

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 28, 2023, 9:30am

**NACO Conference Room**

**304 S. Minnesota Street**

**Carson City, NV 89703**

## ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Vice President Hall, Past President Kirkpatrick, Churchill County Commissioner Scharmann, Clark County Commissioner Gibson, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Waits, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Washoe County Commissioner Hill, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Humboldt County Comptroller, Gina Rackley and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, and Amanda Berg

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Reese informed the Board that President Biden had signed the State of Emergency Declaration requested by the Governor to support the current and future flooding issues across the State.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Waits with second by Commissioner Herman.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee encouraged the Board to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in July. He also encouraged attendance at the upcoming Western Interstate Region conference in St. George Utah, noting that members of Congress had been invited and are expected to attend.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson also discussed the NACo Annual Conference and reminded the Board that the election for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Association would be conducted during the event. He also reminded the Board that per the approved NACO calendar the next Board meeting would take place in June in Clark County and the agenda will include a detailed summary of the 2023 Legislative Session.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the March 31, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** Commissioner Gibson called attention to an error in the minutes, he was in attendance for the meeting not Clark County Commissioner Jones. The minutes were approved upon correction on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Henderson.
6. **Discussion and Possible Approval of NACO Resolution 23-02, "Resolution in Support of Historic Routes Preservation Act – Recognize and Honors County Authority Over Historic Roads."** President Higbee directed the Board's attention to the resolution included in the agenda packet and reminded the Board of their previous discussions regarding the

item and the window for the introduction of the bill in Congress, noting that the expected introduction will be Bi-partisan and will include language tying the issue to Last Mile Broadband connectivity. Commissioner Henderson announced that Lyon County had passed a resolution in support that month. President Elect Giomi also informed the Board that Carson City had engaged their federal lobbyist to watch for the bill's introduction. The resolution was approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with a second by Commissioner Henderson.

7. **Ratification and Approval Regarding NACO Executive Director Appointment to the Joint Operating Committee for Camp Alamo Learning Center, in Lincoln County.** Past President Kirkpatrick gave the Board an overview of the agreement between Clark and Lincoln Counties and UNR Extension, including a facilities committee to oversee the maintenance of the facility. Past President Kirkpatrick then described the make up of the Joint Operating Committee and noted that she wanted NACO to be involved because it is important for the members to understand 4-H. Vinson further explained NACO's inclusion on the committee because the facility will be available to 4-H clubs across the state. He also clarified that the appointment is for the NACO Executive Director not him personally and that whoever sits in the position will automatically serve on the committee. Commissioner Carson noted that the committee was well thought out. The appointment of the NACO Executive Director to the committee was ratified on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Vice President Hall.
8. **Possible Approval of the Reappointment of Roger Mancebo to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority, Board of Directors.** President Higbee noted Mr. Mancebo's active and influential participation on the Authority and his reappointment was approved on a motion by Commissioner Waits with second by Commissioner Henderson.
9. **Approval of NACO's Investment Reports for January, February, and March of 2023.** Vinson discussed both the reports and the statements in item 10, reminding the Board that they are presented quarterly for review and approval. He informed the Board that the investments are seeing stabilization and gains and that the Association's financial statements remain on track with the Board's approved budget. He discussed the need for some additional outreach due to lower than expected Associate Membership renewals and that conference sponsorships have begun to be submitted. The investment reports were approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.
10. **Approval of NACO's Financial Statements for January and February of 2023.** The financial statements were approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Elect Giomi.
11. **Update Regarding Ongoing Opioid Lawsuits, Settlement Disbursements and The One Nevada Agreement, Mark J. Krueger, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General.** Vinson informed the Board that because additional settlement dollars have been coming in per the {One Nevada} agreement, he felt it timely to have Mr. Krueger address them. Mr. Krueger noted the recent turnover in county staff and expressed his desire to have a large meeting following the Legislative Session that would include Commissioners as well as key staff members to ensure that the necessary people understand where the situation lies. He also reminded the Board of the agreement entered into by the counties that allows for the AG's office to negotiate on their behalf ensuring the most settlement dollars are received. Mr. Krueger noted the extended release of funds over several years and that because there are multiple sources of funds, there are

multiple reporting requirements. He stated that the AG's IT Department is working to build a program that will aggregate the counties individual reports and ensure that all proposed projects fall into allowable uses of the funds. Mr. Krueger also discussed the need for collaboration between the state, counties, and cities for shared services to ensure that duplicative efforts are not wasting the available dollars, noting that the AG's office will help facilitate and support those conversations. He also noted the need for community-based programming and stated that he will be creating a Listserv to ensure proper communications with those that need to be involved in the conversations. Past President Kirkpatrick thanked Mr. Krueger for proposing the meeting and concurrent with the decision to wait until after the end of the legislative session. Commissioner Scharmann agreed and suggested working with NACO on the organization of the meeting. Mr. Krueger stated that he would move forward working with Vinson on the coordination for the meeting. Amy reminded the Board that she is available as a resource to support the counties and is in contact with the State regarding the reporting needs. Mr. Kreuger stated that working with the State to make reporting as easy as possible. President Higbee concluded the item by noting that the topic would be a good one for an educational session at the Annual Conference in September.

12. **Update on NACO Bills and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties During the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Jennifer drew the Board's attention to the Bill Tracker included in the supplemental back up materials provided the previous day, including an overview of how the document is designed. She then gave the Board an update on the status of the Association's Bills, all of which had survived the most recent deadline and noted that SB41, which would revise provisions related to child welfare, had been declared exempt. Commissioner Waits inquired as to the effective dates of the bills passed, specifically SB20 which would change the process for filling vacancies on County Commissions and Jennifer explained that the bills being tracked have different effective dates, but that SB20, if passed would likely be effective July 1. Vinson discussed the forty days remaining in the legislative session and announced that while the local elected official's salary bill had not received a work session, he does see a small window to a path forward, noting that judicial salaries are being considered after being brought forth for three consecutive sessions. He also discussed the possibility of finding a mechanism to amend the NRS to enable the elected officials' salaries to be adjusted without having to request legislative permission. Commissioner Gardner discussed a recent meeting where he discovered that staff under the elected officials are often paid more and if there isn't a mechanism to make pay more equitable that the ability to find qualified people to run for those offices might be affected. President Elect Giomi concurred with Commissioner Gardner and stated that Carson City had already seen the effect with candidates running for Sheriff. Commissioner Andreozzi stated that it is important to recognize the efforts of staff during the session and noted that so far, their work has been tremendous on behalf of the counties. Vinson next discussed budgets being watched, noting that the Extension budget would be heard on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the China Spring Youth Camp budget had been recommended for closure, and the child welfare budget would be heard the next day. Concerns were discussed on SB226 regarding prevailing wage and Vinson informed the Board that it was declared exempt, and that staff would be working with the sponsor on an amendment. SB233, which would affect heavy equipment taxes, was opposed by staff and the Board was informed that the Assessors are working on with the sponsor on concerns with the language. The Board also received updates on AB213 which would make changes to housing and affordable housing statutes for Washoe and Clark Counties, and SB205 regarding OHV registrations. Opposition to SB68 was discussed as it would allow oversite of local dollars by unelected boards, and AB68 was passed out of the Assembly and will move the discussion on China Spring Youth Camp Funding to the Senate. The discussion by staff was concluded by the Board being reminded

that staff is tracking over half of the bills and that the pace of the Session would be picking back up with the next deadline, second house committee passage on May 19th. Commissioner Andreozzi expressed concerns with the legality of SB433 that would allow the Labor Commission to determine what a Public Works Project is, and the significant impacts of resetting property tax value included in AJR7 had failed. Commissioner Gardner expressed ongoing concerns with SB81 which would extend the sunset on the requirement for Carson City, Storey, Douglas, Lyon, and Washoe Counties to conduct regional planning efforts and would also add cities and legislators to those discussions. Vinson explained that the bill had been amended to make the city and legislative representatives non-voting but there are still concerns with their participation because planning is not a city or legislative function. He concluded the discussion by informing the Board that the bill would move forward but that he and Jennifer will continue to work towards ensuring the final outcome is the least detrimental as possible. No action was taken on the item.

13. **Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Amy informed the Board that she had participated in the recent National Summit on Emergency Preparedness and had obtained a lot of valuable resources that had been put on the NACO website, including some developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo). She also discussed the Rural Health Information Hub that contains several toolkits and third-party resources beneficial to stakeholder discussions and encouraged the Counties to include mental and behavioral health components in their future emergency planning. She announced the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Summit will be held in June in Churchill County and encouraged the Board to ensure their emergency management staff participate in the event. Amy discussed upcoming online training opportunities for County Health Officers and announced May as National Mental Health Awareness Month and informed the Board that NACo also had a toolkit with resources to assist counties in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health discussions. She reminded the Board that she is a resource to assist the counties with their required Opioid Needs Assessments and that there is funding available from the state for technical assistance and to help with the development of the plans. Commissioner Waits discussed Lander County's current struggles with having enough foster families, including those able to provide emergency foster care, and Amy said she would investigate solutions that the county could consider implementing. She shared the model of Austin's House in the Carson/Douglas area, as a possibility Commissioner Carson suggested looking into the use of closing Nevada Division of Forestry facilities as group homes. Amy stated that long term prevention programs are also something to consider, which could include programs to reduce ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and support parents with parenting classes and other resources to reduce the need for foster care longterm. Amy also stated that residential treatment and recovery housing with access to wrap-around support services is an approved use of Opioid funds, which can also have an impact on the need for foster services longterm.

14. **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 gave the Board an overview of the discussion held the previous day. He discussed a draft addendum to land management agency MOUs with the counties and informed the Board that Humboldt County is spearheading the drafting of that document and that the proposed addendum would be brought before the Board in June. He informed the Board that NASA withdrawals are moving forward and Commissioner Waits informed the Board that Lander County had declared a state of emergency regarding wild horses and requested an item on a future Board agenda.

- b. **Discussion and Possible Approval of NACO Comment Letter Regarding Conservation and Landscape Health, Proposed Rule to Bureau of Land Management (BLM).** Jacob explained that the proposed rule will have significant impacts to counties and drew the Board's attention to the draft letter included in the agenda materials. He informed the Board that he would like to continue working on the Association's comments until the submission deadline and that the suggested action for the item is to approve comment submission and to allow the final letter to be approved by the Subcommittee because there will not be another Board meeting prior to the submission deadline. President Elect Giomi expressed concern with relying to heavily on the inclusion of NEPA as the main argument against passage of the proposed rule. Jacob noted that inclusion of NEPA requirements would slow things down by requiring comment periods but that other arguments against passage of the proposed rule would be added to the final comment letter. Commissioner Tipton noted that grazing is one of the strongest conservation tools the Bureau has to work with, and Commissioner Henderson inquired as to other comments being submitted by the state. Jacob informed the Board that the issue has been discussed with DCNR and that comments are also expected from SLUPAC, and the Farm Bureau and collaborative discussions would be ongoing. Commissioner Carson inquired as to how the rule would affect county RMP and land and water use plans, to which Jacob informed the Board that there is no language in the proposed rule that acknowledges BLM's obligations for consistency with local land use plans and noted that the comments submitted would include adherence to existing law, i.e. FLPMA and he will add consultation with counties to the letter. President Elect Giomi moved to approve the letter in concept and to direct staff and the Subcommittee to continue to work on the letter and approve the final submission. Commissioner Andreozzi cautioned on using the BLM acronym within the letter due to competing usage in popular culture. Commissioner Reese suggested copying all members of the Congressional Natural Resources committees and the Nevada Delegation. President Elect Giomi amended his motion to include the sending of the final document as suggested. The item was then approved on a second by Commissioner Henderson.

15. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors and Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors.** Past President Kirkpatrick informed the Board that the housing taskforce she had been appointed to isn't producing suggested solutions as expected. President Higbee discussed the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee's recommendations to the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, including the re-inclusion of fire management on public lands. Past President Kirkpatrick also stated that she would like to see some Nevada resolutions being proposed at the national level going forward to which President Higbee agreed. President Higbee and Past President Kirkpatrick also encouraged participation on NACo Policy Steering Committees. Vinson informed the Board that any Commissioner's wishing to serve on one of the Committees should let him know and staff will get them enrolled.

16. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Board members gave updates on activities within their counties.

17. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske from the University of Nevada, Reno thanked the Board for their support of Extension at the legislature.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.