

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)
Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Immediately Following the Annual Business Meeting
Elko County Convention Center
Ruby Room
700 Moren Way
Elko, NV 89801

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Vice President Hall, Past President Kirkpatrick, Churchill County Commissioner Scharmann, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Holt, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, Washoe County Commissioner Hill, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff and Amy Hyne Sutherland)

The meeting was called to order immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by Commissioner Gardner.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee referred to the report given during the Annual Business Meeting and informed the Board that he had been appointed to the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Resource Action Committee and would be taking former Humboldt County Commissioner Jim French's place on that Committee.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson thanked Elko County for hosting the Annual Conference and for the work that county staff had done in support of the event. He informed the Board that a record had been set for pre-conference attendee registration and sponsorships. He concluded his remarks by thanking Commissioner Gardner for his remarks on his speaking at the CFOA conference recently held in White Pine County.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Commissioner Henderson.
6. **Discussion on Proposed NACO Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2024.** Vinson directed the Board to the proposed calendar included in the agenda packet. He reminded the Board that NACO conferences are taken into account in the preparation of the calendar and that the swearing in of officers would be conducted during the January meeting. He also reminded the Board that per previous Board direction the June meeting has been reserved to be held in an Eastern rural county. He also reminded the Board that the Associations Legislative agenda for the 2025 Session would be discussed during the summer meetings

and voted on in August because BDR's are required to be submitted September 1. Vinson noted the Annual Conference to be held in September and the lack of a meeting in October due to the proximity of the Conference. He also discussed the hosting of a meeting in Clark County and that meeting was proposed to be in December. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that the December meeting in Clark County had been scheduled to be held on a Thursday to accommodate local government staff work schedules. Commissioner Gardner inquired as to the Congressional schedule during the NACo Legislative Conference, and Vinson noted that the calendar hasn't been released and Past President Kirkpatrick stated that the Conference is hosted and planned by the National Association, not NACo. Commissioner XXXX noted that the proposed August meeting date was the Friday of the Labor Day weekend and suggested that it be moved to the 23rd. The calendar was approved with the change of the meeting date for August 2024 on a motion by Commissioner Scharmann with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.

7. **Discussion and Overview of Senate Bill (SB) 425, from the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature, and Notification of NACo Sponsored Appointment.** Jennifer gave the Board an overview of the legislation, which establishes the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education and names NACo as an appointing entity to the Commission. The Commission of 24 members is tasked with reviewing the current education system in the State, comparing it to high performing systems in other states and providing recommendations to improve the education system in Nevada. Jennifer informed the Board that the appointments are non-compensated but eligible for the reimbursement of travel expenses, the appointments are for a two-year term and meetings will be held at least once per quarter. Jennifer requested that the Board consider the position and bring forth nominees to be discussed and voted on by the Board in November. Past President Kirkpatrick inquired as to if the appointee must be a sitting member of NACo or if a past member or another sitting Commissioner or former Commissioner could be appointed. Vinson clarified that the language states that the Association is an appointing body, so the appointee is not limited to a current member of the NACo Board. He concluded the item by reiterating Jennifer's request to reach out to Staff with potential nominees prior to the November Board meeting.
8. **Discussion and Possible Approval of a Letter of Support to the Nevada State Supreme Court for Workforce Requirements Related to Providing Indigent Defense Services in Nevada.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the draft letter included in the agenda packet and gave an overview of the order the letter supports. The proposed order will allow graduates of law school who have not yet passed the Bar to provide limited legal services under the supervision of a licensed attorney. He informed the Board that Staff was contacted by the Department of Indigent Defense Services for support of the order and that the intent is to increase workforce in the area of public interest law, noting the vacancy rates in the DA's and Public Defense offices across the State. Vince informed the Board that while the deadline for submission of the letter had passed, if approved it would be submitted to the Court and he would present it during public comment at the upcoming hearing. Past President Kirkpatrick expressed concern with putting additional work on the DA's and Vinson clarified that the DA's Association also had an item on their agenda in support of the proposed order. The letter was approved as written on a motion by Past President Kirkpatrick with a second by Vice President Hall.
9. **Update from NACo Public Health Coordinator.** Amy informed the Board that pilot assessment in Douglas County was completed for the Foundation for Public Health Assessments had been completed. She stated that the goal is to have the assessments completed in the remaining 16 counties by June 2024, she also noted that she would be

visiting each county throughout the process and requested a commissioner “champion” within each county to assist the proper gathering of data. She also reminded the Board that the data collected will be presented to the individual Commissions and will inform public health decisions within their communities. Amy informed the Board that the contract for technical needs assistance through the State for the completion of the required Opioid Needs Assessments goes only through December and reminded the Board that the Assessments open counties up for additional funds through the State for Opioid crisis abatements. Amy concluded the item by requesting any Board members with questions to contact her for further information and clarifications. Past President Kirkpatrick noted that it is important for the counties to apply for the funding through the State because the formula was developed to ensure that the counties had access to the funding necessary to address the Opioid crisis.

10. **Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties.** Jacob informed the Board that comments were being developed for the Council on Environmental Quality regarding proposed changes to NEPA and that the comments are being developed in concert with county natural resources staff. He noted that the proposed changes are substantive and a request for extension of the comment period will be submitted. Jacob informed the Board that the Subcommittee will be meeting in October, even though there will not be a Board meeting. Commissioner Tipton inquired about a proposal from a private landowner to make a transfer involving public lands. Commissioner Andreozzi indicated that the proposal is in the first stages of development but that the NDOW does not seem to be supportive. The Board requested that a discussion be had by the Subcommittee to flush out the details prior to bringing it to the Board for further discussion and/or action. President Higbee noted that proposed changes to the grazing regulations to expand multiple use parameters, need to be monitored as the proposed changes could have negative effects on county economies. No action was taken on the item.

11. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he had attended the PILT Fly-In hosted by NACo and that during the event several other items of concern were addressed with the Agencies, including the funding of SRS and the inclusion of an inflation component. He also informed the Board that he would be attending the WIR Board meeting being held the following week. Commissioner Carson inquired about former Commissioner Dahl’s efforts to have PILT funding approved for multiple years. Commissioner Tipton stated that work is being done to have the funding included within the Mandatory Committee’s work instead of under the Discretionary Committees. President Higbee informed the Board that the next meeting of the NACo Board of Directors would be held in Minnesota within the next few months. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their Counties.

12. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned by President Higbee.