

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 31, 2025, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, 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 and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume and Amanda Berg)

Affiliate Attendance: Douglas County Recorder Garren, County Fiscal Officers Association; Washoe County Assessor Sarman, Nevada Assessors Association; Carson City Treasurer Rasor, Nevada Association of County Treasurers; Washoe County Recorder Work, Recorders Association of Nevada

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

1. **Public Comment.** President Giomi welcomed newly elected Esmeralda County Commissioner Fred Perez to the Board of Directors.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Andriola.
3. **Investiture of the 2025 NACO Officers.** The Investiture of the 2025 NACO Officers was conducted by Nevada Supreme Court Justice Ron D. Parraguirre. Elko County Commissioner Delmo Andreozzi was sworn in as President, Douglas County Commissioner Mark Gardner was sworn in as President Elect, and Washoe County Commissioner Clara Andriola was sworn in as Vice President.
4. **NACO President's Report.** President Andreozzi recognized Past President Giomi and thanked him for his service as the 2024 NACO President. He stated that it is an honor to serve as the NACO President and informed the Board that he had attended the annual Presidents and Executives Fly-In hosted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with Vinson earlier in the month. President Andreozzi discussed meetings that were held with Congressman Amodei and Senator Cortez Masto and that he found the logistics surrounding the preparations for the Presidential Inauguration fascinating. He concluded his report by informing the Board that he had reappointed Commissioner Tipton as the Chair of the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee and that President Elect Gardner had accepted his appointment to the Chairmanship of the Legislative Subcommittee, thanking both for their service.
5. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson began his remarks by also welcoming Commissioner Perez to the Board. He informed the Board that the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (IAF) had met earlier in the month and reminded them that the IAF is funded in part with local tax revenues. He also reminded them that a portion

of those dollars are returned to the counties through the IAF to offset a portion of their non-federal share of the match for the Medicaid Long Term Care Program. Vinson reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Annual Legislative Conference and noted that it is a good opportunity to be involved with advocacy efforts at the federal level by attending policy steering committee meetings and informed the Board that a dinner would be hosted for Nevada attendees during the conference. Vinson concluded his remarks by reminding the Board of the presentation they received during the December meeting by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the use of federal disposal lands for workforce and State employee housing. He informed the Board that the BLM is working on producing the requested maps of land available for disposal, noting that they would be distributed when received.

6. **Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2024, NACo Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Reese.
7. **Discussion of NACo's 2025 Federal Priorities.** Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the draft included in the agenda packet, noting that yellow highlight indicated additions to the document and red strike through were to be deleted from the draft as the content was either outdated or no longer included in the NACo platform of federal advocacy. She also noted that with a change in the Administration and a new Congress the document is more heavily edited than in interim years. Jennifer then gave the Board an overview of added language specifically related to Public Health, Telecommunications & Technology, and Elections. She requested that the Board reach out to her directly with any feedback and reminded them that the document would return to the February agenda for approval prior to the NACo Legislative Conference.
8. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Appointment of April Becker, Clark County Commissioner, to the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects.** Vinson reminded the Board that NACo receives an appointment to the Commission and that the Clark County Commission has traditionally advised the Board on the appointment. He informed the Board that Commissioner Becker would replace former Commissioner Ross Miller who chose not to seek re-election in the middle of the term of this appointment. President Elect Gardner inquired as to the length of the term and it was clarified that the appointment is for two years. Commissioner Becker's appointment was confirmed on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Vice President Andriola.
9. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Re-Appointment of Abigail Yacoben Chief Financial Officer, Washoe County, to the Committee on Local Government Finance (CLGF).** Vinson reminded the Board that NACo receives three appointments to the CLGF which have traditionally been reserved for a representative from Clark County, Washoe County and one from a rural county, noting that they last made an appointment for the Clark County representative during the June meeting in Eureka County. He informed the Board that Ms. Yacoben is interested in being reappointed and reminded them that all actions for counties that may have fiscal challenges go through the CLGF. Vinson concluded his remarks by informing the Board that the rural representative is Gina Rackley from Humboldt County and her appointment would be on the Board's February agenda. Vice President Andriola stated that she works closely with Ms. Yacoben and that she is well versed in county finances. Ms. Yacoben's re-appointment was confirmed on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

- 10. Introduction, and Update Regarding Intergovernmental Partnership with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest from the Newly Appointed Forest Supervisor, Mr. Jon Stansfield.** Mr. Stansfield thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them and informed them that he had been in the position for just over a year, having replaced Bill Dunkelberger who had retired after over twenty years with the Forest. He gave an overview of his history and career with the Forest Service in both rural areas and the urban interface, noting that his experience gives him the unique and broad perspective to oversee Nevada's only National Forest. Mr. Stansfield informed the Board that having strong intergovernmental relationships with the counties is important to him, specifically as work is done to address and mitigate the ongoing issue of wildfire. He discussed successful projects with counties and the Southern Nevada Land Planning Management Act and informed the Board that the 2025 Capital Christmas Tree would be coming from the Forest and for the first time from Nevada. Mr. Stansfield discussed the upcoming pre-season cooperator discussions for fire suppression, specifically noting that no one entity can deal with the threat of wildfire alone. He informed the Board that the Forest is the largest range management system held within the Forest Service and discussed collaboration on topics from utility corridors to minerals management and gave the Board an overview of his priorities as the Forest Supervisor, noting that his favorite aspect of the position is the relationships he builds with the counties and informed the Board that he expects his Rangers to carry forward with regular meetings and communications. Past President Giomi inquired as to where the Christmas Tree would be harvested and Mr. Stansfield stated that they had identified possibilities from the Carson Range and the Spring Mountains, but it would ultimately be the decision of the National Architect. President Elect Gardner stated that it was nice to have someone local in the position and discussed the recent Tamarac and Davis fires inquiring about a perceived "let it burn" policy of the Forest Service. Mr. Stansfield informed the Board that decisions are made based on risk, specifically to personnel, when fire starts are identified in wilderness areas, but stressed that there is not a "let it burn" policy adopted by the Forest Service. Mr. Stansfield was also asked about jurisdictional cooperation during wildfire events and the impression that local fire agencies are not allowed on Forest Service property. He stated that it is an misinformed impression and reiterated that unified command centers are developed during fire events and all jurisdictions are a part of those command centers, noting that success is only achieved through cooperation. Commissioner Reese discussed multiple catastrophic events occurring within the past couple of months and the loss of institutional knowledge at the county level due to elections and encouraged Mr. Stansfield to work closely with the new County Commissioners. Vice President Andriola thanked Mr. Stansfield for his agencies work on the Davis fire, specifically the minimization of structure loss, noting that while fire is expected the frequency of fire events is increasing. She encouraged Mr. Stansfield to revisit the training of elected officials on their roles and responsibilities, especially regarding communications during fire events. Mr. Stansfield concluded his presentation by agreeing with Vice President Andriola and stating that if time is made available by the Commissioners, he will ensure that Forest Service staff is available to meet their schedules.
- 11. Review and Possible Approval of the NACO 2025 County Directory.** Amanda thanked the Board and county staff for their cooperation on the necessary updates and noted that there had been additional updates received since the distribution of the draft included in the agenda packet. Amanda also noted that additional updates would be made based on the actions the Board took earlier in the meeting. She encouraged the Board to reach out to her directly with any edits to their county's page and received additional information from Commissioner Keller, Commissioner Tipton, and Commissioner Reese. The 2025 NACO Directory was approved with edits as necessary on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Vice President Andriola.

- 12. NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the Upcoming 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.** Jennifer reminded the Board that the Legislative Session would begin this coming Monday and noted that weekly meetings of the Legislative Committee would begin on Friday, February 7th. She reminded the Board of the four NACO bills, AB14 which would require county elected officials to be registered voters as well as qualified electors; AB70 which would require greater consideration to county comments on renewable energy projects; SB65 which clarifies which records of a Medical Examiner or Coroner are public records; and SB73 which will prohibit County Clerks from providing or allowing the copying of the signatures of registered voters. Jennifer then discussed the importance of the submission of fiscal notes by the counties, noting that the LCB had already sent requests to county staff for the information, and again noted the importance of the information in determining positions on bills affecting county finances. Vinson discussed SB116 sponsored by Senator Daly, regarding the compensation of local elected officials, noting that the bill had been released less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. He informed the Board that meetings had been held with the sponsor going all the way back to October and that in its current form there are issues with the proposed legislation but that it will be amended. Vinson stressed that one of the biggest priorities for the legislation is that it would be the last time the legislature needs to vote on the issue. The lack of equity was discussed, and President Elect Gardner informed the Board that he had asked his county manager to put together a spreadsheet that will show the fiscal impacts. Past President Giomi stated that it is not a responsibility of the State to set salaries for local officials and that it is not a one size fits all issue. What is applicable in Clark County will not be applicable in Eureka County. Vinson again stressed that what was released will not be the final language and that staff will continue to work towards NACO's goals. Commissioner Perez inquired as to what sets the current salaries and whether it was population based. Vinson stated that it is currently population based but that it is not a fair mechanism for determining elected salaries, noting that Storey County has a small population but a lot of industry. Commissioner Carmona discussed the need to level out the equity between the elected officials and their deputies, and Vinson stated that the goal is to ensure that the elected official makes 3% more than their deputy. Commissioner Tipton discussed SB2 which would exempt collective bargaining from the Open Meeting Law, noting that his county is facing budget issues because of bargaining agreements. Challenges for counties with only three commissioners were also discussed and Vinson stated that he would find guidance from the Attorney General's office for small Boards. The Board also discussed SB28, which would make changes to the median gross income for affordable housing, a technology fund for treasurers, and AJR1 which would create a re-set on property taxes upon transfer of ownership.
- 13. Approval of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) By-Laws.** Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the document in the agenda packet, noting that they had previously reviewed the draft in November and December and that it had been transmitted to the counties in accordance with the existing By-Laws. She thanked the Committee for their hard work and Past President Giomi for the direction to undertake the update. Past President Giomi inquired as to why the appendix regarding the association's dues was not updated per recent Board action and it was clarified that the appendix is just the base dues structure called out within the By-Laws. Commissioner Keller inquired as to what edition of Robert's Rules of Order is referred to under the general provisions section and it was clarified that the intent is the most recent version in print. Vinson stated that the inclusion of that language is an administrative update and would not preclude the Board from adopting the By-Laws. The By-Laws were approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by President Elect Gardner.

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 informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed the new Director for the National Center for Public Lands housed under the National Association of Counties, the new Administrations pause on renewal energy development, noting that efforts would be made to have a meeting with the Department of Interior during the NACo Legislative Conference. The Subcommittee also discussed the lack of applications received for the Natural Resources Manager position and considered the options of contracting or sharing costs with the National Center for Public Lands since a lot of work on the same issues would be taking place. The Subcommittee also discussed the Greater Sage Grouse plans at the BLM, noting that a Record of Decision had not been signed prior to the new Administration. Commissioner Tipton concluded his update by informing the Board that the Subcommittee had also discussed the Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service lawsuit and their recommendation is for counties to join in on the submission of Amicus Briefs.

b. Discussion and Possible Approval of Amicus Brief Regarding Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service (NPS). For Possible Action. Vinson informed the Board that the budget includes a small amount for legal activities noting that an Amicus Brief is a filing by a party that is not a part of the case but has an outcome in the proceedings, a “friend of the court.” He stated that the issue is about takings that the outcome could set precedent and usurp State law and those of existing water right holders. He also noted that it is within his purview as the Executive Director to sign onto the Brief but that he wanted to bring it to the Board for discussion and approval. Past President Giomi asked when the Brief was due and Vinson informed the Board that it had been moved back to February 18th and the Association would sign onto a document that had already been prepared by Schroder Law Firm in Reno and is supported by several counties as well as the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority. The filing of an Amicus Brief in the Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service action was approved on a motion by Commissioner Reese with second by Vice President Andriola.

15. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Vinson reminded the Board that NACO has two seats on the NACo Board of Directors, and that Former Commissioner Higbee would need to be replaced on that Board. However, with no meetings scheduled prior to the February meeting, the appointment will be on that agenda. He also informed the Board that an email will be distributed with details on the appointment for those who may be interested in serving. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the WIR Board had met in December to elect a new President as the re-election bid of the 2024/2025 President was unsuccessful, noting that the new WIR President is a Supervisor out of Bridgeport CA. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he was expecting a robust agenda for the next WIR meeting and would have a full report in February. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

16. Public Comment. Commissioner Tipton thanked Past President Giomi for his service to the Board and congratulated President Andreozzi on his swearing in. Jenny Lesieutre, President of Rangelands, Wildlife and Wild Horses LLC introduced herself as a resource for issues related to rangeland health and the overpopulation of Wild Horses. Shawnyne Garren,

President of the County Fiscal Officers Association thanked the Board for their acknowledgement of the challenges that surround the salaries of local elected officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.