

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 28, 2025, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINTUES

Attendance: President Andreozzi, President Elect Gardner, Vice President Andriola, Past President Giomi, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, and Amanda Berg)

Affiliate Attendance: Douglas County Recorder, Shawnyne Garren - County Fiscal Officers Association and Carson City Treasurer, Andrew Rasor - Nevada Association of County Treasurers

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** President Andreozzi informed the Board that item number 9 would not be heard because a meeting of the associated Board would not be needed for some time. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Herman.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Andreozzi informed the Board that he had a valuable experience at the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference, noting that he previously had not realized the true breadth of the benefits and resources that NACo offers to counties. He discussed the function and work of the Steering Committees and remarked on how Nevada's term limits affect the ability for Commissioners to grow into leadership roles at the National level. He also thanked Storey County for their sponsorship of the dinner held for Nevada's attendees. President Andreozzi noted that he had arrived in Carson City early the previous day and went to the Legislature. He thanked Jennifer for the tour she provided him of the newly updated building, also informing the Board that he met with Assemblymember Gurr, who is his district representative, and attended a committee hearing. He concluded his remarks by noting he would attempt to arrive early in April as well and encouraged other members of the Board to do so also.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that Children's Week at the Legislature had occurred earlier in the month and had provided an enjoyable and unique experience from the typical day-to-day schedule of the Legislative Session. He highlighted the upcoming NACo Western Interstate Region (WIR) conference, reminding the Board that the Early Bird registration window would close the following Friday. He also noted that staff would not be in attendance this year due to the Legislative Session. Vinson then discussed

the NACo Annual Conference in July, noting that attendance is important because the election for the Associations 2nd Vice President occurs at the event. He directed the Board's attention to the information included in the agenda packet on both Conferences and informed them that information on the two candidates for the 2nd Vice President position would be included in the Board meeting summary distributed by Jennifer.

5. **Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Vice President Andriola.
6. **Possible Selection of One (1) NACO Sponsored Applicant to Attend the National Association of Counties 2025 County Leadership Training Institute in Washington D.C.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the program, noting that it is designed for Commissioners who have some tenure in their position. He also reminded the Board that a line item is included in the approved budget to pay for the tuition of the sponsored attendee. Due to the attendance of Lyon County Commissioner Hendrix the previous year, Vinson recommended the sponsorship of Vice President Andriola to keep within the tradition of alternating between a rural and urban Commissioner each year. He informed the Board that she is interested in attending due to her growing leadership role within NACO and is available in June to attend the Institute in Washington D.C. The sponsorship of Vice President Andriola to attend the 2025 County Leadership Training Institute was approved on a motion by Commissioner Keller with second by Past President Giomi.
7. **Approval of a NACO Resolution in Support of National County Government Month.** President Androozzi read the Resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.
8. **Presentation and Overview Regarding the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Including Legislative Matters from the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature, Dr. Kristopher Sanchez, Director.** Director Sanchez apologized for not being able to attend in person and thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them about the Department's ongoing effort to reform the State's regulatory and occupational Boards and Commissions. He gave them an overview of the various studies of the State's oversight Boards and Commissions going back to 1924, noting that they all reported a lack of accountability to the Executive Branch and recommendations for elimination or restructuring of various Boards occurring every 50 years or so. Director Sanchez discussed the formation of the Sunset Subcommittee during the 2011 Legislative Session and noted that between 2013 and 2023 the Subcommittee had recommended the elimination of 38 Boards or Commissions, of which only 14 had been disbanded, while an additional 47 new Boards or Commissions were added, he also informed the Board that a policy paper was available on the Departments website. Director Sanchez next discussed the approximate 1,718 appointees needed to fully seat each group and a lack of people willing to apply for accept appointments, noting that several boards are or will be unable to function because their current members are outside of their appointment terms. The Director noted that while there are currently 200 Boards and Commissions listed on the Governor's website, since that list was developed and additional 94 had been found and that no comprehensive list of all the State's Boards and Commissions appears to exist. Next, Director Sanchez discussed SB78 which would allow the Department to reform, combine or eliminate licensing and advisory boards, noting that the current focus is on Occupational Licensing Boards and that work on the advisory boards would be pushed out to 2027, noting that Nevada is the most licensed State in the Country with the most stringent licensing

requirements, and he informed the Board that Nevada will only be the 2nd to undertake these reformation efforts. The Director informed the Board that the Department's goal is to reduce the number of licensing boards from 37 to 19, by process of merger or elimination. Issues discussed reiterated the lack of accountability to the Executive Branch, many licensees having expressed trust issues with their various boards, some members of the boards being licensees of the board they oversee, and lack of accountability for their actions and/or decisions. Director Sanchez then reminded the Board that SB431 passed during the 2023 Legislative Session, authorized the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, and placed the Boards under the oversight of his Department. He informed the Board that audits conducted between 2013 and 2023 showed that most boards and commissions were operating at a deficit and the Department is now requiring monthly Profit and Loss statements for all which will be placed on the Department's website to ensure transparency, noting the first audit required of the boards is due in April. The Director acknowledged that the reformation actions are not without controversy, especially when it comes to the potential elimination of staff positions but reiterated that the goal is to level the playing field for all regulatory boards, ensure the effective and consistent provision of services for both licensees and patients and to consolidate aggregate contracts. He informed the Board that he is communicating with other states on best practices and noted that his proposed course of action will save the State over \$17M over the biennium. Director Sanchez informed the Board that he is also eliminating redundancies in the Department, reviewing internal policies and those that overlap or overlay adopted regulations will be eliminated, instituting succession planning and doing a general review and overhaul of the functions of all Executive Branch agencies. He concluded his presentation by noting that the Department of Business and Industry (B&I) is reforming for the better, the whole of the Executive Branch will be streamlining and that Phase 2 of the project, the reformation of the State's advisory boards will be completed in 2027. President Andreozzi thanked the Director for his time and noted that the reforms are necessary and right on track. Past President Giomi inquired about the Boards associated with the administration of healthcare and how quickly real comprehensive improvement might be seen, and suggested an associated review of the NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) noting that there are conflicts within the NAC that simply don't make sense like dual licensing for Physician Assistants who are overseen by an MD one day and homeopath the next. The Director acknowledged those overlaps and challenges and informed the Board that all the merged licensing boards would be live on the B&I website within the coming week, also reminding the Board that there is now accountability for all the boards to the Department. Past President Giomi also suggested an overview of licensure fees which are not in line with other states and excessive licensure requirements that make it difficult for service providers to come to Nevada, noting that it is good that there is now a place for licensees to go for assistance. President Elect Gardner inquired as to if there would be a reduction in appointees when the processes are completed and the Director informed him that the end goal is to bring the total number for appointees to 1,000 or less. Vice President Andriola noted the hard decisions being made, having sat on several of the affected boards. She inquired as to how the Department is prioritizing, specifically noting the challenges being experienced by healthcare providers and the amount of legislation being proposed in an attempt to bring more to the State, the lack of reciprocity, and a reduction in the number of licenses required. Director Sanchez remarked that changes to reciprocity and licensure requirements are more controversial than the reforms themselves, but that the 2027 "clean-up" bill will eliminate several licenses, specifically for those Boards that oversee less than 100 licensees, also noting that Nevada is the only state to require a license for those practicing the homeopathy fields. President Andreozzi concluded the item by thanking the Director, staff for bringing the item to their attention and offering support if needed.

9. **Discussion and Possible Appointment to Fill One (1) Vacancy to the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (NRS 428.195).** This item was removed from the agenda by President Andreozzi, no action was taken.

Item's 10 and 11 were heard concurrently. The discussion and action are recorded under item 11.

10. **Approval of NACO's November and December 2024 and January and February, 2025, Investment Reports, Respectively.** For Possible Action.

11. **Approval of NACO's October, November and December 2024 and January 2025 Financial Statements, Respectively.** Vinson referenced the monthly investment reports included in the agenda packet and informed the Board that the Association remains in a healthy financial position and that all investments continue to be made in line with the Board approved Investment Policy, reminding them that they receive an annual update from Morton Investments. He then drew the Board's attention to the financial statements noted that the Association closed 2024 under budget, although the audit has yet to be completed. He informed the Board that 2025 is under budget but the current expenses do reflect session related travel costs and reminded the Board that they had approved some capital improvement projects so those line-item expenses may appear larger than they expect this early in the year. Commissioner Reese noted that Lincoln County utilizes a sweep account that has increased revenues and inquired if the Association does. Vinson reminded the Board that a sweep account has been in use for several years at the suggestion of former Board member Bevan Lister, and that NACO has seen growth in interest income due to the use of the account. Commissioner Reese expressed that he was glad to see the positive income growth and is glad the resource is being utilized. Vice President Andriola inquired if 2024 was below budget due to salary savings and if the open Natural Resources Manager position were filled would that still be the case. Vinson informed the Board that Salary savings were the predominate reason for the under-budget status and that if the position had been filled, he would have expected a budget neutral year-end result. Past President Giomi requested that the percentage of the approved budget remaining be placed next to the percentage utilized in future financial reports. The investment reports and financial statements were approved as presented on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

12. **Update on Highlighting of Nevada's Counties Regarding the 2025 Capitol Christmas Tree, Selected from Nevada to be Displayed in Washington, D.C.** Amanda reminded the Board that they had recently been informed that the tree would be harvested from the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest. She informed the Board that the (United States Forrest) Service had reached out to discuss the possibility of NACO providing one of the multiple Christmas Tree skirts that would be required for the trees that will be installed in federal buildings across Washington DC, that would highlight and represent Nevada's 17 counties, noting that she expected to hear from the Service early the following week regarding the final size of the skirt that would be needed. Amanda informed the Board that following research on various types of skirts, she determined that the best course, if approved, would be for each county to provide an equal piece of the skirt based upon a size pattern that would be provided when the final dimensions were received. She informed the Board that she would sew the panels together and install backing, trim, and the closure if the panels were received no later than the August Board meeting. She also noted that it may be a good item for the silent auction at the 2026 NACO Annual Conference. Commissioner Perez expressed his pleasure that the tree would be harvested in Nevada and informed the Board that he had recently met the person who had transported the tree when it was harvested in Oregon. President Elect Gardner requested clarification on the request for ornaments that

had been included in the agenda packet, Amanda then informed the Board that the Forest Service had also requested each county to commit to providing 50 ornaments representing their county to be displayed on the various trees throughout the Capital, noting that those details could be found on the flyer included in the agenda. The creation of a Christmas Tree skirt representing Nevada's counties was approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Keller.

13. **NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.** President Elect Gardner reminded the Board that the Committee meets Friday's and thanked staff for highlighting the newly tracked bills on the document included in the agenda packet. He also noted that the Committee meeting that day had been canceled as the discussion would be duplicative to the discussion being held. Jennifer informed the Board that both NACO Assembly bills had received hearings and that she was hopeful for Work Sessions. She also informed the Board that the Senate Committees that the NACO bills are assigned to were moving slower but that she was also hopeful those bills would receive both hearings and Work Sessions before the deadline for First Committee Passage. Jennifer informed the Board that over 400 bills are currently being tracked and that a lot of amendments were being presented. She informed the Board that a NACO amendment to allow local governments to receive extensions on fiscal notes had been accepted by the Sponsor of AB249, which passed its Work Session that week. Jennifer then gave the Board an overview of the coding of the Legislative Tracker. President Andreozzi inquired as to the Bill coded as Pre-Emption. It was clarified that the tag is being utilized to denote proposed legislation that explicitly preempts local authority. Vinson informed the Board that a lot of preemption is being seen on local zoning matters which are best managed at the local level and that positions of opposition are being taken based on that factor. He also noted that work will be done during the interim to educate legislators on preemption and its effects. Legislation affecting housing was discussed next with Vinson informing the Board that the Governor's Bill (AB540) and AB241 which is sponsored by the Assembly Majority Leader had hearings. Vinson also informed the Board that currently NACO is opposed to AB241 because it includes multi-family use by right but noted that staff is working with the Majority Leader on the issue. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she and Vice President Andriola were on the Committee that worked on the Governor's housing Bill and an amendment is in the process of being drafted, she also noted that the proposed legislation will have great benefit to the rural areas of the state and that it is a comprehensive proposal utilizing existing assets. AB133, which would enable a technology fund for County Treasurers, was discussed next. Carson City Treasurer, Andy Rasor explained to the Board due to concerns expressed with the initial language of the Bill, an amendment will allow 5% of excess proceeds from tax sales of real property be deposited to the fund after the proceeds have been held in escrow for one year. He also explained that there will be guard rails put in place, including a yearly review of the fund by the Board of County Commissioners and after three years 50% of any unused funds would revert back to the County General Fund. He concluded his remarks by noting that they are hoping for a Works Session prior to the deadline. Vice President Andriola inquired as to the opposition received to the original bill and Mr. Rasor explained that there was concern with taking funds away from the purview of the County Commissioners. He also clarified that it was also explained that excess funds should not be included in the budget process and Assemblymember Gurr noted that is "gifted" money that is not a stable source of income. Vice President Andriola also inquired as to if the legislation included a provision for interest to be earned during the holding period and Mr. Rasor stated that there is, but that revenue would go directly to the county. President Elect Gardner noted the newly added Bills under the NACHSA (Nevada Association of County Human Administrators), and Amy gave a brief overview of the newly

tracked proposals. She explained that AB516 would create funds to provide technical assistance to schools to bill Medicaid for services provided, noting that it is related to a presentation that the Board had previously received. Amy noted that SB346 is a work in progress and that the proposal would expand the workload for Public Guardians. She informed the Board that SB425 had yet to be scheduled for a hearing but that it related to the consolidation of Boards and that there were multiple other efforts to do similar things. Commissioner Crim inquired as to where the “pay bill” (SB116) stood, noting that it is difficult for counties to work those numbers into their budget processes with no clear indication of the outcome of the Bill. Vinson stated that what he has heard is optimistic but that he expects it to be a piece of legislation acted upon at the last minute. He suggested making a provision for the added expenditure in reserve funds. President Elect Gardner noted that he had heard some counties are holding reserve funds and some are building it into the budget. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that the Governor’s office needs to hear about the county positions because concerns have been expressed about the counties ability to absorb the added costs and suggested direct communication with the Governor’s office. She also noted that Clark County includes a line item within their budget for unfunded mandates. President Elect Gardner then inquired about AB486 which would place an additional tax on tires for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Vinson stated that the Bill would require a 2/3 majority for passage and that it had not yet been scheduled for a hearing but noted that staff will continue to monitor the Bill. Vice President Andriola concluded the discussion by inquiring about the appetite of the Legislature to address adjustments to the fuel tax and electric vehicle usage for road funding. Vinson informed the Board that no proposals had been submitted. No action was taken.

14. **Update from NACO’s Health and Human Services Manager.** Amy informed the Board that on Monday, approximately \$11B of COVID related funding, including dollars associated with SAMHSA and the CDC, were terminated, with the justification that the pandemic is over and therefore the funding is no longer needed. She explained that the usage of the funding went beyond pandemic mitigation and was in the areas of epidemiology and laboratory capacity, immunization, and mental health support. She explained that the impacts were still being determined by the various agencies that received the funding, noting that local health districts also received funding under the programs that had been cut. Amy explained that the State had already reduced staff in their epidemiology and immunization programs and gave a brief overview of the expected impacts to services. President Androozzi inquired if the cut positions were new, and Amy explained that some were but clarified that the pandemic era dollars had provided funding for needed positions that the State did not have the resources to provide. She then addressed the restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services under the President’s recent Executive Order, explaining that the Order instructed the reduction of 28 divisions to 15 and a reduction in staffing from 82,000 to 62,000 and that the FDA, CDC, CMS and National Institute of Health would all be affected, although it was still being determined what they would actually mean. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that NACo understands that the restructuring will still keep the grant dollars alive, but that there will be requirements for reapplication by the agencies that received the initial awards. She also informed the Board that weekly updates will be given and that she will communicate that information. Amy drew the Boards attention to the Medicaid budget fact sheet included in the agenda packet and informed the Board that the DPBH budget is expected to close on April 4th and that it currently includes the \$15M in public health funding from SB118 that was passed by the Legislature in 2023, with the same funding formula. She added that SB423 would add additional base funding for local public health and does include a per capita component in the funding formula. President Androozzi inquired as to if there was an anticipation for changes in service levels for Medicare and

Medicaid if Medicaid expansion stops. Amy stated that there would be changes, because enrollment counts would be reduced, She also discussed the Department of Justice (DOJ) finding that youth are not receiving appropriate levels of mental health services and that those dollars are expected to remain in effect. Commissioner Kirkpatrick added that pursuant to conversations with NACo, Congressman Amodei, and Senator Cortez Masto that it will not be possible to meet the \$2T number needed for budget passage without adding the funding cuts for one or both of the programs to the conversation. She noted that because Nevada instituted Medicaid expansion early, the State receives a higher reimbursement rate of 90% match, while states that expanded later only receive 75% match. Commissioner Kirkpatrick indicated that Nevada may need to step down from the 90% reimbursement rate which will have an effect on the DOJ finding. She stated that NACo is trying to protect Medicaid and that the DHCFP is also working hard to make sure everything is proper from the State's perspective. It was also noted that the situation as a whole will affect counties as the need to pay for indigent care may increase.

15. 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 Committee had discussed several pieces of proposed legislation including AB80 regarding soil health, AB363 regarding groundwater boards, support for AB108 which would make an appropriation to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program, and AB458 regarding solar energy projects for low-income housing. Vinson also discussed opposition for SB355 which includes a provision for tax abatements for agrivoltaics, he noted that the Sierra Club has been supportive of counties in the discussion and that he expects an amendment to be presented at a hearing the following week. The Subcommittee also discussed the ongoing search to fill the open Natural Resources Manager position. The recent Presidential Executive Order to increase domestic mineral production was discussed and it was noted that it expected to produce a number of lawsuits from non-governmental organizations and there are also concerns with regards to FLPMA and NEPA regulations. The Committee also received an update on the Bleach Sandhill Skipper's proposed ESA listing and Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that Humboldt County submitted comments and would provide them for use as a template for any county wishing to comment. The US Supreme Court's Sacket ruling and Justice Thomas' concurrent opinion were also discussed as was the need to have the WOTUS issue concluded correctly and with finality, including the need to correctly identify what are truly navigable waterways. A draft letter with NACO and the Governor requesting a review of the decision on landscape utility solar projects was discussed, as was the WIR Board of Directors meeting in May. Vice President Andriola inquired as to the status of the Baker Ranch issue and Vinson reminded the Board that an Amicus Brief had been submitted but that a response was not expected for a couple of months. No action was taken.

16. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the next WIR meeting would take place the following week and he would have more information at the next meeting of the Board. Commissioner Kirkpatrick discussed the work being done on the impacts to healthcare across the country based on the EO issued in Washington and encouraged attendance at the Annual Conference in July, where she expects a lot of information to be discussed surrounding the issue. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that 31 interim resolutions were presented to the NACo Board from the

various Policy Steering Committees of which 30 were accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference, he noted the one that was not accepted was returned to the committee of origin because it was considered redundant as well as partisan. President Elect Gardner also informed the Board that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee signed onto one of the resolutions that addressed pharmacy deserts, which affect Nevada's small and rural communities. He concluded his remarks by discussing the meetings held with the Federal Delegation during the recent Legislative Conference, the re-introduction of the Northern Nevada Lands Bill by Congressman Amodei and the tour of the Capital facilitated by Storey County and Former Congressman Porter. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

17. **Public Comment.** President Elect Gardner encouraged the Board to attend the NACo Annual Conference in July, noting that the Legislative Conference was the first opportunity for his new colleague in Douglas County to experience NACo, and reminded the Board that many of the issues Nevada counties face are universal to counties across the nation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.