

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

August 23, 2024, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 South Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89702

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Past President Higbee, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, 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, Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** President Giomi informed the Board that he would be moving item eight ahead of item seven. The agenda was approved with the change on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi noted that staff is working hard on the Annual Conference and informed the Board that a draft agenda had been posted to the website. He also referred to Director Settlemeyer's upcoming report under agenda item eight and noted that he is happy to see so many updates from the State's Division heads.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that the majority of what he would report would be covered under the agenda items. He then informed the Board that the Natural Resources Manager position had been posted and that applications would be accepted through October 1st.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the July 26, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Andriola.
6. **Update on the 2024 NACO Annual Conference, Hosted by Carson City.** Amanda reminded the Board that the conference will be held September 24-26. She informed the Board that registration will close on September 6th and noted that the President's Reception being planned by Carson City at the Historic Nevada State Prison will be a wonderful event and that a presentation on the history of NACO is being put together by the Carson City Librarian and thanked President Giomi for arranging for that.
7. **Presentation of NACO's 2023 Financial Audit, Michael Bertrand, Bertrand and Associates, LLC.** Mr. Bertrand reminded the Board that the audit is conducted yearly and provides the Board with financial statements and suggestions for changes they may

consider. Fiscal Officer Kalt gave an overview of the financial statements, including the growth of the Association's assets and the increased PERS liabilities, noting that the figure is calculated by the State. He informed the Board that the overall net position experienced an increase in revenue, as well as an increase in staff costs, but reminded the Board that the increase in staff costs is offset by the grant that funds the Public Health Coordinator position. He also discussed the added investment income, including the increase in interest revenue from the sweep account that had been instituted. Mr. Bertrand then directed the Board's attention to the letter included in the agenda packet and gave them an overview of the process he undergoes when conducting the audit. Mr. Bertrand discussed recommended actions to the Board including the updating of policies regarding credit card receipts and regular reconciliation of accounts receivable with the bookkeeper. He concluded his remarks by discussing adjustments made to the accounts with the approval of Association management. President Elect Andreozzi inquired as to what policy the Board should adopt regarding credit card receipts and Fiscal Officer Kalt discussed the need for all credit cards receipts to be kept but suggested that any charges over \$25 without a receipt would become the responsibility of the card holder. He also noted that Michael tested 94% of the total expenditures and that the Association continues to be in a strong financial position with consistent Board oversight of the financials on a quarterly basis. Vinson then clarified that the Board did, in fact, adopt a policy on receipts and that the policy the Board approved is exactly what Fiscal Officer Kalt had outlined. It was also clarified that Mr. Bertrand's comments regarding the lack of a policy was a timing issue, not because it doesn't exist. Commissioner Andriola inquired as to the existence of an investment policy and it was noted that there is a Board approved investment policy, and there is also a yearly review of the investment account by the Broker, who has not indicated the need to change that policy. The Board unanimously approved the audit report and financial statements, to include updates of the status of the findings included in the report on a motion by President Giomi. Following the motion, Vinson again clarified that there is a Board adopted policy for the retention of credit card receipts. The investment policy is also approved by the Board and is reviewed by the investment broker and the auditor, who have not recommended changes. He also noted that there is also a Policies and Procedures manual which was updated by his predecessor and that any changes to policies and/or procedures are brought to the Board for approval. Fiscal Officer Kalt concluded the item by noting that even if receipts were missing for a few credit card charges, there was documentation for the reason for the charge and that the statements and charges are well documented.

8. **Update from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), James Settlemeyer, Director.** Director Settlemeyer informed the Board that he was honored when asked by Governor Lombardo to head the Department and that he is committed to the mission of the Department. Since he began his tenure, he informed the Board that he has traveled to all 27 parks overseen by the State and has seen all 274 historic markers under the purview of the State Historic Preservation Office within DCNR. The Director then gave an overview of other divisions and programs under the management of DCNR. He noted that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is the largest of the departments overseen by DCNR, which is expanding to a larger building in Reno. He discussed the cost savings being realized by the State due to the purchase of buildings being done by the Division of State Lands, and the digitization of the records under the Division of Water Resources to enhance transparency within the Division. Director Settlemeyer discussed staffing rates and needs under the various departments and the status of the wildfire season, noting 585 fires have occurred around the state, thanking the counties for their participation in the Fire Protection Program. He informed the Board that the water right retirement program had invested \$25 million dollars and has had an impact on over appropriated and/or pumped basins. Director Settlemeyer also discussed the importance of

programs DCNR oversees related to public health, specifically in the safety of drinking water and sanitary waste systems. He also informed the Board of the upcoming possibility of Counties being given access to funds to help update or develop plans pertaining to those systems if the dollars can be spent by the end of the year. Commissioner Andriola inquired as to if the counties would be contacted if the funds become available and the Director informed her that they would be reaching out. President Giomi inquired as to if the Carson River Sub conservancy would be eligible for the funds, noting that they are currently working on a 30-year plan. The Director stated that the counties could pool the resources if they so choose, but that the funding would be given to the counties, and they would need to function as a pass-through to third parties. President Elect Andreozzi thanked the Director for his update and clarified that Elko County is glad to participate in the Wildfire Protection Program and that his previous communication regarding the Program had to do with the formula for the premium payments. The Director also noted that the use of conservation camp labor in the fighting of wildfire had become a challenge due to the tier of prisoners available to and the length of service they are able to provide to the Program. The Board also expressed concern with the State's level of involvement with federal land management decisions and the Director noted that the State Land Use Planning Committee is the best resource for engagement with those issues, but there is currently an open position for the director of the that Committee. Director Settlemeyer also informed the Board that monthly meetings are held between DCNR and NACO staff during which coordination on various comment letters is discussed. Commissioner Tipton inquired as to if DCNR would be bringing a BDR to extend the chances of success of the water right retirement program. The Director reiterated that the program has been successful but noted that it is hard to compete with education at the legislative level, but that they are open to advocacy from the counties to encourage extension of the program. He also noted that some recent court rulings will have effects on land management decisions at the federal level and he expects legal challenges and that multi-jurisdictional amicus briefs are being discussed as possibilities when those legal actions are filed.

9. **Update from NACO Legislative Committee, Including Possible Approval of NACO Bill Draft Requests (BDR) for the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Jennifer thanked the Board for the approval of the submission of the four BDR's included in the agenda packet in July, noting that they would be submitted on or before the deadline of September 1. She informed the Board that of the 365 BDRs currently filed, over 100 are currently being tracked by staff based on the title alone. She concluded the item by noting that staff of the Legislative Council Bureau would be reaching out for contacts from the counties on whom would submit fiscal notes on their behalf. No action was taken.

10. **Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator, Including Approval of Support for State Funding of Public Health and the Creation of the Public Health Infrastructure Fund.** Amy directed the Board's attention to the memo included in the agenda packet, informing them that it had been drafted by a consortium of public health leaders. She gave an overview of the creation, noting that the overall goal is to obtain sustainable funding for public health in Nevada. She informed the Board that the memo includes language to adjust the funding formula included in SB118 to include base funding for all counties in addition to a per capita allocation, and that it includes language highlighting key areas for consideration including sustainability and appropriate oversight. Vinson noted that Jennifer would be taking the legislative lead and that advocacy efforts would center around sustainable and flexible funding, stating that those comments had been made during the work session for the proposed legislation. He noted that there is still work to be done on the final language of the proposal but that the main goal would remain for direct dollars for public health allocated to public health priorities of local governments. Vinson then requested that the

Board support NACO's continued advocacy in alignment with the goals outlined in the memo. . President Giomi reiterated that the funding must be consistent and flexible and shared that reporting should not be objectionable to the counties as the transparent use of tax payer dollars is something they are all accustomed to. Continued advocacy for the proposal and the creation of a Public Health Infrastructure Fund, including the concepts as discussed and included in the memo, was approved on a motion by President Giomi with second by Commissioner Keller. Amy then gave the Board an overview of the newly launched Fund for Resilient Nevada dashboard. She showed the Board how the dashboard works, including their goals to show who had been awarded dollars and noted that a reporting function is also in development. She noted that the State's intention is for the continued development of the tool be a collaborative process and that she would be happy to share the Board's thoughts on how county information would be shared on the dashboard. Amy also clarified that Non-profits can apply to the Fund for dollars, but only if the county in which they are located has completed an opioid needs assessment. President Elect Andreozzi noted concerns with social media and Amy stated that addressing limitation of social media is not a formal part of the statewide opioid plan but that there are programs that do address screentime. President Giomi stated that he would like to see the county plans placed on the dashboard.

11. **Update from NACO Subcommittee on Association By-Laws.** Jennifer thanked the Subcommittee members and informed the Board that they are making progress on recommendations for updates to the document. She informed the Board that they would be meeting on September 9th and would finalize their recommendations then and prepare to present them to the Board. President Giomi inquired as to if that report could be made at the meeting during the Annual Conference and Jennifer stated that she believed it could be done.
12. **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 informed the Board that it was a short meeting and that the Natural Resources Manager position had been posted. Vinson informed the Board that there has been interest in the position. He discussed the meeting of the Governor's Subcommittee on Public Lands that morning and the intent to carry forward acceptance of the Smart from the Start proposal. He discussed FEIS on the Greater Sage grouse having been filed the previous Monday and the Governor's review period of 60 having started. Past President Higbee informed the Board that Utah is preparing a case proposal regarding federal land ownership for the Supreme Court to consider and that if they take the case States can file as intervenors and counties can file amicus briefs. President Giomi noted that the transfer of the ownership of public lands could be a double-edged sword by increasing costs to the States and counties.
13. **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 and Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that updates would be given following the upcoming meetings of both Board's.
14. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

15. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske from the University of Nevada, Reno Extension updated the Board on the status of filling vacant positions within the program. She also informed the Board that the Guinn Center is doing an analysis of affordable housing policy in conjunction with the Universities completion of a study on rural housing in Nevada.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.