

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
January 27, 2023, 9:30am
NACO Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: President Elect Higbee, Vice President Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Hill, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Records Association of Nevada President Hessey, Nevada District Attorneys Association President Jackson, Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs Association Executive Director Delporto 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.** President Elect Higbee informed the Board that he had met with a representative of NDOT the previous day and discussed options for counties to take advantage of federal surplus and state disposal sales of vehicles and other items, noting that he would like to have them make a presentation to the Board at a future meeting.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Herman.
3. **Investiture of the 2023 NACO Officers.** Vinson performed the Oath of Office for President Higbee. President Higbee then performed the Oath of Office for President Elect Giomi and Vice President Hall.
4. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee discussed his recent trip to Washington DC with Vinson for the Annual NACo President & Executives Fly-In where they collaborated with their counterparts from across the country on effective leadership strategies.
5. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson welcomed the new members to the Board and congratulated the new Officers on their investiture. He discussed the importance of collaboration among the counties and the upcoming Legislative Session. Vinson encouraged those Commissioners who have not already registered for the NACo Annual Legislative Conference to do so and informed the Board that packets will be sent to registrants with information on Nevada specific events that are being planned. Vinson concluded his remarks by informing the Board that updates to the New Commissioner Handbook had been completed and they would be distributed to the counties soon and that updates to the Annual Directory were in process and that resource would also be distributed upon completion.

6. **Approval of Minutes of the December 16, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as written on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Gardner.
7. **Presentation from Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program, Molly Walt, Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program.** Ms. Walt gave the Board an overview of the Program's operations and thanked the counties for providing field office space. She discussed the importance of the program to support seniors and shared information on the number of hours and types of services the Program volunteers perform. Ms. Walt discussed the grant funding that supports the Program and the need for additional dollars to support fuel needs for transporting seniors to medical and other specialty doctor appointments, specifically outside county lines where County staff are not able to provide the transportation. She gave a description of the eleven different programs within the RSVP umbrella and noted that emphasis is placed on companionship to combat loneliness and mental health issues within the senior community. Ms. Walt announced the statewide expansion of the Good Neighbor program which started in the Douglas County Sheriff's office and how the program ensures that vulnerable seniors receive necessary wellness checks. Ms. Walt concluded her presentation with information on volunteer and employment opportunities with RSVP. Commissioner Gardner noted that while he is very familiar with the Good Neighbor Program he was unaware of RSVP and is happy to have been made aware of the Program. President Elect Giomi noted the importance of the Program in ensuring seniors are able to maintain independence and dignity, noting that small amounts of funding go a long way within the Program. President Elect Higbee discussed a bill that would require research into the effects of caregiving on caregivers and encouraged Ms. Walt to look into federal funding streams available to support mental health. Commissioner Carson expressed appreciation for the program and the vital assistance it provides seniors. Ms. Walt concluded the item by informing the Board that all dollars received by the Program within a county, remain in that county.
8. **Possible Final Approval of NACO's 2023 Federal Priorities.** Jennifer reminded the Board that they had reviewed and discussed the document at the December meeting, noting that no changes were made. The 2023 NACO Federal Priorities were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by Commissioner Herman.
9. **Approval of NACO's Investment Reports for October, November, and December of 2022.** Vinson reminded the Board that the reports are brought forth for review quarterly. He noted that gains are starting to be realized again following market instability during the pandemic, he informed the Board that investments continue to be made within the guidelines of the approved Investment Policy, and communication between staff and the broker remain strong. President Elect Giomi inquired as to the discrepancy between the November end balance and the December opening balance. Vinson stated that he would contact the Broker and have an answer at the next meeting. Approval of the reports was tabled on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Vice President Hall.
10. **Approval of NACO's Financial Statements for October, November and December of 2022.** Vinson reminded the Board that the statements are subject to the Association's annual audit process. He noted that Annual Conference, national program and Associate Membership revenues all exceeded the year's goal. He reminded the Board that those items that had exceeded budgetary guidelines had been previously explained, but that the Association had remained under budget for 2022 and remains in a strong financial position.

The fourth quarter financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.

- 11. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Appointment to the National Association of Counties (NACo), Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors.** Vinson gave an introduction to WIR for those new to the Board, explaining that the group is comprised of the fifteen Western States and is dedicated to the promotion of issues specific to the West including those affecting public lands. He explained that NACO has two appointments to the Board and that the seat previously held by former Humboldt County Commissioner Jim French is the seat in need of appointment due to Mr. French terming out of office. Commissioner Steninger, who holds the Association's second seat, stated that County Manager Mendiola's recommendation letter (included in the agenda packet) contained all the pertinent information to support the nomination of Commissioner Tipton as the natural choice to succeed former Commissioner French. President Higbee noted that WIR is an extremely important group and the work completed within the organization has significant impact on issues facing the Western States including those on Public Lands, Waters of the US (WOTUS), Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Commissioner Steninger also commented on the success of the group with developing the funding formula for the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LACTF), with Vinson noting the broadening of the formula to include urban counties with public lands. Humboldt County Commissioner, Ken Tipton's appointment to the WIR Board of Directors was approved on a motion by Commissioner Steninger with second by Commissioner Herman.
- 12. NACO Legislative Committee Staff Update Regarding the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.** Vinson informed the Board that staff continues to gear up for the start of the Legislative Session and that budget hearings had already begun based on the outline provided during the Governor's State of the State address. He informed the Board that a Rural Liaison had been appointed which had long been a point of advocacy for NACO. President Elect Giomi suggested inviting him to a future meeting. Vinson stated that Mr. Robb would be invited to a future Board meeting and that a meeting was held with the Governor's legislative staff and there is an openness for ongoing communication with the Administration. Jennifer gave an overview of the legislative session and NACO's five filed Bills as approved by the Board: AB47 which will make changes to OHV trails, SB20 which will make changes to how vacancies on BOCC's are filled, SB21 which will adjust population caps regarding certain legislative mandates, SB22 which will change how counties post official notices, and SB41 regarding child welfare. She informed the Board that staff is currently tracking nearly 300 Bills and BDRs and that the Legislative Subcommittee will begin meeting weekly through the end of the Legislative Session. Commissioner Gardner noted that all of NACO Bills are critical for enabling counties to conduct business and informed the Board that the Governor's proposed budget restores funding for the China Spring Youth Camp. Vinson stated that while the proposed budget does call for the restoration of the funding he does expect nuancing and changes to be made by the legislature. He also discussed Douglas County's Bill that makes changes to how the Camp is governed, and how much work was conducted by the Working Group on the issue during the interim. Commissioner Reese expressed concern with the proposed fuel tax freeze and what that could do to county road department funding. Vinson stated that the proposed freeze will require legislation and he will monitor the issue and bring it back to the Board if and when bill language is released. Douglas County District Attorney, Mark Jackson informed the Board that he is working with the other Affiliate Organization President's and NACO staff regarding a salary bill for elected officials, noting that the last legislative change to their salaries occurred in 2015 and pursuant to that legislation their salaries have been frozen for five years. The Board was

informed that a place holder bill is in place while language is developed and that inequities are being shown in the salaries of elected officials and staff members. Mr. Jackson requested the Boards support for the Bill and Vinson stated that while the item is a non-action item, he will continue to work with the Affiliate President's on the bill language and bring it back to the Board for possible action in the future. He also cautioned the Board to remain mindful of fiscal limitations and Mr. Jackson concurred with Vinson's statement and noted that Senator Goicoechea also expressed concerns with the issue and noted that as the current law reads, BOCC's have the ability to deny salary increases based on fiscal position.

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 reminded the Board that the meetings of the Subcommittee had been changed to the Thursday afternoon preceding the Board meetings. He noted that the Subcommittee had a robust agenda and discussed the Advisory Committee that was formed to determine how grants would be distributed for water projects. He also informed the Board that a White Paper on County Land Use Plans was discussed. The Subcommittee also discussed noxious and invasive weed control, the pause on the regulations for State agencies and standing items including the FRTC, and WOTUS. Commissioner Reese suggested having a presentation at a future meeting regarding Broadband and the importance for counties to have a say in what the service providers determine as "dead spots." Vinson stated that staff will begin those conversations. Commissioner Henderson mentioned the possible exclusion of the Forest Service from using retardant during wildfires without a Clean Water Act permit. Commissioner Carson expressed concern with the proposed Duckwater Shoshone National Monument and Vinson suggested the Commissioner reach out to Jacob to further discuss the issue. Jacob also informed the Board that comments would be prepared for the BLM's programmatic EIS for solar energy projects. President Higbee informed the Board that he was stepping down as Chair of the Subcommittee and recommended Vice President Hall succeed him as Chair. Vice President Hall accepted the nomination and was confirmed as Chair on a motion by Commissioner Steninger with second by Commissioner Herman.

14. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Commissioner Steninger informed the Board that as of the meeting, Lander was the only county that hadn't filed for LATCF funding and that contact had been made to encourage the county to do so. President Higbee informed the Board that an update on the NACo Board of Directors would be given at the next meeting following the NACo Annual Legislative Conference. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.