



**MME Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2024 - 10 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference**

President Christian Wuerth called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

I. Convene and Roll Call

Directors present:

Christian Wuerth, President; Village Manager; Milford
Matthew Butts, Assistant City Manager; Grandville
Michael Cain, Immediate Past President; City Manager; Boyne City
Vester Davis, Manager in Transition
Aaron Desentz, City Manager; Mount Pleasant
Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager; Spring Lake Township
Bridgette Gransden, President Elect; Administrator/Controller; Midland
County
Nathan Henne, City Manager; Owosso
Brad Kaye, City Manager; Midland
Laura Lam, Chief Operating Officer; Kalamazoo
Melissa Marsh, Vice President; City Manager; Madison Heights
Sarah Moyer-Cale, City Manager; Hastings
Devin Olson, City Manager; Munising
Tom Tanghe, City Manager; Auburn Hills
Tim Wolff, Village Manager; Lake Isabella

Others present:

Kelly Warren, Secretary/Treasurer; MML
Nicole Klepadlo, The Nonprofit Spot
Pat McGinnis, Advocacy Committee Chairperson; City Manager; Portage
Margaret Mooney, MML
Warren Rothe, Professional Development Committee Chairperson; Assistant
City Manager; Grosse Pointe Park
Mark Washington, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chairperson;
City Manager; Grand Rapids
Dene Westbrook, MML

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Matthew Butts
Seconded by: Brad Kaye
Motion carried.

III. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of September and October 2024 Financial Statements
- b. Approval of October 25, 2024 Minutes
- c. Approval of 2025 MME Board Meeting Dates

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item C.

Motion by: Bridgette Grandsen

Seconded by: Michael Cain

Discussion clarified that the January meeting date be approved and the rest of the meeting dates from item C will be approved by the new Board at that meeting. Matthew Butts also corrected the October 25 meeting minutes to note that he was in attendance. Motion carried.

IV. ICMA Updates

President Christian Wuerth shared that Matt Fulton is attending another state's conference today. He also reported that ICMA is moving forward with their CEO executive search process and that Matt Fulton will attend the upcoming MME Winter Institute.

V. Committee Updates

a. Advocacy Committee

Pat McGinnis shared that the Advocacy Committee will be meeting later this afternoon to cover their plans to order more MME swag for the upcoming conferences in 2025 as well as a few other items.

b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Mark Washington reported that the DEI Committee is continuing to push forward with programming for the Winter Institute. They are also working on how DEI efforts may change moving forward given recent politics.

c. Early Career Outreach Committee

President Christian Wuerth reported that the Early Career Outreach Committee has been prioritizing tasks to prepare for 2025, including continued preparation for their spring training session and the creation of a subcommittee that will work on promoting the local government profession in high schools. This will build upon past efforts in this area.

d. Ethics Committee

Updates will be covered later on the agenda in the Executive Session.

e. Experience Committee

Tom Tanghe reported that the Experience Committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the MME award recipients, their session for the Winter Institute, and the 2025 ICMA distinguished service award. The Experience Committee is also working on scholarship opportunities for professional development as well as the creation of a new award for retirees and a potential MME honorary lifetime designation. Board discussion included consideration of how to go about offering a lifetime membership/designation. Discussion concluded that Al Vanderberg will get a copy of the Michigan Association of County Administrative Officers (MACAO) policy about honorary life membership for the Board's review.

f. Member Support Committee

The Member Support Committee is working on an updated guide for Managers in Transition as well as a session during the Winter Institute.

g. Professional Development Committee

Brad Kaye reported that there have been a lot of responses to the call for sessions for the Winter Institute. The next Professional Development Committee meeting is next Tuesday, which will be their final meeting prior to the Winter Institute. He added that it should be a great conference.

VI. Senior Advisors Updates

President Christian Wuerth shared that the Senior Advisors have been busy traveling around the state helping managers.

VII. Nonprofit Spot Updates

a. MME Committee Strategic Plan Progress Matrix

b. Membership Survey Summary Presentation

c. Software Review

Nicole Klepadlo reported that the committees are streamlining their goals, as reflected in the progress matrix. She noted that the aggressive outreach encouraging members to complete the membership survey has garnered a lot of participation. Nicole also shared that sponsorships are coming in slower and at lower rates than hoped for the Winter Institute, with about \$29,000 currently raised of the \$40,000 goal. Some sponsors have expressed interest in sponsoring a particular speaker or outing, which are opportunities that could be further fleshed out. Overall, the committees are making great progress and Nicole added that she is confident MME will meet the Winter Institute sponsorship goal. In addition, Nicole has been working with Aaron Desentz on software exploration for Listserv alternatives and a summary will be ready to share

with the Board soon. Sarah Moyer-Cale expressed appreciation for the increased organization and productivity of the committees that Nicole and the Nonprofit Spot have made possible.

VIII. MML Updates

Kelly Warren provided a reminder that online voting is open for the MME Board of Directors election until December 15. The Women's Municipal Leadership Program is wrapping up their sixth cohort tomorrow with mock interviews. The League hopes the 34 new graduates from this cohort will go on to lead Michigan communities. Kelly also shared that the League is assisting with their affiliate organizations' membership drives, including MME. In addition, the League's legislative team has been extremely busy during lame duck season and appreciates the support of members who have been engaging with legislators, including letters of support from communities for the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

a. 2030 ICMA Conference

President Christian Wuerth reported that ICMA has shifted how they conduct RFPs for their events, with the current focus on venues that can accommodate the size of the event. The 2030 ICMA conference is slated to be in the Midwest region and RFPs have been issued. Detroit is the only city in Michigan with large enough event space to host the conference and although the City of Detroit is not a council/manager community, it would be great for the event to bring in tourism in Detroit and allow Michigan people who may not otherwise be able to attend the conference to have that opportunity. Milwaukee is among other Midwest cities being considered. Melissa Marsh added that one of her councilmembers now works for the City of Detroit in the department that handles RFPs for events like this so she will reach out and see what she says about it.

b. Historian Position

Motion to create an MME historian position and appoint Al Vanderberg, who has been documenting the history of the organization and its evolution over the years.

Motion by: Bridgette Gransden

Seconded by: Aaron Desentz

Motion carried.

c. Bentley Historical Library Donation

Kelly Warren explained the Michigan Municipal League's relationship with the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library and the agreement that is in place for storing certain historical materials at the Bentley. She added that the Michigan Association of Mayors has also signed an agreement to store historical items this way and if MME would like to do the same, they would be able to decide what they would like to send to the Bentley or not. The Board could also decide that Kelly and the League may work with the new historian on what to store there, since Al Vanderberg is familiar with and supports the Bentley too. Board discussion concluded that this project will be assigned to Al as the first step in his new historian position. The materials that the Experience Committee has already assembled will be considered first for possible Bentley donation and signing the agreement will be revisited at the January Board meeting.

d. Listserv Follow Up

Dene Westbrook from MML presented a demonstration of the League's new association management software, Nimble Salesforce, which has a "Communities" function that could replace the MME Listserv. She showed the features that are available with this platform for Board consideration and will connect with Nicole Klepadlo to compare this option with the others Nicole has researched.

e. 2026 MME Summer Workshop Update

Warren Rothe shared that he is working on an opportunity in St. Clair for the 2026 MME Summer Workshop and should have more information soon so that a decision can be made by the Winter Institute. That way, the new Professional Development Committee will be able to look into locations beginning in 2028, with all other events between now and then already booked. The League is looking into other options for the 2026 Summer Workshop as well, including Boyne Mountain and Crystal Mountain, since MME has not held an event in a resort setting for a while.

XI. Comments from the Board

Butts – Thank you to the Board for letting me step away for a while and for staying in touch and checking in. Christian added that it is great to have Matthew back.

Cain – Thank you to the Board as this is my last meeting. I have enjoyed working with everyone and seeing the progress the organization has made over the past few years. I echo the comments about how we are more organized and working more efficiently. Christian thanked Michael for

serving an extra year as Immediate Past President to help with the transition.

Desentz – This is also my last Board meeting, and I want to say I have learned a lot. Kudos to Christian for his work and I feel optimistic about the future of the organization.

Kaye – This may not be my last Board meeting, but the past three years have been great, and I appreciate the friendships I've built.

Lam – This is also my last Board meeting so I will echo the comments and say how much I appreciate the progress and growth I've seen this year and everyone's great work on this Board. I will still be involved at the committee level and am always here to help if anyone needs.

Marsh – Happy Holidays.

Tanghe – Thank you, Christian for your leadership in 2024 and before. Happy Holidays to all.

XII. Comments from the President

President Christian Wuerth thanked everyone who is coming off the Board, I appreciate your contributions in your time serving and we'll still see you all around. Be sure to cast your votes for the Board of Directors and I will be turning it over to Bridgette as I step into the Immediate Past President role. I appreciate the support of the committee chairs and the committees overall, and it has been fun to travel around the state to meet the regional groups while president. Trips to the Upper Peninsula were amazing. Happy Holidays.

XIII. Executive Session

The meeting transitioned to the Executive Session at 11:31 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment