

# 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



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Lauren Haven  
Administrator

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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 10:00 am

MCCA Offices 4 Gabriel Drive, Augusta

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 am.

##### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Kennebec – Admin. Scott Ferguson proxy for Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Admin. Gordon Page proxy for Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer proxy for Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Interim Admin. Abby Shanor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

##### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
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  
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams  
Somerset – Admin. Tim Curtis  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyist Brody Haverly-Johndro  
Walter Anderson, Maine State Geologist Emeritus and colleague Tom

## 2. Consent Agenda:

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

President Dutremble requested a motion to move the consent agenda with a revision in the order of agenda items moving the legislative discussion to the top of the agenda. Comm. Sezak **moved to approve the revised consent agenda, seconded by Comm. Gorden, and the motion passed with no opposition.** The group proceeded with agenda item 4.3 Legislative Policy Committee.

## 3. Officer Reports:

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

Comm. Fournier reported that during the April Board of Directors meeting, the group voted to invest the surplus checking account money. Several rates from local banks were gathered and presented at that meeting. There was a question concerning the estimated rate after the term of the CD. The bank representative responded that no estimate could be given prior to the end of the CD term. The reason given was that the interest rates fluctuate primarily due to supply and demand. When there is a strong demand for money or credit, lending institutions can increase the cost of borrowing. When demand weakens, they can reduce interest rates, making it cheaper to take on loans. The rate from Camden National Bank was now set at 4.75% for a \$50,000 CD. Lauren said she would make the arrangements for the CD if the board of directors gave her permission to sign the paperwork. Comm. Gorden **moved to approve acquiring the \$50,000 CD from Camden National Bank with MCCA's Administrator Lauren Haven as the facilitator. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sezak and was passed unanimously.**

### 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

President Dutremble reminded the group of the importance of submitting the county jail budgets on time so that we would have the best possible chance of being awarded additional funding for expected budget shortfalls.

## 4. Standing Committee Reports:

- 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman
- 4.2. Convention Planning Committee: Lauren Haven

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the Convention Planning Committee was meeting on a monthly basis to organize the many parts and pieces of the fall conference scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup> at the Sugarloaf Resort in Franklin County. The group was scheduled

to meet next on May 17<sup>th</sup> to continue their work on the upcoming event.

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

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

- Legislative Update Moved to beginning.

Lobbyist Brody Haverly-Johndro reported on current legislative activities. He mentioned securing the four million dollars in the supplemental budget for Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT). Friday, May 10th has been scheduled as “veto day”. There were at least six bills that were expected to be considered. Other bills were likely to be debated as well.

- Next Steps

The plan moving forward will be to craft a document prioritizing legislative topics so MCCA members would be able to focus their efforts. Comm. Gorden said the Professional Standards Council will make recommendations regarding jail funding. Jail Budgets needed to be submitted to the committee by July. In September, the recommendation will go to the Governor. However, counties don't have a champion in the Governor's office at this time. The supplemental budget indicated the four million was only a one-time allocation and was not expected to be awarded on an annual basis without a fight. Therefore, we will need to make sure we can demonstrate the need for this additional funding in the next biennium. Admin Scott Ferguson said there were mixed messages being sent out regarding fiscal year 2024. He did not count the four million dollars as a great victory since \$7.8 million was the amount requested for the MAT mandate. He said counties will need to pull some political strings to avoid raising taxes to pay for the program.

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

MSA: Sheriff Ken Mason reported his group was monitoring the progress and outcomes of the end of the legislative session. He agreed the monies being received were inadequate. A retreat for the Sheriff's will occur in Waldo County in June. The group recently completed their annual conference at the Samoset Resort in Knox County. He commented the leadership and staff was outstanding including the Extreme Ownership Training provided by Cordell Bennigson and Rob Jones from Echelon Front. Sheriffs were continuing to work on adding staff across counties. The Maine State Police (MSA) was having difficulty hiring people as well. Taxpayers seem to understand the issue.

MACCAM: Admin. Scott Ferguson reported that the group was planning to keep track of ongoing unfunded mandates and the compliance requirements we need to adhere to. He said the State had a history of creating problems and then ignoring them instead of taking

responsibility and working to resolve them. He said we would have the best chance of making change by constantly making our voices heard by legislators. In this case, the squeaky wheel really does get the grease. Comm. Gorden asked what we needed to do to get commissioners moving to help. President Dutremble said that part of the problem was the turnover of the legislative membership. The new legislators don't know the history. Sheriff Mason recommended finding out who the area legislators are and just keep annoying them. There will be new legislators in January and we will need to continue educating and re-educating the group.

#### 6. Discussion: Marshals and Courthouse Facilities.

Admin. Mike Williams said the Piscataquis County courthouse also houses county offices and departments unrelated to the court. The problem was that if the court closed for the day, they lose the Marshal and are left without any security in the building. Significantly, there was no Marshal present the day after Lewiston shooting and there was no communication regarding the schedule. Their staff doesn't feel safe. Comm. Dutremble said York County hired a private security firm for this very reason. Comm. Carlton said that Franklin County had no security until after the Lewiston Shooting. Now a visitor has to push a button and then someone will come down from the Deeds office to help them. Some other ideas discussed by the group were upgrading security cameras and/or creating a door system with access cards. Regardless, the solution was likely to be costly.

#### 7. Presentation: Walter Andersen, Geo-library Data Management Board of Directors

Comm. Gorden introduced guest speaker, Walter Andersen, mentioning some highlights in his biography. Mr. Anderson had served as Chief Geologist and board member of the International Appalachian Trail, was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, and has recently, been appointed to the Geo-Library Data Management Board at the Office of Information Technology. Mr. Anderson stated that his presentation was a "Geoheritage" proposal that will soon be finalized to paper and submitted to potential federal, public, and private funding sources. Walter walked the group through a PowerPoint presentation with information about the proposal. The project included three phases:

Phase 1 - Web presence: create a user-friendly guide to the region that describes the geological significance of the region and leads users to key geological sites.

Phase 2 - Develop a web app that highlights the geology at the user's location.

Phase 3 – Create an interpretive center and signage at key locations.

Walter said he was gathering endorsements and approval from local communities and Maine scientific organizations. During the conversation, he said the group was not

creating any new trails. They were simply making the existing trails more accessible and educational by providing helpful information in different formats.

Comm. Gorden **moved** to approve the Geo-Heritage proposal for the creation of the Katahdin-North Mainwoods project, as presented before the May 8th meeting of the MCCA. The **motion** was **seconded** by Comm. Dutremble and **passed** with two members opposed.

## 8. Adjournment

President Dutremble invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:45 a.m. Comm. Fournier made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Johnson, and the group adjourned to the catered lunch provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar