

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
November 17, 2023, 9:30am
NACO Office Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89702

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner McKay, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Mineral County Commissioner Schlepp, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp, Fiscal Officer Kalt, and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** Nye County Commissioner Strickland discussed a proposed Lithium mine that would abut to Nye County and affect the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the endangered Devils Hole Pup Fish, due to the drilling of exploratory wells etc., she noted that the Fish and Wildlife Service is actively engaged in fighting the proposed mine and that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies are being conducted.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee informed the Board that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is actively working on the Farm Bill renewal making its way through Congress through the Rural Action Caucus and Agriculture Subcommittee, noting that hearings are expected in the Spring. President Higbee also reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference in February and encouraged early registration.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board of two Commissioner resignations, Patsy Waits from Lander County effective on October 31 and Cassie Hall from Mineral County effective on November 1. He noted that Ms. Hall's resignation left several NACO Board appointments open, which would be addressed under the consent agenda. He also noted that her resignation left an opening on the Executive Committee which would be addressed during the January meeting, Vinson noted Commissioner Schlepp's attendance at the meeting and thanked him for joining in Ms. Hall's place. Vinson then informed the Board that he had reached out to the House delegation regarding their calendar during the NACo Legislative conference and expected to hear back soon but noted that the Senate will be in session during the event. He discussed the upcoming NACO workshop on December 1st regarding the Open Meeting Law and the various changes made during the 2023 State legislative session and reminded the Board that he is the NACO representative on the Open Meeting Law Taskforce. Vinson noted that many of the changes to the law reflect the new environment due to adjustments required during the COVID pandemic and gave an overview of the panelists who will be presenting during the workshop. Vinson concluded

his remarks by reminding the Board that additional workshops were identified as important during the recent strategic planning process undertaken by the Board.

Consent Agenda

5. **Approval of Agenda.** This item was pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration at the request of Commissioner Gardner. The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Herman.
6. **Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** This item was pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration at the request of Commissioner Gardner. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Elect Giomi.
7. **Approval of the Reappointment of Supervisor Maurice White, Carson City, to the Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles. For Possible Action.**
8. **Approval of Commissioner Debra Strickland, Nye County, as a NACO Appointment to the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation. For Possible Action.**
9. **Approval of Commissioner Joe Crim, Jr., Pershing County, as a NACO Appointment to the Board of Indigent Defense Services. For Possible Action.**
10. **Approval of Supervisor Curtis Horton, Carson City, as the NACO Appointment to the Nevada Air Service Development Commission, created by Assembly Bill 58, in the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature (NRS 231.680). For Possible Action.**
11. **Approval of, Commissioner Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County, as the NACO Appointment to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, Created by Senate Bill 425, (NRS 385) in the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature. For Possible Action.**

Agenda items 7-11 were approved as presented under the Consent Agenda on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.

Regular Business

12. **Final Update on 2023 NACO Annual Conference, Including Possible Approval of an Annual Conference Performance Bonus for the NACO Office Manager.** Vinson referred to the financial summary included in the agenda packet. He noted that the conference was highly successful and that the sponsorship goals were exceeded. Vinson also informed the Board that both pre-event and onsite registration numbers set records for the Association. Commissioner Andreozzi thanked the Board for their attendance at the conference, noting the immense value of the event noting that Elko County was proud to host the event. President Higbee thanked staff for the work done to ensure the success of the event and item was approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Gardner.
13. **Approval of NACO Resolution 23-03, Thanking Elko County for Hosting the 2023 NACO Annual Conference.** Vinson read the resolution into the record. President Higbee thanked Elko County for their efforts to ensure the success of the conference and expressed

his gratitude for their hosting of the President's Reception at the Ruby 360 Lodge. The item was approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Crim.

14. **Approval of Chorus Innovations as a NACO Associate Member for 2023.** Vinson informed the Board that Associate memberships had exceeded the budget set for the year. He thanked Amy for engaging Chorus Innovations, and she explained to the Board that company provides technical support specific to the public and behavioral health fields. Amy also informed the Board that the firm currently works with multiple county health agencies in other states to provide streamlined care information that can be shared by agencies that work with the same individuals in different capacities. The Associate membership was approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Elect Giomi.
15. **Approval of NACO's June, July, August, and September 2023 Financial Statements.** Vinson directed the Boards attention to the statements included in the agenda packet. He noted that expenses for the year remained below target. He also discussed the income showing 200% above target, explaining that was due to the Board approval of the Association acting as a pass through entity for funding for the National Public Lands Center, noting that an invoice had been received from NACo for the first distribution of those funds and would be reflected on the November financial statements. President Elect Giomi inquired as to why the professional services line item was over and Vinson explained that overage is associated with the Board approved corporate sponsorship program that will be instituted in 2024. Vinson then noted that the Association remains in a strong financial position. Fiscal Kalt informed the Board that Vinson and Amanda take their responsibilities for stewardship of the NACO finances seriously and are very considerate of the expenses that are made. The financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Herman.
16. **Approval of NACO's August, September, and October 2023 Investment Reports.** Vinson directed the Boards attention to the reports included in the agenda packet, reminding them that they are brought forth quarterly for review by the Board. He noted that all investments remain in accordance with the Board's approved policy. Fiscal Officer Kalt also informed the Board that the current book yield is in accordance with current standards and that Vinson had also instituted a 'sweep account' to increase the Association's investment yield. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Herman.
17. **Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the NACO Annual Budget for 2024.** Vinson reminded the Board that while the counties follow the State Fiscal Year, the Association works under a calendar fiscal year. He then drew the Boards attention to the documents in the agenda packet, noting that this is a first presentation of the proposed budget and that it will be brought back to the Board for approval in December. Vinson first discussed the proposed 2024 County Dues, explaining that dues were formulated by the approved formula within the Association By-laws, following the adopted percentages for population and revenues. He then reminded the Board that the Public Lands Assessment is based upon PILT revenues and helps to fund the position of the Natural Resources Manager and the efforts conducted on behalf of the counties. He also noted that the adopted schedule helps to keep staff accountable for the work conducted on behalf of the members. Next Vinson informed the Board that the budget allows for maintenance of the full staff, reminding them that the Public Health Coordinator position is grant funded and announced that the grant had been extended until 2025. He also noted that the health insurance line item included an increase in costs, which are expected to be between 10 and 12%. Vinson also discussed the upgrades and repairs needed to maintain the historic building that houses the NACO offices

and discussed the replacement of the degraded walkway that had been done in the Summer, noting that the next project to be conducted in 2024 is to be the painting of the exterior. He also informed the Board that the FICA line item had been adjusted to accurately reflect the costs to the Association. He thanked Fiscal Officer Kalt for his invaluable assistance in preparing the budget. Vinson also informed the Board that the NACO vehicle would soon need to be replaced, but that he would bring that decision back to the Board for discussion in the future. He concluded his remarks by noting that there was not a substantial change in dues from 2023 but noted that changes were due to a softening of the economy and the federal dollars received the previous year. Commissioner Andreozzi stated that the proposed budget looked appropriate but suggested the addition of a column that shows the change from the previous year. President Elected inquired as to a discrepancy in the conference revenue line item from what was presented in agenda item 12 and stated that the dollars associated with the painting of the building might need to be increased. Vinson stated that he would address those concerns directly with President Elect Giomi following the meeting. The final budget will be presented to the Board for further discussion and approval in December.

18. Updates from NACO Public Health Coordinator. Amy discussed Rural Health Day which had occurred the previous day and announced that 140 Veteran service providers had been recognized, she informed the Board that pocket cards were available for the Veteran's Initiative and that there is a list she can provide of Veteran service providers for recommendation. Amy informed the Board that Mercer was no longer available to provide technical assistance for the necessary county Opioid Needs Assessments, but that NACO would continue to provide support to counties. She discussed the Public Health Infrastructure Assessments that were beginning and reminded the Board that she will need a dedicated contact partner in each county to assist with the gathering of that data. President Higbee noted that he is glad to see those assessments occurring and Commissioner Andreozzi noted that the Association is happy to have Amy on board and inquired as to how the Elko County Opioids Needs Assessment was going. Amy stated that the County has a consultant that is working on the Assessment and that she has a strong working relationship with both the consultant and Amanda, the County Manager.

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 Subcommittee had met the previous day and had discussed the newly proposed SEC rule that would allow natural resources asset companies to be publicly traded. He stated that there are Congressional concerns with that rule and that while the Public Comment period on the proposed rule had closed the SEC has delayed deciding on the implementation of the rule due to those concerns. Jacob also informed the Board that the group had discussed best practices for solar fields including abatements to county revenues and that a document regarding those best practices is being worked on by staff and the subcommittee. Jacob also informed the Board that the Sagebrush Eco-system Council had met recently and that there is new science being discussed regarding the conservation credit system. Jacob concluded his remarks by giving an overview of the standing items on the Subcommittee's agenda. President Higbee informed the Board that the group had also discussed available grants including funding for off range management of wild horses and burros and fertility control options. He also discussed green energy issues including counties needs to gain more control of private and public lands when those use decisions are being made. President Higbee also discussed a ten-year grazing study conducted by the University of Idaho that

found now impacts of grazing on the nesting of Greater Sage-grouse, which is currently under peer review. Commissioner Tipton stated that the ranching industry had committed financial support to the study, noting that if the study results had come out differently it would have been detrimental to the industry. He also informed the Board that the study would be discussed by the WIR Board. The item was concluded by discussing the working group addressing the Cooperating Agency MOU being developed with the support of the BLM that will provide more balance and better descriptions of the various relationship roles and responsibilities of the affected agencies. No action was taken on the item.

20. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Commissioner Tipton discussed the WIR meeting in Wyoming that he attended at the end of September. He informed the Board that the Center for Public Lands Counties was moving forward and is tasked with the collection and development of information regarding resources in Western States. Commissioner Tipton also discussed the support of PILT funding in Washington DC, as well as legislative support for reduction of wildfire and sustainable forest health. Other priorities discussed by the WIR Board included strengthening of infrastructure, relationships with federal agencies and the promotion of healthy and safe communities. President Higbee referred to his comments under agenda item 3 and informed the Board that he would not be able to attend the Winter NACO Board meeting due to travel associated with meetings required for a large economic development project in Lincoln County. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
21. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske from the University of Nevada, Extension informed the Board that she is conducting county visits to determine how best to address the impacts of budget issues being experienced and how best to make service delivery by Extension more efficient and impactful. Vinson reminded the Board that he and Past President Kirkpatrick serve as the NACO representatives to the Extension Advisory Council and that they had recently attended a meeting held at the new camp in Lincoln County.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.