



**MME Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 3 p.m.
Stadium Room at Comfort Inn & Suites and Event Center
Mt. Pleasant, MI & Zoom Video Conference**

President Bridgette Gransden called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

I. Convene and Roll Call

Directors present:

Bridgette Gransden, President; Administrator/Controller; Midland County
Katie Beemer, City Administrator; Fennville
Gordon Gallagher, Township Manager; Spring Lake Township
Precia Garland, City Manager; Ionia
Nathan Henne, City Manager; Owosso
Brad Kaye, Vice President; City Manager; Midland
Melissa Marsh, President Elect; City Manager; Madison Heights
Mark Rambo, Deputy Administrator; Kent County
Jonathan Seyferth, City Manager; Muskegon
Patrick Waterman, Deputy City Manager; Wyoming
Tim Wolff, Village Manager; Lake Isabella
Christian Wuerth, Immediate Past President; Village Manager; Milford

Directors on Zoom:

Vester Davis, Manager in Transition
Sarah Moyer-Cale, City Manager; Hastings
Tom Tanghe, City Manager; Auburn Hills

Others present:

Kelly Warren, Secretary/Treasurer; Michigan Municipal League
Nicole Bidwell, Michigan Municipal League (on Zoom)
Darin Dood, Professional Development Committee Chairperson; Village
Manager; Lakeview (on Zoom)
Matt Fulton, Midwest Regional Director; ICMA
Jenny James, Early Career Outreach Committee Chairperson; Deputy
County Administrator; Kent County (on Zoom)
Nicole Klepadlo, The Nonprofit Spot (on Zoom)
Ed Koryzno, MME Senior Advisor

Pat McGinnis, Advocacy Committee Chairperson; City Manager; Portage (on Zoom)

Margaret Mooney, Michigan Municipal League

Jared Olson, Advocacy Committee Vice Chair; City Manager; Roosevelt Park (on Zoom)

Cameron Van Wyngarden, Member Support Committee Chairperson; Township Superintendent; Plainfield Charter Township

Mark Washington, DEI Committee Chairperson; City Manager; Grand Rapids

Mark Wollenweber, MME Senior Advisor

II. Check-In Question from the President

President Bridgette Gransden facilitated the check-in question: “What is the most positive thing that has happened to you in the past week?” with the group.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with ICMA Updates postponed for later in the meeting since Matt Fulton will be joining after another meeting.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Mark Rambo

Motion carried.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of March, April, and May 2025 Financial Statements

b. Approval of April 23, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Gordon Gallagher

Motion carried.

V. Committee Updates

a. Advocacy Committee

Pat McGinnis reported that the Advocacy Committee plans to give away the MME swag aluminum cups at several upcoming conferences and is coordinating who will staff the exhibitor booths for each: MML, MAC, and MTA. Additionally, the Advocacy Committee is identifying action steps for each of their priorities outlined through the strategic reboot process. The Advocacy Committee has also been invited to have a representative speak on the mayor/manager relationship at the Michigan Association of Mayors (MAM) Mayors and Presidents Institute in Bay City in November. They plan to ask City Manager of Bay City Dana Muscott for this opportunity, since the event will be held in her community. The Advocacy Committee is also developing a session idea for the Winter Institute.

b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Mark Washington reported that the DEI Committee has been intentional in its actions, seeking to neither overreact nor underreact to the current administration. Conversations have included thoughts on the nation's founding ideals like "liberty and justice for all" that are at the heart of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. As the country approaches its 250th anniversary, the DEI Committee is also reflecting on how to continue embodying these values in meaningful ways at this moment in history. Committee members agree that some of these ideas are most effectively shared through discussion rather than written statements, to ensure clarity and avoid misinterpretation.

c. Early Career Outreach Committee

Nicole Klepadlo reported that the Early Career Outreach Committee hosted a training session at the end of June and eight people were in attendance. They are looking into dates for future trainings and have also assisted with coordinating the Early Career Outreach Dinner at the Summer Workshop.

d. Ethics Committee

Dana Muscott was not present but will be at the Summer Workshop tomorrow.

e. Experience Committee

Tom Tanghe reported that the Experience Committee has been working on the MME awards process. Nicole Klepadlo has helped get this more organized with a schedule of when nominations should be announced, posted, closed, collected, and reviewed. In addition, the Experience Committee nominated Bill Baldrige for the ICMA Distinguished Service Award, but he was not chosen.

f. Member Support Committee

Cameron Van Wyngarden reported that the Member Support Committee has been finalizing the updated Member in Transition Guide and beginning to brainstorm ideas for Winter Institute content. With many members in transition over the past few months, he also thanked the Senior Advisors for their help. Outreach can be difficult when contact information for members in transition isn't available, so maintaining a "no wrong door" approach for members who reach out seeking support is important.

g. Professional Development Committee

Darin Dood reported that the Professional Development Committee has been busy and working to revamp how they do business. For the Summer Workshop, receiving session submissions from other

committees on time was a challenge so he plans to be proactive with contacting committee chairs directly for their content submissions in the future. Nicole Klepadlo has also continued to help with sponsorship acquisition. The hope is to move toward a once annual sponsor outreach plan that presents both conferences. There are already interested sponsors for the 2026 Winter Institute as well as session content submissions.

VI. ICMA Updates

Matt Fulton shared that it is always fun to be at MME conferences, and he will be here the whole week. He also reported that ICMA's new CEO, Julia, has been in her position for about six months and they are interviewing candidates for the assistant/deputy role. Matt added that he hosts ICMA's monthly call with members in transition, working on how to help people answer difficult questions about why they are in transition and why their last position ended. He explained that he would love to see the Member in Transition Guide. Finally, ICMA is supporting their student chapters and continues to engage in lots of positive work promoting the value of their organization.

VII. Senior Advisors Updates

Mark Wollenweber reported that the Senior Advisors have been busy supporting members, including many who are currently in transition.

VIII. Nonprofit Spot Updates

a. DRAFT Member in Transition Guide (Member Support Committee)

The Board shared comments on the updated Member in Transition Guide that the Member Support Committee has been working on. Nicole Klepadlo shared that a final proof and branding review will be completed soon, and Kelly Warren asked that the final document be shared with the League for posting on the MME website. Christian Wuerth thanked Member Support Committee Chairperson Cameron Van Wyngarden and the rest of the committee members for their work updating it.

Motion to approve the Member in Transition Guide.

Motion by: Brad Kaye

Seconded by: Christian Wuerth

Motion carried.

b. DRAFT Annual Awards Program (Experience Committee)

The Board discussed the proposed updates to the annual MME awards program, including the transition away from individual applications for each award, eligibility requirements to nominate or be nominated, award names, and the creation of a centralized nomination form. Mark

Wollenweber added that Nicole Klepadlo has helped the Experience Committee clarify these aspects of the awards process. Additional comments were made about whether or not to include Christine Burns' name in the title of the award that was created in her honor for advancing women in local government. President Bridgette Grandsen suggested clarifying the award's purpose in the description, changing the language from awarded annually "in honor of" to "in memory of" MME Past President Christine Burns, noting her longstanding career in local government and membership in MME.

Motion to have the award be known as Christine Burns Award with the description cleaned up as discussed.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Gordon Gallagher

Opposed by: Brad Kaye, Sarah Moyer-Cale, Tom Tanghe, Tim Wolff

Motion to approve the draft awards program document.

Motion by: Christian Wuerth

Seconded by: Brad Kaye

Opposed by: None

Motion carried.

c. DRAFT Strategic Plan

Before getting into the Strategic Plan discussion, Nicole Klepadlo described continued improvements to the sponsor outreach process and reported that there were 11 total sponsors for the Summer Workshop. Of the 125 sponsors contacted, 25 were companies that MME has recently identified as potential sponsors and were contacted for the first time for the Summer Workshop. Nicole thanked Board members for sharing leads for sponsor recruitment. The sponsorship goal was \$29,000 and total sponsorships came in at \$30,500. A 365 sponsorship approach is the ultimate goal, with future conversations between the Fund Development Subcommittee and Strategic Plan Reboot Committee coming soon.

Nicole explained that prior to the strategic planning session in Lansing, the Strategic Plan Reboot Committee met three times and has met once more since. Among their tasks is the creation of a Values Statement for MME. For those who couldn't attend the in-person session, a survey was sent out. Discussion included comments about further defining the action steps for each committee that are outlined in the Strategic Plan. In particular, next steps for the DEI Committee were discussed. All additional feedback should be submitted to Nicole Klepadlo who will continue to work with the committees to finalize their portions of the Strategic Plan. Nicole added that indicating priority levels for action

items will be helpful, given that the updated document will reflect goals for a 24-month period. President Bridgette Grandsden suggested that the Board could hold a special meeting at the end of August to approve the finalized Strategic Plan.

IX. MML Updates

Kelly Warren reported that the League's Convention 2025 will be held on September 17-19, 2025, in Grand Rapids. In addition, she shared that the League recently hosted an AI event with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) and encouraged everyone to let the League know if and how their community is using AI. The MDCR will have a follow-up webinar on the topic in the coming weeks. On August 19, the League will also host a webinar about the Department of Justice's new ADA requirements for municipal websites, social media, and other platforms.

X. Old Business

a. MME Webstore – Melissa

Melissa Marsh reported that the new online webstore for MME swag is up and running.

XI. New Business

a. DRAFT 2026 Budget and Priorities

The Board discussed the draft 2026 budget worksheet as presented, including comments about establishing a fund balance policy. Nicole Bidwell explained that the standard fund balance amount is between 20-30%. President Bridgette Grandsden added that the budget will need to be approved at the October meeting, so if anyone has thoughts on items that need to be adjusted let the Executive Committee know.

XII. Comments from the Board

Tanghe – A member organization is only as good as the engagement of its members; we set our own destiny.

Wuerth – Good to see everyone.

XIII. Comments from the President

President Bridgette Grandsden thanked the Professional Development Committee and others involved for their work planning the Summer Workshop. She also shared her thoughts and response to the recent MME member resignation that was submitted to the Board.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Motion by: Tom Tanghe

Seconded by: Jonathan Seyferth
Motion carried.