Richard Dutremble, President  
York County

Norm Fournier, Vice President  
Aroostook County

George Jabar, Secretary-Treasurer  
Kennebec County

Stephen Gorden, Past President  
Cumberland County

William Blodgett, Emeritus  
Lincoln County



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-623-4697  
[www.mainecounties.org](http://www.mainecounties.org)

Lauren Haven  
Administrator

---

## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2024 at 10:00 am via Zoom

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:02 am.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – County Manager Jim Gailey proxy for Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker proxy for Comm. John Wombacher  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer proxy for Comm. William Blodgett  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher  
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill  
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Charles Crosby  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Jim Cohen and Brody Haverly-Johndro

## 2. Consent Agenda:

- 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
- 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
- 2.3. Financial Reports: Lauren Haven

Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve the consent agenda, **seconded** by Comm. Sezak and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

## 3. Officer Reports:

- 3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar
- 3.2. Vice President, Norm Fournier

Comm. Fournier reported on the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. MCCA member counties have been given the opportunity to pay their membership dues in two installments. However, all members have paid their full membership dues amount in one installment for 2024. This being the case, President Dutremble had previously requested estimates on CD rates at local banks. The best rate of the seven financial institutions surveyed was from Camden National Bank. It would be a seven-month term at 5.08%. VP Fournier recommended to the Board that we invest \$50,000 in a CD for seven months. Comm. Sezak **moved** to approve the investment upon review of the interest rate following the maturity of the CD. Comm. Fournier said the Board would review the rate after the term and decide at that time whether or not to roll the funds into another CD. Lauren said she would find out. The motion was **seconded** by Admin Mike Williams and the motion **passed**.

### 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

President Dutremble announced that the next Board of Directors meeting would occur in person at the MCCA offices in Augusta.

## 4. Standing Committee Reports:

### 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Pohlman reported that April 30<sup>th</sup> was a key deadline for US Treasury ARPA reporting. The Quarterly and Annual Project & Expenditure (P&E) Reports will be due in which the expenditure estimates basically lock counties into their plan for the rest of the program.

### 4.2. Convention Planning Committee (CPC): Lauren Haven

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the CPC met on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the venue for a walk through of the Sugarloaf facility. It is truly a beautiful space for the convention that will easily accommodate all aspects of the meeting from the hotel on site to the training areas, as well as food and fun activities. Comm. Bob Carlton said the Franklin Board of Commissioners will be happy to welcome MCCA to Franklin County for the conference.

#### 4.3. Legislative Policy Committee: Steve Gorden, Chair

##### 4.3.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

- Legislative Update
- Next Steps

Lobbyist Jim Cohen reported that four million dollars for Medically Assisted Treatment was kept in the supplemental budget that was passed. In his opinion, even if it was not enough, four million was better than two million, and much better than nothing.

The pay increase for Maine State Police (MSP) passed which will help with hiring and retention. The budget included 32 new positions combined closing the gap on other open positions and providing more rural patrol coverage. It will not provide full coverage as identified in existing call sharing arrangements, but it will reduce overtime for troopers, which has been an issue. The week prior, the Appropriations Committee cut the requested 32 positions in half. It is unclear what exactly this will mean. It was thought that coverage will move around and Washington County, which is underserved, will not be given an additional position. If the Governor agrees this number is insufficient, the request for more positions can be made again.

Mr. Cohen said there were a number of significant divergences. Many decisions were being made in the middle of the night on Saturday. Comm. Fournier asked if adjournment was scheduled for next Wednesday. Jim noted that many bills have not even come out of committee yet and a lot of ground needs to be covered before adjournment. Norm asked if a vote was needed to extend the session or could the Governor simply call them back into session. Mr. Cohen said once the legislature is in session, it can stay in session for as long as it takes. There would definitely be a veto day scheduled at some point. Per diem cost comes into play in that case.

Lobbyist Brody Haverly-Johndro reported that the Legislature passed the bill to provide funding for more public defender offices and employees in an effort to improve the state's

insufficient indigent legal system. As a result, the pre-trial backlog will be reduced. The bill regarding courthouse facilities failed to pass. However, this would probably be a state expense rather than a county expense.

Jim said the next steps will be to set up legislative priorities for the future session. There would be opportunities for the jail standards committee, so we need to work on ideas now. Comm. Sezak suggested developing a questionnaire to send to all the candidates. The Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) needs to get together to come up with questions that should be included. The timeline should be July and August to develop this. If we can get their ear, we will understand who will be responding to us going forward.

5. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others.

MSA: Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported that she attended the MSA conference last month and they had a great speaker.

There were no other association reports given.

6. Adjournment 10:30

President Dutremble *invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 10:30 a.m. Comm. Sezak made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Fournier, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.*

Respectfully submitted,



---

MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

---

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar