



**MME Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.  
League Lansing Office & Zoom Video Conference**

President Bridgette Gransden called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**I. Convene and Roll Call**

Directors present:

Bridgette Gransden, President; Administrator/Controller; Midland County  
Katie Beemer, City Administrator; Fennville  
Precia Garland, City Manager; Ionia  
Brad Kaye, Vice President; City Manager; Midland  
Melissa Marsh, President Elect; City Manager; Madison Heights  
Patrick Waterman, Deputy City Manager; Wyoming  
Christian Wuerth, Immediate Past President; Village Manager; Milford

Directors on Zoom:

Vester Davis, Manager in Transition  
Nathan Henne, City Manager; Owosso  
Sarah Moyer-Cale, City Manager; Hastings  
Devin Olson, City Manager; Munising  
Mark Rambo, Deputy Administrator; Kent County  
Jonathan Seyferth, City Manager; Muskegon  
Tom Tanghe, City Manager; Auburn Hills  
Tim Wolff, Village Manager; Lake Isabella

Others present:

Kelly Warren, Secretary/Treasurer; Michigan Municipal League  
Nicole Klepadlo, The Nonprofit Spot (on Zoom)  
Margaret Mooney, Michigan Municipal League  
Mark Washington, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chairperson;  
City Manager; Grand Rapids (on Zoom)  
Mark Wollenweber, MME Senior Advisor (on Zoom)

**II. Introductions & Check-In Question**

President Bridgette Gransden asked everyone to go around the room and share their favorite springtime activity. During introductions, Devin Olson

shared that this will be his last MME Board meeting, as he is currently the outgoing city manager in Munising. He and his wife will soon be moving to Norton Shores to be closer to family as they are expecting their first child this summer.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of approving the 2024 financial review by Plante Moran to the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Brad Kaye

Motion carried.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of January and February 2025 Financial Statements

b. Approval of January 31, 2025 Minutes

c. New Senior Advisor

d. 2026 Summer Workshop Location

e. Approval of 2024 Financial Review by Plante Moran

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Partick Waterman

Motion carried.

**V. ICMA Updates**

Mark Wollenweber reported that there have recently been interviews for the ICMA Midwest Vice President position. He also shared that ICMA's Matt Fulton will be attending the upcoming 2025 MME Summer Workshop in Mt. Pleasant.

**VI. Committee Updates**

**a. Advocacy Committee**

Katie Beemer reported that the Advocacy Committee recently met with the Early Career Outreach Committee, and they have jointly formed a subcommittee to engage in K-12 outreach to educate students on the council manager for of government. They are also working on engagement efforts to promote the profession to college students.

**b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

Mark Washington shared that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been reviewing and trying to interpret recent Executive Orders that may influence how to proceed with their initiatives. Board Liaison Jonathan Seyferth noted that the Committee seeks Board guidance on reaffirming MME's commitment to DEI given the current political environment. Rather than issue a statement, Mark added that the

Committee would prefer to engage in continued discussions at upcoming MME work sessions. Sarah Moyer-Cale emphasized the importance of affirming MME's continued commitment to DEI and the promotion of diverse municipal leadership that is representative of the communities they serve. Patrick Waterman suggested that if rewording "DEI" becomes necessary, it will be important to communicate the process behind that decision so that it does not appear as MME disengaging from the work. President Bridgette Gransden stated that while words matter, actions and intent are most important. Precia Garland added that unfortunately "DEI" has a negative connotation right now but that "a rose by any other name still smells as sweet." Jonathan also shared that in Muskegon they have been strategic about how to reference their DEI efforts in grant applications and other sensitive contexts.

**c. Early Career Outreach Committee**

The Early Career Outreach Committee's Board Liaison Devin Olson reiterated that they are engaging in joint work with the Advocacy Committee, including outreach to students at the high school and college levels. In addition, Devin reported that the Early Career Outreach Committee is working on a Summer Workshop session as well as a spring learning opportunity.

**d. Ethics Committee**

Updates will be discussed during the Executive Session.

**e. Experience Committee**

A small group including Nicole Klepadlo and Mark Wollenweber met on Friday, April 18. There was not a quorum, so they had to pivot on some items, and other topics were discussed generally with no action taken.

**f. Member Support Committee**

Board Liaison Sarah Moyer-Cale reported that the Member Support Committee has completed updates to the Manager in Transition resources document. It was decided to remove the suggested attorneys section of the document since many municipal attorneys work for specific municipalities and MME did not want to endorse certain attorneys over others. The document will soon go through a final review by President Bridgette Gransden and President Elect Melissa Marsh prior to posting on the website.

**g. Professional Development Committee**

Board Liaison Precia Garland reported that the Professional Development Committee met yesterday (April 22) and continues to plan the upcoming Summer Workshop in Mt. Pleasant. The session submission deadline was last Friday and all submissions for both general and breakout sessions were

reviewed at yesterday's meeting and will be placed on the agenda. VIP registration for the event is anticipated to open on May 5, and general registration will open soon after.

## VII. Senior Advisors Updates

Mark Wollenweber reported that he participated in a national conference call with ICMA on Monday and learned that Oklahoma has added a Senior Advisor. This means that 22 states now have Senior Advisors. Mark shared that the Senior Advisors appreciate the addition of Rebecca Fleury to their team, and they are deciding amongst themselves who will attend each Board meeting to represent the Senior Advisors. In addition, he mentioned the Senior Advisors' suggestion of Bill Baldrige for the next ICMA Distinguished Service Award. He would be only the sixth person from Michigan to receive this award. Additionally, Mark Wollenweber reported that Ray Anderson is assisting Wisconsin with Senior Advisor duties. Discussion also included the potential addition of Paul Bullock as a Senior Advisor, who would add county management experience to the group.

Motion to approve the addition of Paul Bullock as a Senior Advisor.

Motion by: Sarah Moyer-Cale

Seconded by: Tim Wolff

Christian Wuerth requested that more information about Paul be sent out to the Board so that everyone can learn about him. Mark Wollenweber said he will share his resume for distribution and added that Paul has many years of experience serving in Mecosta County as well as past and current leadership roles with several state agencies and boards. Discussion clarified that because Paul is not an ICMA member, MME will need to explore the reimbursement process for his expenses. It was concluded that this is a minor thing that can be resolved. Motion carried.

Mark Washington shared that he has been working with Michigan Municipal League Foundation on international diplomacy and engagement strategies from the state of Michigan. Without intermingling funding, he suggested that MME work on a shared strategy for these efforts.

## VIII. Nonprofit Spot Updates

Nicole Klepadlo reported that the Early Career Outreach Committee's spring training date will be May 30. She also shared that she has been working to solidify processes for the MME awards program so that it can be more organized for everyone involved with an established cadence each year.

### a. Membership Survey Discussion

Nicole reported that even with extensive efforts to promote survey participation and an extended deadline, the membership survey received only 58 responses. Many participants were longtime MME members, but results and responses will be analyzed further at the May 9 strategic planning session/Board retreat. Possible strategies for increased participation in the future could be incorporating the survey into the membership renewal process each year or having live participation via Mentimeter or Zencity at the Summer Workshop and Winter Institute to gauge how members are feeling about their involvement with MME. Comments also included shortening the survey to yield more responses.

**IX. MML Updates**

Kelly Warren provided an update on the MML's storage and historic review project, as they have brought back lots of boxes of League and affiliate materials from off-site storage that are being sorted through. Kelly explained to the new members that the MME Board officially named Al Vanderberg as the MME Historian at a recent meeting and reported that she has been sharing an inventory of items with him to review. Ultimately the Board will receive a full inventory listing. Kelly also shared that the League will be sending their next batch of approximately 70 boxes to the Bentley Library in the coming weeks.

**X. Old Business**

None.

**XI. New Business**

**a. Proposal to Launch an MME eStore**

The Board discussed the proposal presented by Melissa Marsh to launch an eStore for MME merchandise. The Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association (MMTA) is offering this through a company called "Primo Designs" that charges a \$300 setup fee and at most a \$300 annual fee. This annual rate could be lower if MME decides to keep the store open for only certain periods throughout the year.

Motion to approve the creation of an eStore for MME branded merchandise to be hosted by Primo Designs at an annual cost not to exceed \$300.

Motion by: Melissa Marsh

Seconded by: Brad Kaye

Tom Tanghe asked if the Board should consider any other companies for this service and Melissa Marsh explained that she contacted one other company, but they never got back to her. Discussion concluded that the cost with Primo Designs is affordable and seeking other quotes is not necessary. Motion carried.

## XII. Comments from the Board

Beemer: Mentioned the recent Listserv questions about fee schedules and highlighted the MML Wage and Salary Survey which helps centralize this information. She asked if MME might consider doing a fee schedule survey. President Bridgette Gransden added that the county association has done this and it could be better to target certain commonly requested fees in a survey. Tim Wolff added that MME could seek responses for certain positions on a quarterly basis.

Davis: Mentioned that the city manager/DDA director relationship has come up in recent interview settings and he would appreciate some sort of workshop on this in the future so that he can learn more.

Kaye: Asked about the upcoming nomination process for the ICMA Midwest Vice President position. Christian explained that in the past the MME Board has issued a call for nominations and as a Board they chose a candidate to endorse so that when the vote happens on the ICMA level the MME-endorsed candidate appeared with the state association endorsement. Mark Wollenweber added that ICMA has a rotational agreement in place for this process, which he or Al Vanderberg would be able to share more information about as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Olson: Thank you for the experience over the past couple of years. President Bridgette Gransden asked that Devin share his personal email address so that the Board can stay in touch during his time away from work and hear when his baby is born.

Tanghe: Thanked Kelly and Margaret for their ongoing support of MME.

Wuerth: Reported on his participation with the ICMA Awards Committee and shared that of the couple hundred nominations they reviewed there were no Michigan nominees. He encouraged nominations by the Board and other MME leadership for next year. In addition, Christian mentioned his recent attendance at a Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) event where an attendee was making horrible comments about city managers. Precia Garland and Katie Beemer chimed in that their DDA directors were also in attendance, and it was a very uncomfortable situation. Jonathan Seyferth shared that he experienced similar dynamics several years ago when he was transitioning from a role as a downtown director to city management.

## XII. Comments from the President

President Bridgette Gransden reminded everyone about the upcoming deadline to submit articles for the next MME e-newsletter and asked that everyone RSVP for the Board retreat and strategic planning session on May 9.

XIII. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Brad Kaye

Motion carried.

XIV. Adjournment