

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting  
February 24, 2023, 9:30am  
**NACO Conference Room**  
**304 S. Minnesota Street**  
**Carson City, NV 89703**

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Higbee, Vice President Hall, Past President Kirkpatrick, Clark County Commissioner Jones, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Gilman, Washoe County Commissioner Herman; Humboldt County Comptroller Gina Rackley, Nevada County Fiscal Officers Association; Douglas County District Attorney, Mark Jackson, Nevada District Attorneys Association.

### AGENDA

Some NACO Board members may attend via remote technology from other locations. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order. The NACO Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The NACO Board may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** President Higbee informed the Board that agenda item six was removed due to an emergency in the family of the presenter. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee spoke about the recently held National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington DC. He noted that the event was informative and productive, discussed the meetings held with Nevada Senators and the successful discussions of NACO's federal policy positions with the Senators and their staff.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson reminded the Board that Taylor Allison had taken a position with Lyon County and introduced Amy Hyne-Sutherland, the new NACO Public Health Coordinator to the Board, giving an overview of her experience and background. Amy thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with NACO, noting she is excited to serve the counties in support of building their public health capacities and infrastructure.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Higbee.

6. **Presentation from the Administrative Office of the Courts on Fiber Broadband Installation and Possible County Partnership, Paul Embly, Information Technology, Administrative Office of the Courts.** This item was removed from the agenda.
7. **Possible Selection of one NACO Sponsored Applicant to Attend the National Association of Counties 2023 County Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the institute and reminded them that NACO has traditionally paid the tuition for the attendee. He noted that past participants include former NACO President, Bob Lucey and current NACO Vice President, Commissioner Hall. He directed the Board's attention to the informational flyer included in the agenda packet and value received by the attendees of the Institute. Vinson then informed the Board that staff recommended the sponsorship of Washoe County Commissioner, Alexis Hill to the program, noting that a rural Commissioner had attended the previous year. Vice President Hall noted that she is a strong advocate for the program, expressing not only the professional, but personal growth she experienced by attending the Institute. Vinson then informed the Board that Commissioner Hill was not only interested in attending, but also available on the dates of the event. Commissioner Hill's sponsored attendance was approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Vice President Hall.
8. **Discussion and Possible Approval for NACO Staff to Draft a Thank You Letter to Lander County for Re-joining (NACO), to be Signed by the NACO Board of Directors.** Vinson informed the Board that he had attended the recent meeting of the Lander County Board of Commissioners and that following his presentation the Board voted unanimously to rejoin NACO and NACo and directed the Board to the draft letter included in the packet at the request of Past President Kirkpatrick. He discussed the increased strength of NACO when all counties are members and noted that the BOCC had not yet made their appointment to the Board. Commissioner Andreozzi and Vice President Hall both expressed their pleasure at having the county rejoin the Board. President Higbee also noted that having all 17 counties as members influences Nevada's representation on the NACo Board of Directors. The letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Henderson.
9. **Approval of NACO's Investment Reports for October, November, and December of 2022.** Vinson reminded the Board that the approval of the reports was tabled at the January meeting because of a question raised by President Elect Giomi regarding a discrepancy between the carrying value and the book value included within the reports. He informed the Board that staff had reached out to the Investment Advisor, Morton Asset Management, and directed their attention to the email response included in the agenda packet, noting that discrepancy is related to the value of the accounts being carried over vs. the actual cash value at the time of the report. He informed the Board that the account continues to be managed in accordance with the approved Investment Policy and that President Elect Giomi was satisfied with the answer to the question he posed. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Reese with second by Commissioner Herman.
10. **Discussion and Possible Approval of a Contract to Initiate a NACO Corporate Sponsorship Program.** Vinson informed the Board that the Association remains on a strong financial footing but expressed a need to diversify revenue streams to increase the Association's capacity to support Nevada's counties. He explained that he had reached out to his colleagues across the country and they all expressed interest in doing similar expansion efforts. He directed the Board's attention to the contract included in the agenda packet and noted that the CSAC Finance Corporation had developed programs for other

State Associations of Counties. He informed the Board that the Utah Association had added \$300,000 of additional revenue in their first year of working with CSAC and that number equates to approximately 75% of NACO's current dues revenue. Vinson also discussed his vision to revise the current strategy of non-dues revenue for expansion of revenues associated with National programs and the current Associate Membership program. He noted that if approved, the contract would not go into effect until July 1, because he would not be able to direct enough of his attention to the effort until the current Legislative Session concluded. Vinson also discussed concerns members of the Board had brought forth with potential conflicts, noting that it is his job to protect Commissioners from those issues and that he will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to prevent any conflicts, should they arise. Commissioner Andreozzi noted that there is strength in numbers and great value in the ability to expand the services that NACO provides to counties. He also discussed the value in building relationships with stakeholders throughout the State and expressed support for the endeavor. Vice President Hall agreed with Commissioner Andreozzi's statements and President Higbee noted the potential for economic development within the counties based on increased stakeholder engagement. Execution of the contract was approved on a motion by Vice President Hall with second by Commissioner Gibson.

11. **Discussion and Possible Approval of the Re-appointment of Two of NACO Appointees to the Committee on Local Government Finance.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the Committee and its duties, noting the importance of counties having a voice on the Committee. He reminded the Board that the Association has three appointments to the Committee and that they had recently appointed Washoe County CFO Abbe Yacoben to replace the retired Christine Vulelich on the Committee. Vinson stated that staff recommended the reappointment of Clark County CFO Jessica Colvin and Humboldt County CFO Gina Rackley to the Committee. He noted that both had done a fantastic job representing counties during their tenure and that is important to have both Urban and Rural representation. Humboldt County Manager, Dave Mendiola commented on the fantastic choice the Board had made in placing Ms. Rackley on the Committee. The reappointment of Ms. Colvin and Ms. Rackley was unanimously approved on a motion by Vice President Hall with second by Commissioner Gibson.
12. **Update on NACO Bills and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties During the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Vinson gave an overview of how the Session is progressing, noting that Board action was not currently necessary because of the engagement and monitoring of bills by the Legislative Subcommittee. He informed the Board that there was positive news on all of the NACO sponsored legislation and turned the item over to Jennifer for more in-depth information. Jennifer began with an update on the NACO bills, she informed the Board that AB47 regarding OHV access had been heard in Assembly Government Affairs, SB20 & SB21 regarding filling vacancies on BOCCs and the revision of population thresholds for certain classifications, were heard in Senate Government affairs during the week; and with SB22 regarding the publication of public notices set to be heard the following week that all NACO sponsored legislation would have received a committee hearing. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the ability to increase the population thresholds in SB21, that was is currently proposed is not quite a large enough increase suggesting possibly increasing it to 60K. Vinson clarified that the proposed increase included in the bill is from 45K to 52K, noting that while the initial proposal had been to increase the threshold to 60K, LCB had noted that there were issues with that proposed threshold that would result in constitutionality and legal precedent issues. He then noted that there is nothing within the current laws that would affect what counties are already doing with the increase from 45K to 52K. Commissioner Gilman expressed concern

with SB81, which would make regional changes affecting Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe Counties. Past President Kirkpatrick expressed concern with language in AB213 regarding county planning and Vinson stated that the Bill had only been recently introduced and that staff will be reviewing the language, also noting that the sponsor had reached out regarding the Bill. He also noted that the Legislature should not be involved with local government planning decisions.

**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.** Chair Hall informed the Board that the Subcommittee's discussion the previous day had included noxious weeds and invasive species and the proposed expansion of the Nellis Air Force base. Jacob also informed the Board that the presentation given by the Department of Agriculture on noxious weeds and invasive species included the need for coordination across jurisdictions. He informed the Board that a discussion had occurred regarding the opposition of AB102 regarding the prohibition of competitions that include the taking of certain animals. Jacob also discussed the submission of comment letters and gave an overview of standing items on the Committee's agenda. President Higbee also discussed the status of proposed federal legislation regarding RS2477 road designations.
- b. **Possible Approval of NACO Comment Letter to Bureau of Land Management, Regarding Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).** Jacob directed the Board's attention to the draft included in the agenda packet, noting that letters had been received from some counties and other organizations, and that the proposed comments by NACO align with those made by others. Following an overview of the letter, the submission of comments was approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by Commissioner Reese.

**14. Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

**15. Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.