

**GPCOG Executive Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 5, 2026**

In Attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Carmen Lone	Bridgton
Scott LaFlamme	Yarmouth
Nathan Poore	Falmouth
Matt Sturgis	Cumberland
Jonathan Sahrbeck	Cape Elizabeth
Misha Pride	South Portland
Mark Dion	Portland
Jim Gailey	Cumberland County

**Welcome**

Carmen opened the meeting. It was held in person only.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of 4/14/26 Minutes**

Matt moved approval of last month’s meeting minutes. Scott seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Kristina reported that Gorham’s Town Manager eliminated GPCOG dues from his proposed budget. The Executive Committee will take a vote on the proposed regional option sales tax in the fall.

**FY2027 Budget – Final Draft**

Tony Plante reviewed the minimal changes from the version the Executive Committee considered in April. A question was asked about the impact of losing Gorham on the budget, and Kristina said it would be a blow to the source of money that we can use to deliver member services that aren’t supported by grants. Misha suggested that GPCOG provide a one-pager, every year, to every Council and Select Board articulating the organization’s value. Jim Gailey shared that Cumberland County may be able to reduce its budget due to legislative funding support for jails.

Matt moved to recommend approval of the FY2027 budget to the General Assembly. Mark seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Corporate Borrowing Resolution**

Tony and Tejean Martiesen presented a cash-flow overview and requested consideration of a corporate borrowing resolution to establish a revolving operating line of credit of \$500,000. This will serve as a backstop for timing gaps in reimbursable funding. The goal is to have the tool available and use it only if necessary. The Executive Committee last approved a line of credit in March 2019.

A monthly year-over-year operating account balance graph was reviewed. Spikes were attributed to short-term pass-through grant funds that briefly entered the operating account and were subsequently disbursed. Baseline balances indicate that the fourth quarter is typically a lean period. Recent delays in payer reimbursements have increased cash-flow pressure.

Most operations are reimbursement-based; when payers are slow, GPCOG may float expenses for approximately 60–90 days (or longer). The organization has increased accounts-receivable follow-up over the past 2–3 months (emails/calls regarding past-due balances) to reduce outstanding receivables.

Staff have been in discussions with Maine Community Bank regarding a potential operating line of credit; underwriting is in progress. Legal counsel (Drummond Woodsum) provided an updated corporate borrowing resolution to replace the bank's standard form and better reflect GPCOG's legal authority and limitations, including restrictions associated with certain funding sources. Carmen asked what the fee will be for the line of credit. Tony said the underwriting fee is \$250, but was unsure if there are other fees.

Scott moved to adopt a corporate borrowing resolution authorizing an operating, revolving line of credit in an amount up to \$500,000, and further authorizing the Executive Director to take any necessary actions related thereto (including execution of required documents), subject to applicable restrictions on funding sources. Matt seconded. All seven voting members present voted in favor.

### **Proposed Bylaws and Articles Changes – Second Read**

Belinda Ray, GPCOG's Director of Strategic Initiatives, reviewed the reasons for the proposed bylaws changes, and then reviewed the substantial changes. At the last meeting, Carmen asked about the limits on 501(c)(3) advocating. GPCOG's attorney, Drummond Woodsum, provided a memo called "IRS Restrictions on lobbying" as part of Attachment E in the 5/5/26 agenda packet. Mark noted that GPCOG will need to tell the City of Portland's assessor office once GPCOG becomes a 501(c)(3) so it can pay the appropriate taxes to the City.

Mark moved to recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt the proposed bylaws changes and updates to GPCOG's Articles of Incorporation.

### **FY27 Executive Committee Members and Officers**

Matt presented a proposed slate, which was provided as a hand-out.

Scott moved recommending the following FY27 slate of Executive Committee members and officers to the General Assembly:

1. Carmen Lone, **Bridgton** Select Board - President
2. Jonathan Sahrbeck, **Cape Elizabeth** Town Council, First Vice President / Treasurer

3. Andrea Berry, **North Yarmouth** Select Board, Second Vice President / Secretary
4. Mark Dion, **Portland** Mayor
5. Jim Gailey, **Cumberland County** Manager, ex-officio
6. Angela Holmes, **Westbrook** City Administrator
7. Connie Justice, **New Gloucester** Select Board
8. Nathan Poore, **Falmouth** Town Manager
9. Misha Pride, **South Portland** City Council
10. Matthew Sturgis, **Cumberland** Town Manager
11. Tony Ward, **Casco** Town Manager
12. Vika Wood, **Chebeague Island** Town Administrator

Matt seconded. The vote was unanimous.

### **Engagement with Gubernatorial Candidates**

As the group prepared to go into an afternoon forum with ten gubernatorial candidates, the group discussed a post-primary engagement that included offering individual interviews with qualifying candidates on the radio show, Let's Connect Greater Portland, and holding a statewide forum, convened by the Maine Association of Regional Councils.

Scott was supportive of both actions, saying that this work will kick off a collaborative approach with whoever wins the race. It should be open to all qualifying candidates. Misha remarked that the briefing book, Greater Portland Forward, is non-partisan, fairly written, and provides ideas to every candidate on how to fix problems, including lessening the burdens on taxpayers.

Carmen said that the regions working together will give regional councils, and regions, more clout. Nathan said that while we are asking for more funding, we are proposing regionalization that will save the state money. Mark said that the candidates would benefit from information about how property taxes fund cities and towns, and the impact of them on residents. Matt added that many candidates don't have municipal experience. Mark said the best way to lower property taxes is for the state to pay more of the cost to educate Maine's kids. Carmen provided an example: if property taxes were eliminated, who will plow the roads? Misha said that as we ask them for help, we can offer them help. Carmen noted that working with the candidates is a great opportunity.

The group agreed to provide staff the guidance to continue engaging candidates through radio show interviews and a possible statewide forum hosted by the Maine Association of Regional Councils.

### **Executive Director's Performance Goals**

Matt moved to adopt the proposed FY27 performance goals for Kristina. Scott seconded. The vote was unanimous.

### **FY27 Meeting Calendar**

Mark moved adoption of the proposed FY27 meeting calendar. Nathan seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Executive Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:05 PM.