

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 26, 2024, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Andriola, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, 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 by President Higbee at 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Henderson.
3. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding Appointment to Fill the Vacancy of the Office of NACO Vice-President.** Vinson reminded the Board that the office was vacant due to the resignation of former Commissioner Cassie Hall from the Mineral County Commission. He explained that the Association By-laws dictate that officer vacancies are to be filled at the direction of the Board. Vinson stated that following discussion with the Executive Committee it was decided that the position would be opened to all Commissioners interested in serving. He directed the Board's attention to the two letters of interest included in the agenda packet from Douglas County Commissioner Gardner and Lyon County Commissioner Keller. President Higbee gave the applicants time to address the Board, and both thanked the Board for the opportunity and expressed their desire to serve as the Association's Vice President. With no additional nominations from the floor, President Higbee turned to the Board for discussion. Commissioner Andreozzi noted that Commissioner Gardner has served and been active on the NACO Board for several years and that Commissioner Keller is active as Lyon County's alternate appointment to the Board. President Elect Giomi noted that the filling of the vacancy is an unusual practice and expressed respect to both applicants for their desire to serve, he then moved to appoint Commissioner Gardner to the office of NACO Vice President. Commissioner Gardner was elected to the position on a second by Commissioner Tipton. President Higbee thanked both Commissioners and Commissioner Keller expressed appreciation for the Board's consideration and assured them that he will continue to support NACO. He also mentioned his friendship with Commissioner Gardner and that Mark (Commissioner Gardner) has his full support and he looks forward to working with NACO for years to come.
4. **Investiture of the 2024 NACO Officers.** President Higbee administered the Oath of Office to the 2024 NACO Officers: President Stacey Giomi (Carson City), President Elect Delmo

Andreozzi (Elko County), and Vice President Mark Gardner (Douglas County). Following the Investiture, President Giomi presided over the remainder of the meeting.

5. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi thanked Past President Higbee for his service and dedication to NACO. President Giomi then reminded the Board that 2024 is the 100th Anniversary of NACO and announced that one of his goals as President is to discuss and develop a more permanent record of the history of the Association. He noted that he has reached out to several people and groups and that the first legislative reference to NACO was in 1947, which allowed the collection of dues from the counties to fund the Association. President Giomi also informed the Board that he would be forming a subcommittee to review the NACO By-laws and recommend updates to that governing document. He also discussed the current requirement that changes to the by-laws currently require the approval of all 17 counties and that may be one of the updates to be discussed. President Giomi announced the appointment of Commissioner Tipton as the Chair of the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee, noting that as one of the NACO representatives to the National Western Interstate Region Board of Directors he is a natural fit for the position. He also announced the appointment of President Elect Andreozzi as the Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, noting that he has been highly active in the NACO legislative advocacy efforts over the past biannual sessions. President Giomi ended his remarks by discussing his recent attendance with Vinson at the NACO Annual President's and Executives meeting in Washington DC. He informed the Board that the information gained was impactful and that meetings of federal cabinet officials was part of the event. He also discussed work NACO would be undertaking on the Infrastructure Reinvestment Act to allow counties to help non-profit entities access grant funds, noting that those entities are often better suited to address issues than counties in some instances.
6. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson welcomed the 2024 NACO Officers and echoed President Giomi's remarks regarding Past President Higbee's successful year as President. He then announced that those Commissioners that had registered for the upcoming NACO Legislative Conference in Washington DC had been sent an invitation to the annual dinner hosted by the Association and thanked Storey County for their contribution to the event. He discussed the lack of meeting availability with Nevada's congressional delegation, noting that neither house would be in session during the event. He also informed the Board that while Congressman Amodei had initially discussed hosting a breakfast for those in attendance, due to travel requirements he had offered to come to an upcoming Board meeting instead.
7. **Approval of Minutes of the December 15, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by Commissioner Tipton.
8. **Final Approval of NACO's 2024 Federal Priorities.** Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the document included in the agenda packet. She reminded the Board that the document is produced annually and that the first draft had been presented during the December 2023 meeting for the Board's review and input. Jennifer also noted that major revisions to the draft were highlighted. Vinson discussed additions and edits to the document per discussions at the National Association of Counties (NACo) including updates to the Medicaid exclusion for non-adjudicated persons in custody, the full funding of the PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs for public lands counties, as well as advocacy efforts to ensure community resiliency. He also discussed work being done to address challenges with FEMA disaster relief, noting that preemptive program funding vs. post disaster reimbursement programing is being addressed. President

Giomi and Vice President Gardner discussed the time and effort required to receive reimbursement and challenges associated with counties being able to provide the upfront funding for projects that would possibly qualify for FEMA relief funding. Vinson informed the Board that discussions at the recent President and Executives Meeting held by NACo included the need for the use of existing technology to provide a more robust, predictable, and stable interface for the tracking of applications and the timeline for processing. The 2024 NACO Federal Priorities were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by Past President Higbee.

9. **Approval of NACO's Investment Reports for October, November, and December of 2023.** Items nine and ten were combined at the request of the President.
10. **Approval of NACO's Financial Statements for October, November, and December of 2023.** Vinson reminded the Board that the investment reports and financial statements are presented to the Board for review and approval on a quarterly basis. He stated that the investments continue to see positive gains and remain within the Board's approved policy and reminded them that the brokerage had provided them with the contractually required market and account update in December. Vinson noted that the financial statements are subject to the annual audit process and current rates of inflation influenced the statements. He reminded the Board that the increase in the contracts line item was due to the Board approved processes for executing the new Corporate Partnership program and concluded his overview by noting that the Association remains in a strong financial position. The fourth quarter investment reports and financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Herman.
11. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Re-Appointment of Ross Miller, Clark County Commissioner, to the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects.** Vinson reminded the Board that Commissioner Miller had been the Board's representative for the past four years and that it has been the Board's tradition to appoint a Clark County Commissioner to the Commission. President Elect Andreozzi stated that he would like an update on the Commission at a future Board meeting. Vinson stated that he would plan a future agenda item for the Board to receive the requested presentation. Commissioner Miller's reappointment was approved on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
12. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Re-Appointment of Shayla Holmes, Lyon County Human Services Director, and Public Guardian, to the Health and Human Services Grant Management Advisory Committee.** Vinson reminded the Board that Ms. Holmes has served on the GMAC on behalf of the Association for several years and informed them that she wishes to continue her service on the Committee on behalf of NACO. Commissioner Henderson noted that Ms. Holmes has done an excellent job representing counties on the GMAC. Ms. Holmes reappointment was approved on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
13. **Discussion and Possible Approval to Submit a List of Three (3) Recommendations for Appointment of One (1), by the Office of the Governor, to the Commission to Review the Compensation of Constitutional Officers, Legislators, Supreme Court Justices, Judges of the Court of Appeals, District Judges and Elected County Officers.** Vinson informed the Board that item was a result of activities during the 2023 Legislative Session. He gave an overview of the Commission noting that it had been dormant since 2015 and the Governor had responded to a request from the District Attorney's Association by convening

the Commission. He informed the Board that the Governor's Office had reached out requesting an appointment by the Association and discussed the approach to his recommendations to the Board. He noted that the appointment of high-level staff with a background in county finance was his recommendation to avoid conflicts for elected officials. He concluded his remarks by suggesting the Board present Nye County Manager Timothy Sutton, himself, and Humboldt County Manager Don Kalkoske for the Governor's consideration, with the caveat that Manager Kalkoske is new to the (County Manager) position and the Board's preference would be for the appointment go to Vinson, noting the long standing history of NACO's representation of County's and their Commissioners. President Giomi suggested placing Douglas County's District Attorney, Mark Jackson in the 3rd spot. Vinson stated that Mr. Jackson was the person who made the request to convene the Commission and he expected the Governor to appoint him to another seat within the group. Vice President Gardner remarked on the bill brought forth by Nye County during the session, noting the heavy lift at the legislative level due to the dollars associated and that he was comfortable with the recommendation by staff. Commissioner Henderson also agreed that the appointment of Vinson would be the most appropriate due to the collaboration between all 17 of the counties and the fact that the Commission would most likely meet in Carson City. The recommendation of staff to provide the Governor's Office with the names of Nye County Manager Sutton, Humboldt County Manager Kalkoske and NACO Executive Director Guthreau with the notation that Vinson was the Board's preference was approved on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by President Elect Andreozzi.

14. **Discussion on Proposed NACO Board Meetings Dates for May and June 2024.** President Giomi informed the Board that he has unavoidable conflicts on the approved meeting dates in May and June. He noted that the May meeting had originally been proposed for the 24th but was changed to the 31st because of the impending holiday weekend and requested that the May meeting be changed back to the 24th. Vinson noted that the meetings traditionally end prior to noon and that should allow for plenty of time to accommodate those traveling for the holiday weekend. The May meeting was changed to Friday the 24th on a motion by President Elect Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Henderson.
15. **Review and Possible Approval of the NACO 2024 County Directory.** Amanda directed the Boards attention to the draft included in the agenda packet. She informed the Board that she had been working with county staff on the individual page updates and some adjustments had been received following the distribution of the agenda. Amanda requested that members of the Board that have changes reach out to her directly. Board approval of the Directory is not required therefore no action was taken.
16. **Overview and Update on Senate Bill (SB) 118 and a Presentation on Funding Allocation and Allowable Uses.** Jennifer gave the Board an overview of the Bill, specifically the provisions relating to the creation of an account to provide funding for public health improvement across the State and allowing for the creation of the Central Nevada Health District. She also reminded the Board that the Association had supported the legislation during the 2023 legislative session. Amy referred to the materials included in the agenda packet and gave an overview of the allowable uses of the funding and the timeline for which the dollars must be utilized. She also informed the Board that if a county does not fall within the jurisdiction of one of the three health districts, the State would be working directly with the County Health Officer and County Government for the distribution of funds. Amy stated that the funding would be released July 1st and that the broad spectrum of allowable uses includes grant funding to partner non-profits and the bolstering of existing state programs within the counties. She noted that funding should be requested and distributed in line with identified priorities. In addition to local Community Health Needs Assessments and other

health data measures, the Foundational Public Health Services' assessments through the collaboration with UNR Extension can be utilized to determine priorities. Amy reminded the Board that she is available for support and that a lot can be done in the public health space with smaller amounts of funding. She concluded her presentation by stating that successful use of the dollars will assist with the goal to have the Legislature provide continuing funding for public health improvements.

17. **Authorize the Purchase of a Replacement NACO Vehicle.** Vinson informed the Board that the NACO Jeep is nearly 20 years old with high mileage and that the ongoing maintenance and repairs required due to the vehicles age are becoming cost prohibitive. He drew their attention to the memo included in the agenda packet and noted that while it allows for a replacement budget of \$70,000.00, he does not plan to spend the full amount. He also informed the Board that per Fiscal Officer Kalt, the funding is available in the Association's reserves and will therefore not affect the adopted 2024 budget. President Elect Andreozzi inquired as to the plan for disposition of the Jeep and Vinson stated that he would be working with Fiscal Officer Kalt on the most financially advantageous option, be that a trade in or private sale. Commissioner Tipton suggested considering the replacement of the Association's vehicle every three years due to technological advancements, repair costs and costs to insure older vehicles and inquired as to the possibility of a lease. Vinson stated that the agenda item did not include the possibility of entering into a lease, but that he would research the option and bring it back to the Board for consideration if it was a better fit than a purchase. Commissioner Henderson informed the Board that the vehicle had been in use by the Association more than a decade prior when he had served as Deputy Director. The item was approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by Commissioner Henderson.

18. **Review and Approval of an Office Policy Regarding the Maintaining of Receipts, or Proof of Purchase, Relating to NACO Related Business and Authorized Purchases.** Vinson informed the Board that the item was brought forth as a clean up to comments received during the Association's recently concluded audit for 2022. He informed the Board that the staff is very good at maintaining receipts and there has not been an issue, but having an adopted policy to be included in the Policy and Procedures Manual was recommended by the auditor. The policy was approved as presented in the agenda packet on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by Past President Higbee.

19. **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 informed the Board that the BLM had released the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on land use for utility scale solar projects for public comment. He stated that the cooperators who had been working with the BLM on the document were not satisfied with the draft released and will be working towards support for the "Western Alliance Smart from the Start Alternative" supported by the counties. He also noted that there were questions as to the legality of the agency making local land use decisions from Washington as opposed to this being a state office led effort. Jacob informed the Board that the Subcommittee had also discussed the inclusion of the woody biomass in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, as well as the State Wildlife Action Plan recently released by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and encouraged participation in the upcoming Living with Fire Summit. The Subcommittee also discussed the need to closely watch discussions occurring regarding the potential listing of endangered species, specifically sage-brush obligate species including the Pygmy Rabbit and Pinyon Jay.

He concluded the update by informing the Board of the withdrawal of a proposal for Natural Asset Companies' inclusion on the NYSE. President Elect Andreozzi inquired as to where the identified habitat of the Pygmy Rabbit was located, and it was noted that the current maps show it ranging across the northern half of Nevada. Past President Higbee then informed the Board that the animal is located statewide and that it can't be easily differentiated from a Cottontail. No action was taken.

20. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he would provide an update at the next meeting as WIR would be holding a meeting later in the day. Past President Higbee informed the Board that work continues at the national level regarding the language of the Farm Bill and discussed meetings that would be held with Committee Chair's regarding the proposed legislation for historic rights of way (RS2477 roads). Board members also gave updates regarding activities within their counties.

21. Public Comment. Past President Higbee informed the Board of a recent ruling by the State Supreme Court that gave additional authority to the State Water Engineer and Vice President Gardner thanked the Board again for their support in electing him to the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.