

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
December 15, 2023, 9:30am
NACO Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINTUES

ATTENDANCE: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne Sutherland, and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Andreozzi
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Elect Giomi informed the Board that President Higbee was attending a meeting of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, and he would join the meeting if he was able. He reminded the Board that the January meeting will take place on the 26th, where the 2024 Officers would be invested and encouraged all those able to attend in person. President Elect Giomi then discussed issues with a specific foam material used to combat carbon-based fires and encouraged the Board to keep an eye on the situation as the replacement retardant is not currently being produced in quantities to make it widely available. He concluded his remarks by noting that there may be an opportunity to go before the Interim Finance Committee for dollars to assist with hazardous material disposal costs for stock of the current retardant.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is also monitoring the situation with the material discussed by President Elect Giomi and that he would gather and distribute materials from them following a final decision by the Emergency Response Commission. He thanked the Board for a successful year, noting that 2023 was a Legislative year that brings additional challenges. He reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference in February directing the Boards attention to the link included in the agenda packet. He informed the Board that materials for Nevada specific events during the conference including meetings with the State's Federal Representatives would be distributed to those registered for the event. Vinson concluded his remarks by wishing the Board a happy holiday season.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Herman.

6. **Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Economic Recovery Transportation Electrification Plan (ERTEP), Dustin Newsom, Senior Project Manager, Integrated Energy Services, NV Energy.** Government Relations Advisor, Chloe Chism thanked the Board for the opportunity to present to the group and introduced Mr. Newsom. Mr. Newsom then gave an overview of the program to expand electric vehicle charging locations across the NV Energy service area. He explained what makes a site appropriate or ideal and how SB448 provides funding to assist in alleviating the financial burden to public agencies. Mr. Newsom discussed the differences between for profit charging sites and those designated as community charging centers, giving an overview of the different ownership models included within the ERTEP. Vinson requested examples of what a third party is vs. a Public Agency, and it was clarified that shopping malls and other private industry locations would fall under the 3rd party designation while facilities such as Community Centers, Senior Centers and other similar locations owned by local governments would fall under the Public Agency category. Commissioner Gardner inquired as to if there was the ability to mitigate lost revenue to the counties from the reduction of fuel taxes and Mr. Newsom stated that under the Customer Owned model there is the ability to allow for recoupment of costs by setting charging fees, but that under the utility owned model there is no way to bridge that gap. President Elect Giomi informed the Board that Carson City passed an ordinance to address the issue with a set rate and that he would share that information. Mr. Newsom clarified that the charging station must reside on publicly owned land to take advantage of the ownership share model within the program. The Board also inquired as to issues with capacity in rural areas and whether the program considered areas not served by NV Energy. It was clarified that capacity investigations are conducted prior to identification of viable site locations and that under the current legislation areas outside of NV Energy service are not eligible for the program. Revenue loss was a continued discussion and President Elect Giomi reminded the Board that NV Energy was not responsible for that issue. Following additional review of the legislation, Jennifer clarified that NV Energy is the only utility that can access the funding due to the language of the Bill. The item was concluded by Commissioner Carmona who informed the Board that a town hall with NDOT that would be taking place in Storey County was expected to include discussion on taxation of electric vehicles to make up for lost revenue to both the State and the local taxing jurisdictions.

7. **Approval of NACO Resolution 23-04 Recognizing January 2024 as National Radon Action Month.** President Elect Giomi read the resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Gardner.

8. **Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of NACO Federal Priorities for 2024.** Jennifer directed the Boards attention to the document included in the agenda packet. She reminded the Board that it is a document produced annually and that the House of Representatives would be in session during the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference. Jennifer then outlined the changes and updates made to the priorities, noting that they were highlighted within the document. She explained that no action was needed, but that staff is requesting Board feedback and is welcome to questions or comments. President Elect Giomi concluded the item by requesting that any comments, additions, or questions be communicated to staff

by January 15th so the document could be updated before the January Board meeting where the Board will take action to approve the Associations 2024 Federal Priorities.

- 9. Annual Update from NACO Investment Advisor, Moreton Asset Management, LLC, Dan Rusk, Portfolio Manager.** Mr. Rusk began his presentation by discussing inflation, noting that it has recently come down with prices rising less rapidly than earlier in the year. He discussed recent decisions by the Federal Reserve to begin lowering interest rates which are expected to be reduced three times in 2024, to begin in March with quarterly reductions expected to total 1.5% as determined by market actuators. Mr. Rusk informed the Board that the Association's portfolio is currently experiencing a 4% yield with some unrealized gains, noting that year-to-date the net income in the portfolio was approximately \$20,000, which was almost as much as the two prior years combined. He discussed current investments in bonds which are locked with interest rates that will not be affected by the expected cuts. Vinson informed the Board that the service given by Moreton is excellent and reminded them that the annual update is included within the Association's service agreement. Fiscal Officer Kalt concluded the item by informing the Board that the current investment mix is in compliance with the Board's adopted policy and that no adjustments were recommended by the Account Advisor.
- 10. Final Discussion and Approval of NACO 2024 Budget.** Vinson reminded the Board that the draft budget was brought before the Board in November for initial discussion and review. He directed the Boards attention to the documents included in the agenda packet and noted that per Commissioner Andreozzi's request, a column for the 2023 approved budget was added for comparison purposes. While no direct feedback was received from Board members, Vinson discussed comments received from Fiscal Officer Kalt, including the overview of additional cash management processes as previously directed by the Board, which have resulted in an increased percentage yield for the Association. Commissioner Andreozzi thanked Vinson for the additional comparison column and requested that it be made a yearly practice moving forward. President Elect Giomi suggested making it three running years going forward to echo more accurately what the counties include in their own budget development processes. Vinson informed the Board that there was an error in the motion verbiage included in the agenda packet and requested that the motion include his suggested change of verbiage to include \$763,238 in revenues with expenses totaling \$760,872. Fiscal Officer Kalt thanked staff for being good stewards of the Association's resources and President Elect Giomi added thanks to Mr. Kalt for volunteering his time and expertise as the NACO Fiscal Officer. The 2024 NACO Budget was approved as suggested on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Herman.
- 11. Updates from NACO Public Health Coordinator, Including Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities.** Amy directed the Board's attention to the document included in the agenda packet. She gave an overview of the work conducted on behalf of all the counties, but reminded the Board that support is available for singular issues within the counties. She reminded the Board that the NEAP assessments are ongoing and will provide baseline data to the counties that will help support future public health decisions. Amy discussed the support provided to the NACO Government Affairs staff during the Legislative Session, reminding the Board that she is unable to testify due to the position being grant funded. She concluded her remarks by thanking the Board for the opportunity to provide service to the counties and that she looks forward to continuing to provide support going forward. Commissioner Andreozzi inquired as to any work being done to address the increase in suicides during and following the pandemic. Commissioner Gardner noted that Douglas County is seeing an increase in those actions among their older

populations. Amy noted that increased suicide is a major issue among all demographics and that peer and telehealth support is available.

12. 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 Subcommittee had met the previous day, and that discussion included the Climate Change Priority Action Plan being developed by NDEP, and that they had requested input from NACO, noting that if members shared their thoughts on priorities with him, he would provide a collated list to the Division. He informed the Board that discussions had also taken place on the BLM's inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics and that while a request had been made for them to share that information, no decisions had been made or actions taken at the time, but that the inventory would be included in future Resource Management Plans. The Farm Bill was also discussed, and President Higbee had encouraged a NACO resolution supporting the inclusion of woody biomass in farm bill definitions, NACO had also signed on to a letter requesting additional funding for the Wild Horse and Burro program.
- b. **Presentation and discussion of the "Western Alliance Smart from the Start Alternative" for BLM Solar PEIS.** Jacob discussed work conducted on behalf of the Association as a Cooperating Agency, noting that communication and close work was done with the counties natural resource staff. He informed the Board that comments were submitted that were slightly more restrictive than any of the BLM's published alternatives and directed the Board's attention to the document included in the agenda packet. He gave an overview of the document, including the specific definition of disturbed lands and requested that the Board approve the comments submitted as their official position. President Elect Giomi inquired as if the submitted document left room for exploration and Jacob stated that there is enough land available to meet the administration's renewable energy goals by more than double. Commissioner Andreozzi inquired about waste and abandonment and Jacob noted that those items were addressed as well, however the specific item at hand was only regarding citing of solar fields. He also informed the Board that he is looking to provide a spring workshop on the issue of solar energy development. Commissioner Carson suggested that counties add language specific to Smart from the Start within their updates to county land use plans, as White Pine County had done. The submitted comments were ratified on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Carson.
- c. **Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Jacob directed the Boards attention to the documents included in the agenda packet and drew specific attention to the comments submitted to various agencies on many issues affecting counties. President Elect Giomi thanked Jacob for his work, noting that NACO is looked to as an authority on natural resources issues because of the expertise of both staff and Commissioners across the State.

13. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Past President Kirkpatrick reflected on issues with the housing committee and President Higbee discussed the upcoming ARPA ruling from Treasury and continued work on the Farm Bill. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the WIR meeting for December had been canceled. Commissioners also gave updates on activities within their respective counties.

14. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske from the University of Nevada Reno, thanked the Board for their support of Radon Action Month, noting that testing kits would be available at Extension offices across the state and that information on mitigation is also available. Ms. Gatske also informed the Board that research is being conducted by the University on components of photovoltaic agriculture to address impacts from solar fields.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.