



**MME Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024 – 3 p.m.  
Peninsula II Room at The Northern Center  
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI & Zoom Video Conference**

President Christian Wuerth called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

I. Convene and Roll Call

Directors present:

Christian Wuerth, President; Village Manager; Milford  
Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager; Spring Lake Township  
Nathan Henne, City Manager; Owosso  
Brad Kaye, City Manager; Midland  
Laura Lam, Chief Operating Officer; Kalamazoo  
Devin Olson, City Manager; Munising  
Mark Rambo, Deputy Administrator; Kent County

Others present:

Kelly Warren, Secretary/Treasurer; MML  
Matt Fulton, Midwest Regional Director; ICMA  
Sarah Martin, MML  
Pat McGinnis, Advocacy Committee Chairperson; City Manager; Portage  
Margaret Mooney, MML  
Cameron Van Wyngarden, Member Success Committee Vice Chairperson;  
Township Manager; Plainfield Charter Township

Directors on Zoom:

Bridgette Gransden, President Elect; Administrator/Controller; Midland County  
Melissa Marsh, Vice President; City Manager; Madison Heights  
Vester Davis, City Manager; Springfield  
Aaron Desentz, City Manager; Mt. Pleasant  
Sarah Moyer-Cale, City Manager; Hastings  
Tom Tanghe, City Manager; Auburn Hills

Others on Zoom:

Nicole Bidwell, MML  
Katie Farver, MML  
Nicole Klepadlo, The Nonprofit Spot  
Brandon Skopek, Early Career Outreach Committee Chairperson; Assistant  
City Manager; Auburn Hills

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Christian Wuerth proposed the addition of agenda item “f” under New Business to be the acceptance of Mitch Foster’s Board resignation and discussion on appointment, per his resignation letter that was shared with the Board electronically prior to the meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Melissa Marsh

Seconded by: Aaron Desentz

Motion carried.

**III. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of April and May 2024 Financial Statements**

**b. Approval of April 25, 2024 Minutes**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Brad Kaye

Seconded by: Nathan Henne

Motion carried.

**IV. Committee Updates**

**a. Advocacy Committee**

Christian Wuerth shared that the Advocacy Committee continues to be prioritizing MME’s involvement with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). The primary purpose of their work is to promote the municipal management profession and council/manager form of government to grow MME’s presence and network among these associations. Unless the Board has any objections, Christian will let the Committee know that they may continue with their plans to connect with other associations as well, including the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and mParks.

**b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

Mark Washington shared that the DEI Committee has arranged a breakout session that will take place during the Summer Workshop.

**c. Early Career Outreach Committee**

Brandon Skopek announced that on August 16 the Early Career Outreach Committee will be hosting a summer training session at the MML office in Lansing that will be focused on council/manager relations.

**d. Ethics Committee**

Christian Wuerth shared that Gregg Guetschow can no longer participate in the breakout session on ethics during the Summer Workshop and when Ethics Committee Chairperson Juan Ganum arrives,

they will determine if the session will be cancelled completely. Otherwise, the Ethics Committee has not had any recent complaints and hopes to keep it that way.

**e. Experience Committee**

Tom Tanghe provided an update on the nomination period for the John M. Patriarche Distinguished Service Award and shared that the Nonprofit Spot has helped update the timeline for MME's other upcoming awards. In addition, the Experience Committee now has a process in place to notify the MME Regional Groups to encourage award nominations.

**f. Member Success Committee**

Cameron Van Wyngarden highlighted the proposed name change to Member Support Committee that the Board will vote on during this meeting. He also reported that the Committee helped with one of the sessions taking place at the Summer Workshop and is in the process of doing the same for the Winter Institute.

**g. Professional Development Committee**

Christian Wuerth emphasized the work of the Professional Development Committee that this week's Summer Workshop will highlight. The Committee is also still working on securing a location for the 2026 Summer Workshop.

**V. MML Updates**

Kelly Warren provided an update on the League's upcoming Convention 2024 and encouraged those who plan to register for the event to do so soon, as housing is filling up. She also announced the Board's selection of Ethan Kent's placemaking session as the MME Colloquium, which will include the presentation of the Patriarche Award. In addition, Kelly reminded the Board about the current application period for the 16/50 Project's Women's Municipal Leadership Program, which will be offered this fall.

**VI. The Nonprofit Spot Updates**

Nicole Klepadlo reported that MME raised \$24,550 in sponsorships for this Summer Workshop and shared that overall, the committees have been very busy, as shown in the matrix.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Board Meetings Policy**

Christian Wuerth explained the policy as presented, including the details about Board meeting agendas being posted online at least 24 hours prior to meetings and opening the meetings that are held during the two annual events for the membership to attend if they wish.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

Motion by: Nathan Henne  
Seconded by: Brad Kaye  
Motion carried.

**b. Board Nomination Statement**

As a continuation of previous discussions, Christian Wuerth explained the proposed Board nominations statement. As written, this statement outlines the process of the Nominating Committee for generating Board nominations, who will be voted on without the indication of the Nominating Committees “recommended” candidates.

Motion to move forward with this directive.

Motion by: Tom Tanghe  
Seconded by: Aaron Desentz  
Opposed by: Sarah Moyer-Cale  
Motion carried.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Member Success Committee Name Change**

Motion to approve the Member Success Committee name change to Member Support Committee.

Motion by: Sarah Moyer-Cale  
Seconded by: Laura Lam  
Motion carried.

**b. Early Career Outreach Committee Proposed Changes**

Motion to approve the Early Career Outreach Committee’s proposed changes.

Motion by: Melissa Marsh  
Seconded by: Devin Olson  
Motion carried.

**c. DEI Purpose Statement**

Motion to approve the DEI Committee’s purpose statement.

Motion by: Nathan Henne  
Seconded by: Aaron Desentz

Discussion highlighted that the DEI Committee has been working on this statement for a while and Gordon Gallagher shared his appreciation of all this work. Motion carried.

**d. Listserv Alternatives**

Christian Wuerth shared the list of proposed Listserv alternatives, including a feature available through the League’s new database: Nimble. The Board discussed the options and offered their thoughts on each, specifically that they all will have pros and cons. Sarah Moyer-Cale suggested consolidating this list and testing the options individually to

reach a decision in an organized way. Christian added that the League's Dene Westbrook could attend the next Board meeting to present and discuss the Nimble option.

**e. Draft 2025 Budget & Priorities**

The Board discussed the draft budget as presented, including the addition of \$3,000 budgeted to support UP managers events, added funds for the Early Career Outreach Dinner at both annual events, the Past Presidents Dinner, and the idea of an a la carte format for guest registration at events to match the cost of the individual meals and receptions attended by guests. This approach will be used for Winter Institute. Sarah Martin also explained the proposed equalization of registration rates for Summer Workshop and Winter Institute.

**f. Acceptance of Mitch Foster's Board Resignation & Discussion on Appointment**

Motion to accept Mitch Foster's resignation.

Motion by: Bridgette Gransden

Seconded by: Nathan Henne

Motion carried.

The Board discussed next steps for filling this vacancy, including thoughts on appointing Tim Wolff, who received the next highest number of votes in the last Board election—only one less vote than Mitch.

Motion to appoint Tim Wolff to complete the term from Mitch's vacancy.

Motion by: Brad Kaye

Seconded by: Tom Tanghe

Motion carried.

**IX. ICMA Updates**

Matt Fulton reported that registration numbers are looking great for the upcoming ICMA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this fall. Hotels are getting booked and ICMA is working on increasing lodging. Matt added that last year's conference in Austin had record-breaking attendance and ICMA is looking forward to the great programming planned for this year. He also provided an update on ICMA's work to further position itself as a global organization and shared that while they are currently working on primarily domestic projects, the goal to expand their international initiatives remains. In addition, Matt promoted the opportunity to serve on the ICMA Board and highlighted that it is a great career opportunity. ICMA recently amended the seat rotation process so that the non-CAO seat cannot be taken by someone from the same state as another existing member of the Board to balance representation.

X. **Comments from the Board**

Kaye – Northwood University in Midland is offering bachelor's and master's degrees in science to first responders at a discounted rate. He would like to promote this. Christian suggested the Listserv as a good avenue for this.

Marsh – Requested that UP meeting information be shared with the Board as it becomes available. Christian said that he will seek volunteers once he knows more from Senior Advisor Ray Anderson, who represents the UP.

XI. **Comments from the President**

President Christian Wuerth shared that he has been happy to make the drive to attend the MME Regional Group meetings, they have been good. He also reported that the Interim Manager Listing is stretched thin and encourages retired managers that are interested to join the list. In addition, he mentioned that the Board should revisit establishing a set rotation of locations (perhaps five) for the Winter Institute so that the PDC can focus their attention on selecting Summer Workshop locations. He added that MME will need to work on right-sizing sponsorships.

XII. **Adjournment**

President Christian Wuerth adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.