

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
February 23, 2024, 9:30am
NACO Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Past President Higbee, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Andriola, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved as presented by consensus of the Board.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi thanked those Commissioners who had attended the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington DC. He discussed planning for the upcoming NACO Annual Conference that will be hosted by Carson City, September 24-26 and commented on 2024 being the 100th Anniversary of NACO and looking forward to the future of NACO while honoring the history of the Association.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson also thanked those that attended the NACO Legislative Conference even though there were no visits with Nevada's federal representatives due to the congressional calendar. He also thanked Storey County for their sponsorship of the dinner that was held for the Nevada attendees. Vinson discussed BEAD funding and other broadband dollars that will be coming to the State and informed the Board that he has been working with State staff and Senator Rosen's office to identify where the funding is most needed. He also encouraged the Board to participate in the challenge process to correctly inform the maps showing both available service and where service is lacking, informing the Board that the challenge process would begin on February 27th and conclude on March 28th. Vinson concluded his remarks by announcing that more detailed information on the processes would be distributed to the members.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the January 26, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by Commissioner Andriola.
6. **Update from Andrew Bennett, Director, Clark County Office of Traffic Safety, Regarding the Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety.** Mr. Bennett gave the

Board an overview of his career in transportation and reminded them that Vinson was their previous representative on the Committee. He discussed the history of the Committee including the makeup of the membership and its creation in NRS. Mr. Bennett then informed the Board that he is currently serving as the Committee's Chair and let them know that the Legislative appointments to the Committee were recently received. He also discussed the duties of the group as established by NRS, including the task of yearly reporting to the Legislature and recommendations for future legislation. Mr. Bennett concluded his remarks by informing the Board of the Committee's priorities, including the implementation of the new traffic citation processes, updates to school zones and graduated drivers licensing procedures and increased messaging and signage in pedestrian crossing areas. President Elect Andreozzi inquired as to if the NDOT High Hazard Intersection program was still in existence and Mr. Bennett informed him that it is a separate NDOT taskforce, and he will connect him with the appropriate person to answer his questions. Vice President Gardner mentioned issues with speeding on HWY50 in the Lake Tahoe Corridor and the possible usage of traffic cameras. Mr. Bennett stated that the issue of traffic camera's is a topic of conversation within the Committee and informed the Board that while a BDR was submitted during the last legislative session, it was unsuccessful and they are intending to submit another BDR regarding their usage during the 2025 session, noting that current data suggests that the proper usage of traffic cameras saves lives.

7. **Re-Appointment of Andrew Bennett, Director, Clark County Office of Traffic Safety, as the NACO Appointee to the Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety (NFACTS).** Mr. Bennett's reappointment was made unanimously on a motion by President Elect Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Andriola.

8. **NV Energy Presentation Regarding Renewable Energy Projects in Nevada and the Nevada Greenlink Project, Chris Dancy, Renewables and Origination Senior Project Manager and Charles Hutchinson, Environmental Planner, Power Engineers.** NV Energy Government Relations Representative, Chloe Chism introduced the item and reminded the Board that she is available to them for questions or concerns regarding the utility. Mr. Dancy then gave an overview of the company's renewable energy profile and noted that they are striving for a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and to have zero carbon emissions by 2050. He informed the Board that local zoning ordinances are key to the project's successes and that they are working with the State on an incentive process. He discussed the development process and informed the Board that it is a common misconception that developers automatically sell the energy obtained from projects to NV Energy, outlining their detailed process for determining which development projects they purchase energy from. Commissioner Kirkpatrick discussed rural communities with strictly volunteer fire departments and the stress renewable projects put on local service delivery, noting that additional resources are needed for those departments for training and equipment necessary to provide the specialized services the projects will need in case of a fire or other emergency issue. Mr. Dancy stated that their plan is to work with communities to identify and help provide those resources, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that the issue needs to be one of the first conversations held with local authorities, prior to any zoning related conversations, and that those items should also be included in any development agreements. Commissioner Keller, then noted that those conversations need to be expanded to all emergency management departments, not just fire. President Giomi also stressed the importance of having those conversations early in the development process so that the companies can have a proper understanding of the counties' service delivery capacities. Commissioner Keyes discussed a meeting to be held with a development group the following week and requested further information from NV Energy prior to that meeting. Commissioner Tipton inquired about plans to revamp a powerplant in his county

to natural gas and the status of the project. Mr. Dancy informed the Commissioner that he is not within that department and Ms. Chism informed the Commissioner that she would get the requested information to him. President Elect Andreozzi inquired about battery disposal and President Giomi stated that he had received questions from constituents, not only about the disposal of batteries but of the panels as well. The Board was informed that there are existing recycling facilities in the state and that there are also existing plans for expansion of those facilities. Mr. Hutchinson then gave the Board an overview of the Greenlink project, including (Senate Bill 448) SB448 that created the project. He informed the Board that pursuant to the approved schedule the project must be energized by 2028 and gave them an overview of the project timeline. He noted that Records of Decision from the associated federal agencies are expected in the summer of 2024 and in early 2025 and that they will be working with the necessary county permitting processes in conjunction with the construction schedules. Ms. Chism concluded the item by thanking the Board for their attention and reminding them that she is a resource for the necessary conversations with the counties.

9. **Possible Selection of one NACO Sponsored Applicant to Attend the National Association of Counties 2024 County Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C.** Vinson reminded the Board of the program, and that the Association budget includes payment of the tuition for a Nevada attendee if one is selected by NACO. He also noted that the County Leadership Training Institute is a separate program from the High-Performance Leadership Academy. Vinson informed the Board that Training is specific to Commissioners and that applicants should have two to three years of service experience, and that the training serves a part of the Association's mission of education. Vinson informed the Board that the Training will take place June 9-13 and he stressed that applicants must commit to attending the full event in Washington DC. Vice President Gardner inquired as to the financial costs to the applicants and Vinson reiterated that NACO pays the tuition but in the past the Association has provided additional financial support on a case-by-case basis. He concluded the item by requesting that any Commissioners interested in attending reach out to him directly prior to the April Board of Directors meeting. No action was taken.

10. **Presentation and Update from Nevada Medicaid Regarding Changes to School Health Services, including Changes to the County Contribution, Stacie Weeks, Administrator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy.** Malinda Southard, Deputy of Community Engagement of the Division opened the item and informed the Board that the Division recognizes the lack of coordination with counties in the past and that they are striving to correct the issue. She and Ms. Weeks gave an overview of the services provided by the Division, their leadership team and the background of the School Health Services program including the covered services and how they are delivered. They informed the Board that 10 of the 17 counties participate in the program and informed them of the amount of the assessments paid by the counties in SFY22 and SFY23. They stated that the data collected by the Division shows that the resources available are not being fully maximized by the schools and then gave the Board an overview of the changes that will occur within the program beginning on July 1, (2024). They specifically noted that counties will no longer be fiscally responsible for the cost of the program and informed the Board that those financial resources will now be available to the counties to expand access for other school-based health related services. They concluded the item by informing the Board that the next steps by the Division for implementation of the program changes include tours and discussions with the participating school districts and that they are also seeking grant funding to assist with billing infrastructure to make it easier on the districts.

- 11. Approval of a NACO Subcommittee to Review Current Association By-Laws and Bring Forth Possible Recommendations for Updates or Changes.** President Giomi informed the Board that the last time the By-Laws were formally reviewed was in 2016 and that he feels it is important to regularly review the document, although he didn't expect the need for excessive changes. He stated that he would like a five-person committee, comprised of a cross-section of representatives from across the State, including urban and rural members, to collaborate with staff on suggested updates and/or changes. One specific section of the document that he would like the committee to consider is the need for all member counties to approve changes and to provide a more definitive process for the replacement of officers, when the need arises. Vice President Gardner requested clarification as to if By-Law changes had to be approved by all the individual Boards of Commission, which as they are currently written is required. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that needed to change and President Giomi suggested changing that to a 2/3 of member commissions. Staff was directed to create the Committee with statewide representation and bring suggested updates or changes to the Board on a motion by President Giomi with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
- 12. Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Amy directed the Board's attention to the updated SB118 document included in the agenda packet. She informed them that the allocation numbers had been adjusted due to a calculation error, and that the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health provided the new numbers. Amy reminded the Board that the dollars become available on July 1 and that the State would like to have agreements in place with the counties prior to that date. She discussed the flexibility for usage of the funds and reminded them that for the counties with health districts, they will receive the funds. Amy stressed that effective usage of the funding will help to ensure that the program is included in the Governor's budget going forward, thus ensuring more sustainable funding, and will help to draw down additional dollars in the future, reminding the Board that she is available to assist them with the process. Amy informed the Board that she had just returned from a conference in New Mexico where she learned about how public health infrastructure is set up in other states. She informed the Board that she was able to identify states with similar needs and challenges and that she had shared the public health needs assessment project being conducted with Extension and that she brought back a lot of ideas and opportunities to explore and develop successful programs for counties from the ground up. No action was taken.
- 13. Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**

 - a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Jacob informed the Board that the Committee had discussed the landscape level planning efforts coming from Washington DC, and a proposed refuge management rule from the Fish and Wildlife Services which would eliminate agriculture as a possible land use on refuges. He informed the Board that Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts is now the Local Government representative on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. The Committee also discussed the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection's proposed Climate Action Plan and grant dollars that will be available for counties. Commissioner Tipton noted that the BLM's current landscape level planning efforts appear remarkably similar to BLM's previous Planning 2.0 proposal which was struck down by congress and requested a future item on the Board agenda to discuss new efforts challenging this. He also noted that the issue would be discussed at the WIR conference in May.

- b. **Discussion and Possible Approval of NACO Comment Letter on Draft Environmental Assessment to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regarding Raven Depredation Permitting.** Jacob informed the Board that a comment letter had been prepared and gave a background of the issue. He noted that USGS data show that the raven population is growing exponentially across the great basin and is one of the largest threats to Greater Sage grouse and the Desert Tortoise conservation. The consensus of the Committee is that the allowed take needs to exceed what the FWS has proposed. No action was required on the item.
14. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Updates on the NACo Board of Directors and WIR Board will be given following upcoming meetings. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
15. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske, from Extension discussed the service delivery model transitions and subsequent staffing changes that will be occurring in the counties and reminded the Board that she is available to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.