

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 26, 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, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Andriola, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, and NACO staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda. For Possible Action.** The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.
3. **NACO President's Report.** Following the federal update from Congressman Amodei and the time certain agenda item, the meeting returned to adherence of the regular agenda. President Giomi reminded the Board that the May meeting will be held in Eureka County and directed their attention to the hotel block information included in the agenda packet that staff organized for the Board. He also discussed the Board dinner staff is putting together and the plan to recognize Nevada Senator Goicochea's service and dedication to counties.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** In the interest of time, Vinson limited his remarks to the Child Welfare Summit hosted by and held in Clark County earlier in the week. Vice President Gardner inquired as to the status of the upgrade of the NACO vehicle and Vinson informed the Board that a new Jeep had been purchased using the State's purchasing office and is expected to be delivered within the next month.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the March 22, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by Past President Higbee.
6. **Federal Update from United States Congressman Mark Amodei.** This item was taken out of order at the discretion of the President. Congressman Amodei began his update by referencing a memo sent by his office to all seventeen counties through their individual County Manager or administrative offices, which discussed historical baseline information utilized to inform conversations in Washington regarding the Wild Horse and Burro situation throughout the State. The Congressman also discussed the status of lands bills in the northern part of the State and the general lack of understanding that exists in

Washington for the specific needs of western states because of the amount of federally held lands within their boundaries. He noted that several counties have been included in the current bill he has presented at the request of their Commission's and outlined the timeframe he has developed for congressional action on the legislation. Specifically, that it is his intention to have the bills off the floor prior to the August recess. The Congressman discussed his Northern Nevada priorities, including the lands bills, obtaining Model J aircraft for the Nevada National Guard, the proposed I-11 alignment and discussions with NDOT regarding several issues important to counties, and cybersecurity and other issues being addressed with Union Pacific regarding rail service in the State, noting that as the largest private landholder in the State, certain expectations should be adhered to for safety and the wellbeing of the State and its residents. The Congressman also discussed the proposal from the US Postal Service to close the Reno mail processing center and move those operations to Sacramento. He outlined several issues of concern, including costs, mail ballot security, and the closure of I-80 several times each year. He noted that the issue is bipartisan with both Senator's involved with an "all hands-on deck" approach to addressing the situation. President Elect Andreozzi noted the issues Elko County experiences with service because their mail was routed to Salt Lake City and Commissioner Andriola inquired as to the process for appointment to the Service's director. Congressman Amodei also addressed the concerns with centralized planning efforts by the BLM and noted that currently proposed legislation includes language that will prohibit the Bureau from utilizing dollars for the listing of the Sage Grouse and the renewed push toward actions that were previously prohibited by Congress in the former Planning 2.0 proposal. Commissioner Tipton inquired as to if the Bureau could use COVID 19 dollars and the Congressman informed him that unobligated dollars had been taken back and a close watch is being conducted through the appropriations process. President Giomi discussed issues with obtaining FEMA dollars for Superfund sites that have no identified responsible party for cleanup, specifically one in Carson City, Churchill, and Lyon Counties in the Carson River Subconservancy District. Congressman Amodei informed President Giomi that he would reach out to the EPA and FEMA for a briefing on the rule and begin looking for a solution. President Elect Andreozzi expressed concerns with Elko County's location as a regional transportation hub, noting that the County currently subsidized the commercial air service, but that it is not sustainable, and noted that an FAA rule change may be in order. Commissioner Andriola thanked the Congressman for his efforts and noted the equitability of the lands bill that includes Washoe County. Vice President Gardner inquired as to the situation with the Painted Rock project in Lake Tahoe and the Congressman noted that in the most recent briefing the BLM informed him they were at least two months from a Record of Decision, Vice President Gardner then stated that the equipment staging has been taking place without the necessary permits. The Congressman's update was concluded with thanks by both he and the Board and the Board issued an open invitation to the Congressman to attend future meetings.

Items 7 & 8 were combined for discussion at the discretion of President Giomi but were approved with individual motions. Vinson reminded the Board that the reports and statements are brought before them quarterly as a practice of good governance and to ensure transparency with regards to the Association's financial stability. He informed the Board that the investments remain in accordance with the Board's adopted policy and the account is experiencing positive gains. Vinson then informed the Board that all county dues had been received and that current expenditures remain under budget in all categories. It was clarified for Commissioner Helming, who recently joined the Board, that NACO runs on a calendar year as opposed to a June/July fiscal schedule. Past President Higbee discussed a recent POOL/PACT recommendation that Counties institute a "sweep account" and Vinson reminded the Board that the recommendation had previously been made by former Lincoln

County Commissioner Lister. He also noted that with the assistance of Fiscal Officer Kalt, a sweep account had been vetted and instituted the previous year and that the Association should see gains in interest income on the financial statements within the year.

7. **Approval of NACO's Investment Reports for January, February, and March of 2024.** The investment reports were approved on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by Commissioner Andriola.
8. **Approval of NACO's Financial Statements for January and February of 2024.** The financial statements were approved on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by Commissioner Andriola.

Time Certain Agenda Item – 10:15am*

9. **Presentation Regarding Heroes to Education, Dr. George Ann Rice, Chief Operating Officer, Heroes to Education.** This item was heard immediately following the federal update from Congressman Amodei under agenda item 6. Ms. Rice gave the Board an overview of her experience in education, connection to Nevada and the creation of the non-profit Heroes to Education program. She discussed the program's mission to assist Veteran's and their spouses, as well as law enforcement retiree's transition into secondary careers in education. She explained that Nevada is being utilized as a proto-type for the program, outlined the school districts they are currently working with, and gave an overview of the many public-private-military organization partnerships that the program has developed. Ms. Rice also discussed the group's outreach activities including partnerships with chambers of commerce, higher education offices and local workforce development groups. She discussed the work being done by the program to be included within the federal Department of Education and concluded her remarks by requesting that the Board assist with outreach efforts by including the organization in their individual newsletters, posting of their flyer and links within social media posts. President Giomi thanked Ms. Rice for her presentation and noted that the organization serves a great need within both the education and military communities. Vinson informed the Board that the item had been included on the agenda at the request of Clark County Commissioner Gibson and Past President Higbee noted that the program could be of great benefit to rural districts that have a traditionally lower starting wage base. He also informed Ms. Rice that he would take the program information back to the southern Nevada workforce development group that he is a member of.
10. **Discussion and Update Regarding the May 2024 NACO Board of Directors Meeting, to be held in Eureka County, Nevada.** Vinson noted that the meeting had been discussed by President Giomi in agenda item three and reminded the Board that the hotel block information had also been included in an email communication he sent to the Board members. He concluded the item by noting that the meeting will take place in the county commission chambers.
11. **Presentation Regarding Cost Savings Solutions for Counties through the National Association of Counties, NACo EDGE, Bill Jasien, Executive Chairman, NACo EDGE.** President Giomi opened the item by informing the Board that he had seen Mr. Jasien's presentation at the President and Executives meeting held by NACO in January and felt it is a well-designed program that provides multiple benefits to counties. Mr. Jasien gave the Board an overview of the program's leadership and mission to 'add value to counties' while also providing an important revenue stream to NACO that supports their advocacy efforts. He discussed the program's overarching goal to provide procurement, financial and benefit

solutions to counties and gave an overview of the private partnerships developed by the program. Discussing the expiration of the non-compete agreement NACo entered into with the dissolution of the former US Communities program, Mr. Jasien informed the Board that a new procurement program named Public Promise has been developed to leverage the purchasing power of larger public entities by extending those contracts to all counties under the program. He also discussed the inclusion of a new partner under the employee benefit solutions mission, Mental Health First Aid, which is an evidence-based, early-intervention course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use challenges. Vinson reminded the Board that access to the programs under NACo Edge is a benefit of NACo membership and President Giomi encourage use of the program and participation in the activities and use of resources provided by NACo.

12. **Update from NACO Subcommittee on Association By-Laws.** Jennifer reminded the Board that the Subcommittee was formed under the direction of President Giomi and action taken by the Board in February. She informed the Board that the Subcommittee consists of five members representing a cross section of the State. Commissioners Gardner, Reese, Helming, Van Camp and Ghetto comprise the group. The first meeting of the Subcommittee will take place in late May.
13. **Update from NACO Legislative Committee.** President Elect Andreozzi informed the Board that the Committee is currently discussing Bill Draft Request (BDR) proposals which are due to the State on September 1st and encouraged participation by both Commissioners and county staff on the Committee. President Giomi also referred to discussions being held by the individual commissions regarding legislative proposals and encouraged ideas that will help more than one county be brought to the Committee for discussion. The item was concluded with the reminder that meetings are currently held on the first Friday of each month but will increase as the next legislative session nears. Those who are interested in joining the Committee should reach out to Jennifer to be added to the distribution list.
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.** Commissioner Tipton, Chair of the Subcommittee, informed the Board that the group had a robust agenda for their meeting the previous day. The discussions held included the landscape level planning efforts of the BLM, a proposed conservation rule that had yet to be published to the Federal Register and legal efforts Humboldt and Eureka counties are entering into with regards to the Greater Sage Grouse land use plan amendments. He also noted that other counties are welcome to participate and support those legal efforts. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that Cheva Gabor from the US Forest Service had presented on an upcoming workshop the Service will be hosting on old growth and Pinion Juniper management. Past President Higbee inquired as to why the State doesn't participate more closely with the counties on issues they experience with the Agencies and President Giomi noted that could be part of a larger legislative discussion, noting that a specific state level agency that deals solely with public lands issues, similar to the office in the State of Utah, may be applicable. Jacob concluded the discussion by giving an overview of the creation of the Utah model.
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 Higbee noted that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in May at the WIR conference.

Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that discussions during the last meeting included the similarities of the BLMs current landscape level planning efforts to the defunct Planning 2.0 proposal and the lack of a Director for the agency. He informed the Board that the April WIR meeting would take place that afternoon, and Vinson noted that an update on the search for a new Director was on the agenda.

16. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

17. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.