

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

July 26, 2024, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 South Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89702

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, Vice President Gardner, Past President Higbee, 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, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** President Giomi informed the Board that item 9 would postpone due at the request of the presenter. He also noted that items may be taken out of order due to the time certain item 6. The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi thanked those Commissioners who had attended the NACo Annual Conference, noting that he received great feedback on the Conference. He discussed the continued work on the Associations upcoming Annual Conference and informed the Board that presentations by the State Agency Directors that began with the presentation from the Department of Agriculture in May would continue with the presentation from NDOT under item 6 and that more would be scheduled through the coming months.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson thanked those Commissioners who had attended the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and noted that the dinner held during the event was well attended and enjoyable. Vinson ended his remarks by noting that any additional comments he had would be covered under the agenda items.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the May 30, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Henderson.
6. **(Time Certain: 10:00am) * Update from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director.** Ms. Thomason gave the Board an overview of the Department, noting several changes in staffing at leadership roles. She discussed the different revenue sources of the Department and how they collectively make up the 900 million-to-1-billion-dollar biennial budget including the funds that are shared with the DMV and Department of Public Safety projects. Ms. Thomason also noted that the majority of the

Departments funding comes from fuel taxes and that those rates have not changed since 1993. She discussed engagement with Rural counties and encouraged communication on local projects that intersect with State roads, noting that they are willing to help pay for things like sidewalks, lighting etc. that have impacts to public safety, noting that there is information online about projects that have been completed and how dollars are spent. She also spoke about local road safety plans that the Department conducts and how those plans can help inform local decisions on projects to improve safety in our communities. Ms. Thomason also encouraged counties to work with the Department on the next call for projects of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), in 2027 but noted that the Department will work with Counties in the years prior to the call to ensure that applications are completed with the most chance of successful outcomes. She also clarified that the projects submitted under the TAP program do not have to be on State owned roadways. Ms. Thomason also discussed passing and climbing lanes on HWY's 93 and 95, as well as increased signage of those lanes. She also gave an overview of sample projects, noting that some are multi-phase projects due to the need to complete infrastructure projects and improvements before surface improvements. The US 50 study was discussed, and President Giomi noted that it was very useful to Carson City's RTC because it provided recommendations on the benefits of smaller projects that had large impacts to safety on the road within Carson City. The multi-jurisdictional Red Rock Legacy Trail was also discussed which is a collaboration of the Department, Clark County, and the State Parks Department. Challenges being experienced with NDOT include inflation outpacing revenue growth, staff vacancies, specifically within the center of the state and within the engineering and maintenance arenas. Commissioner Helming noted that the Austin office has no staff and housing, and low wages are a problem. The Director acknowledged those challenges and informed the Board that an Executive Order of the Governor gives her the ability to hire above starting levels. She also reminded the Board that she is happy to come to the counties at their request beyond the yearly workshops they conduct to discuss needs and projects within the counties. Commissioner Henderson thanked the Director for the attention to issues in the Moundhouse area, noted issues with passing lanes on HWY 95A, and inquired as to what is being done for lost fuel tax revenue due to electric vehicles. The Director informed the Board that working groups will be presenting to the Interim Finance Committee and noted that fully electric vehicles are only a small percentage of the issue with revenue loss, noting the hybrid vehicles are a bigger issue. She stated that they are looking at multiple options including flat fees and kilowatt taxes. President Giomi noted that Carson City will have a government services tax on the ballot to help with their road fund issues. Commissioner Andriola inquired about a vehicle miles traveled average and Ms. Thomason informed the Commissioner that they are having conversations with the DMV about that option, but that it would depend on what the DMV technology system can effectively manage. Commissioner Andriola concluded the item by thanking the Director for the recent improvements to Pyramid Highway and noted that the community participation included in the enhancement of the soundwalls was greatly appreciated.

7. **Approval of a NACO Resolution Honoring and Thanking Eureka County for Hosting the May 2024 Board of Directors meeting for the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO).** President Giomi read the resolution into the record. The resolution was approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Andriola
8. **Update on the 2024 NACO Annual Conference, Hosted by Carson City.** Amanda reminded the Board the conference will be held September 24-26 at the Carson City Community Center and noted that staff are hard at work planning for the educational sessions. She also informed the Board that the Keynote Speaker for the general session had

been confirmed and that Early Bird registration would end on August 16th. President Giomi also reminded the Board that the Carson City Librarian is continuing research on the history of the Association and would present at the conference. He also encouraged the Board to attend the Presidents Reception that will occur at the historic Nevada State Prison and the Annual Banquet in the Fandango Ballroom.

9. **Presentation of NACO's 2023 Financial Audit, Michael Bertrand, Bertrand and Associates, LLC.** This item was tabled at the request of Mr. Bertrand.

10. **Discussion and Presentation Regarding Local Fiscal and Budgetary Transparency, Andy Matthews, Nevada State Controller.** Controller Matthews thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them and noted that government transparency is extremely important to the Controller's office. He informed the Board that all State spending has been placed online in the Nevada Open Finance Portal which had gone live in February. Mr. Matthews explained that the cost of the portal fit within the scope of the multiple technology upgrades occurring throughout the State offices and that it was completed by Tyler Technologies. He also informed the Board that it received support from both the public and the press, noting that it significantly reduced the number of FOIA requests received by his office. Controller Matthews shared his vision of including search capabilities for the counties and cities as well, noting that transparency is an important part of good governance, and he noted that Carson City already has their fiscal information online and that Washoe County is working towards that goal. Mr. Matthews shared that he was pleasantly surprised by the cost of the project noting that implementation and hosting for three years was less than \$1/4 million, and informing the Board that he would be happy to make introductions to the people he had worked with at Tyler Technologies if any of the counties were interested. President Giomi remarked that when Carson City's site was down in 2021 to transition to their new site their FOIA requests increased significantly. Past President Higbee inquired as to what information the Controller's Office needed from the counties and Mr. Matthews clarified that the State's information updates in real time, but that the State site would provide links to the county's individual websites. President Giomi inquired as to if there was a possibility to create a contract with Tyler based on multiple counties and therefore create a cost savings due to economy of scale principles. Mr. Matthews stated that he couldn't promise that Tyler would do that type of contract but that it was certainly worth exploring. Commissioner Andriola noted that their contract includes a clause that allowed for changes to the contract if a scale agreement is reached. Mr. Matthews closed the item by noting that the State could not do a top-down implementation for the counties but that his office is willing to facilitate conversations and help where they are able. President Giomi also noted that Carson City can help answer questions as well.

11. **Discussion and Recap of the 2024 NACo County Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., Commissioner Tammi Hendrix, Lyon County.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the Institute and reminded them that they had approved the payment of the tuition for Commissioner Hendrix to attend the Institute. Commissioner Hendrix thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the event. She noted that while attendees are encouraged not to share to much about the content to ensure future attendees are able to gain the most from their time, she did inform the Board that her experience was focused on adaptive leadership in an ever-changing society. She also noted that there was content on collaboration and keeping divisive people at the discussion table. She concluded the item by encouraging the Board to continue to send Commissioners to the Institute as she found it extremely valuable.

12. **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 Committee for all their hard work over the past months and directed the Boards attention to the Summary of the proposed NACO BDRs included in the agenda packet, noting that the individual proposals were up for the Boards review and possible approval. Vinson also noted that the recommendation from the Committee is for approval of the proposed BDRs. He also clarified that the BDR regarding voter signature requirement was not to exclude review of signatures for accuracy but to ensure election integrity by allowing review but to also protect the voter signatures by not allowing reproduction or for them to leave the county offices. President Giomi inquired about a county pay bill and the Board was informed that staff had made a presentation to the interim Government Affairs Committee and spoke to the issue and stated that NACO will support a bill that includes equity of pay for local elected officials that includes language that will allow counties to have flexibility. He noted that talks were also happening with members of the Assembly Government Affairs committee and that he believes relief will be seen during the upcoming Session. Vinson then reminded the Board that the Committee recommends approval of the proposed BDRs. The four proposed BDRs were approved on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by Commissioner Helming.
13. **Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Amy Reminded the Board of the workshop on Public Health Governance that would take place the following Friday and gave them an overview of the content and the speakers. She informed the Board that the final meeting for the Foundational Public Health Services Survey was held in Lincoln County and that she expects to be able to share the results in September. Amy informed the Board that the SB118 funds had been dispersed by the State and discussed the recent halting of the Purdue Settlement. She informed the Board that Deputy AG Krueger is working on what effects that decision will have on the funds available for distribution.
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.** Jacob announced that it would be his last meeting as the Natural Resources Manager, as he had accepted another position. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve NACO and hoped for the opportunity for future collaboration with NACO if the opportunity arose. Vinson thanked Jacob for the fantastic job he had done on behalf of the Board and NACO and informed the Board that the position would be posted soon. The Board was informed that the Subcommittee had received a presentation from the Division of Minerals, discussed the draft legal memorandum the Board approved participation on from Holland and Hart regarding landscape level planning decisions of the Agencies being conducted in Washington instead of at the local level, including discussing the issue with the Governor's office. The Subcommittee also discussed federal legislation and the Chevron deference case and what that may mean for counties. Past President Higbee noted that he had learned that rural counties that assume patented mining claims for auction for past due property taxes also assume liability until sale. Commissioner Tipton thanked Jacob for his service to the Subcommittee and encouraged members of the Board to send letters to the Governor asking for support on discussions regarding the issue with landscape level planning and other public lands issues.
15. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors and Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors.** Commissioner Tipton informed

the Board that the WIR meeting had been canceled and therefore he did not have an update. Past President Higbee noted that the Annual Conference in Tampa was a great event and encouraged the Board to have their staff look at the programs that NACo has available. He also noted that the Agriculture Steering Committee had discussed the issue of RS2477 roadways.

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 11:22 a.m.