

TCMA Board of Directors

Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2026

Baskins Creek Boardroom, Embassy Suites Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: in attendance – President Chris McCartt (remote), Vice-President Jennifer Moody, Secretary Marc Woerner, Directors Molly Mehner and Daniel Estes, and Past President Jay Evans (remote).
2. On an Estes motion, Mehner second with all members except Marc Woerner, who was not yet in the room, voting yes, the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2026 were approved with one correction.
3. On an Estes motion, Mehner second with all members except Marc Woerner, who was not yet in the room, voting yes, the minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2026 were approved.
4. ICMA Ethics Director Jessica Cowles gave a presentation to the Board concerning the ethics investigation process at ICMA and how state associations may become involved.
5. On an Estes motion, Woerner second with all members voting yes, the Board approved an updated Financial Policy for the Association.
6. On a McCartt motion, Moody second with all members voting yes, the Board selected the Marriott Hotel in Chattanooga as the site of the Fall 2028 conference and authorized the Executive Director to proceed to negotiate and enter into a contract with the hotel based on the Marriott's initial proposal.
7. The Board discussed 2029 conference sites and instructed the Executive Director to solicit proposals from Franklin area hotels for spring 2029 and Gatlinburg hotels for fall 2029. The Board indicated that the current Gatlinburg conference site (Embassy Suites) would be preferable, assuming the remainder of the 2026 conference gets good reviews from the membership.
8. ICMA Central Region representative Matt Fulton ICMA gave a report regarding final plans for the 2026 ICMA conference in Long Beach, CA and other ICMA initiatives.

9. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding member outreach efforts and concerns about members from certain cities not attending conferences and some other city managers who are not members. There was discussion about better use of regional manager gatherings that occur throughout the year to reach these members. Executive Director Bednar agreed to prepare a draft member survey for consideration by the Board.
10. MTAS Executive Director Angie Carrier discussed the MTAS Management Fellow program and plans to try and establish an endowment for the program. The goal of the endowment would be to establish dedicated annual funding to allow for smaller cities to more easily participate. The Board agreed to allow for MTAS to plan fundraising efforts as part of future TCMA conferences.
11. Executive Director Bednar reviewed the details of the Fall 2026 conference, including the conference and social event budgets, hotel logistics, and registrations.
12. Executive Director Bednar gave a report concerning preliminary planning for the Fall 2026 conference in Gatlinburg.
13. TCMA Executive Director Kirk Bednar gave a report on the status of various matters related to the ongoing operation of the Association. He also discussed with the Board the potential for him to perform some outside contract consulting work with Tim Ellis, who plans to go to work with Sumter Local Government Consultants following his retirement at the end of September. The work would be primarily in support of Tim's executive search projects with Tennessee local governments. Given that Sumter is a TCMA sponsor, the Executive Director was seeking the Board's approval that this would not create a conflict of interest. The Board members present (President McCartt had to leave the meeting early) felt they needed additional time to understand and consider this issue before making a final decision. It was decided that the Executive Director would conduct additional follow-up communication with the Board regarding this issue.
14. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.