

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) Annual Business Meeting

November 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.  
Valley Electric Association, Inc.  
800 E. Hwy 372  
Pahrump, NV 89048

## ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Carson, Vice President Weekly, Past President Wichman, Douglas County Commissioner Johnson, Lander County Commissioner Waits, Humboldt County Commissioner French, Mineral County Commissioner Tipton, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Washoe County Commissioner Lucey, Esmeralda County Commissioner Bates, Elko County Commissioner Dahl, Pershing County Commissioner Irwin, Nye County Commissioner Schinhofen, Storey County Commissioner McGuffey, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, Tammi Davis, Nevada Treasurer's Association and NACO staff; Jeff Fontaine, Dagny Stapleton and Tori Sundheim.

**Other Attendees:** Humboldt County Commissioner Brissenden, Humboldt County Commissioner Cerri, Douglas County Commissioner Thaler, Churchill County Commissioner Erquiaga, Nye County Commissioner Carbone, Dave Mendiola, Humboldt County Administrator; Jeff Page, Lyon County Manager; John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager; Ken Tipton, Humboldt County Commissioner Elect; Anthony Manner, Clark County; Pam Webster, Nye County Manager; Rob Stokes, Elko County Manager; Sheree Stringer, Nye County Assessor and Sarah Adler, USDA Rural Development

1. **Public Comment.** Sarah Adler of USDA Rural Development informed the Board that she will be delivering individual profiles to each county that show what the agency has accomplished in partnership with the counties.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Fierro.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 30, 2015 NACO Membership Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner McGuffey with second by Commissioner French.
4. **President's Report.** President Carson noted that White Pine County did not pass the fuel indexing question, that her Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed Bylaw amendment with a 0.5% cap and noted that she was very appreciative of the previous night's President's reception.
5. **Executive Director's Report.** Jeff thanked President Carson, the NACO officers, members of the Board and staff noting that he is proud of the work accomplished during the year and that without the hard work and support of the Board the accomplishments could not have been made.
6. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Proposed Amendments to NACO's Bylaws.** President Carson reiterated that the item was on her Commission agenda twice and approved the item unanimously with a 0.5% cap. Commissioner Tipton also had the

item on her Commission agenda twice and that the item was approved with a 1% cap. Jeff asked for clarification on the percentage cap and Commissioner Tipton reiterated the cap being set at 1%. Past President Wichman proudly announced that her Board approved the item unanimously with no limiting discussion. Commissioner Olsen informed the Board that Churchill County voted to support the item as presented and feels it is important to financially support the work the Association does on behalf of the Counties. Commissioner French noted that his Commission also voted unanimously to support the amendment with a 0.4% cap. He noted that there will be a discussion on the variation of the caps supported by the individual counties but that he feels the needs of the Association will be met. Commissioner Bates stated that her Commission unanimously supported the item with no cap and Commissioner McGuffey noted that Storey County also unanimously supported the amendment but he feels a cap is important to those counties that use PILT funds for operating expenses. Commissioner Lucey noted that the item had not yet been heard by his Commission but based on the information presented he believes it will be supported in the near future. President Carson inquired as to the Board's comfort with setting a cap, noting that she had heard of some issues without setting a cap and her Board would only go to 0.5%. Commissioner McGuffey reiterated his concerns with the amount of payments some of the counties would be making although with the small amount of federally held lands it would not be much of a difference for Storey County. Commissioner French reminded the Board that when the item was originally discussed the 0.4% cap was introduced because it was felt that it would be adequate to allow for the work needing to be done. He also acknowledged that it is a heavy lift for most of the counties but it is important to support and recognize the work being requested of the Association and the counties dependence on the legwork and litigation being completed; he said that it is important to fund those efforts. President Carson concurred with Commissioner French noting that her Board as well as their Roads Superintendent feel that it is beneficial to have the Association take care of a lot of the related issues. Past President Wichman noted that Nye County lost their public lands and natural resources staff person the same day that Tori was hired and that regardless of the percentage cap that Nye County will still be saving money. Commissioner Irwin noted that the proposal was a good exercise in bringing NACO into focus in all the counties and that being able to highlight the value the NACO staff has brought to the counties. He also noted that it was nice to hear that other Commissioners do understand what the Board and the Association are doing and accomplishing and that Pershing County unanimously supports the amendment. Commissioner Dahl concurred with Commissioner Irwin's statements and noted that Elko is unanimously in favor as well. President Carson called for a motion and Past President Wichman moved to approve the amendment with a cap at 0.5% and Commissioner Lucey seconded the motion. A county by county vote was started and with Washoe, Lyon and Douglas Counties initially abstaining due to the lack of the item being heard by their individual Commissions. Jeff clarified that in his tenure the Board has amended the Bylaws twice and that the bylaws don't require amendments to be taken to the individual Boards for approval. He also noted that regarding this specific amendment he believed it was important to have individual county discussions due to the fiscal impact, but that a Commission vote is not required under the Bylaws. Vice President Weekly concurred with Commissioner Johnson and it is his belief that the Board members have the ability to vote on the item regardless of Commission approval. The final individual county votes are as follows: Humboldt 5 in favor, Mineral 2 in favor one against, Nye 5 in favor, Churchill 3 in favor, Storey 3 in favor, Esmeralda 3 in favor, Washoe 5 in favor, Lyon 5 in favor, Douglas 5 in favor, Lander 1 in favor 4 against, Pershing 3 in favor, Elko 5 in favor, White Pine 5 in favor and Clark 7 in favor. Eureka, Lincoln and Carson City were not represented at the meeting. Dagny tallied the votes and with 14 counties represented there were a total of 62 possible votes, with 57 in favor. President Carson announced the passage of the motion and the amendment and thanked the members of the Board noting that anytime there is a discussion involving money it is a difficult one.

7. **Election of NACO Officers for 2017.** Vice President Weekly, Chair of the Nominating Committee reminded the Board that a request was sent for letters of interest to be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the Committee initially recommended the nomination of Commissioner Lucey for the position, however, it was subsequently discovered that Commissioner Waits had submitted a letter of interest in the allotted time as well so the Committee voided the initial recommendation. He said that both Commissioners are official candidates for the position. Vice President Weekly asked for nominations from the floor, none were given and nominations were closed. Vice President Weekly asked for the candidates to make their presentation to the Board. Commissioner Waits referenced the individual biographies included in the meeting packet and expanded on her comments. Commissioner Waits stated “I want to tell you how exciting a time I think it is not only for public service, but county government. With the changing of the torch we are going to see some really good things coming down all the way from waterways to our overtime rules and hopefully we will be able to change a few things. I couldn't thank NACO enough when I became county commissioner and saw everything they did. Of course the national and state influence, but I don't know how the counties would operate without us. They give us a place at the table; give us an education and webinars. Coming in as civilian politicians, we don't always have the experience that we should have. I can't say enough about our local team and our Nevada NACO. ... I'm really looking forward to helping them in a lot of ways. I sit on one national commission and did have the opportunity to work with Demar Dahl and the Task Force on public lands and that was challenging, but what an excellent job they did. ... I think it's time Lander County stepped up again. We haven't had anyone since 1958. It's time we say we need to give back to NACO with our leadership and skills too. I would appreciate your voting for me to give back to NACO ....” Commissioner Lucey followed Commissioner Waits' comments stating, “I want to thank Patsy for being a willing participant... When this opportunity became available, I jumped at it. As a new commissioner, serving for 2 years, when I got onto the Washoe County Commission Board, every value I shared whether from transportation and infrastructure, healthy communities, solid court reform, all of those initiatives that I brought forward lined up identically with NACO's.... Washoe County is a diverse community. We have some beautiful public lands especially in my district down south and Commissioner Herman's district deserves that balanced approach to everything. I felt that with all NACO has done for me from the moment I got onto this Board, the years of experience; Commissioners Wichman and Tipton took me under their wing at my first National Conference. This has been one of my favorite boards to serve under. This is a rare opportunity for commissioners because of the knowledge that you as a board can bring together. I want to work as the VP of this board...on the issues of Nevada in Washington DC [and] on the issues we have in our counties in Carson City. I have done that this past year as your chair of the Legislative Committee with Commissioner Kirkpatrick. I would ask for your vote here today.” Vice President Weekly noted that a motion was needed and Commissioner Tipton moved that there were two nominees for the 2017 NACO Vice President, Commissioner Waits and Commissioner Lucey. Past President Wichman seconded the motion. Both nominees were excused from the room for deliberations. After much deliberation a vote was taken. Dagny tallied the votes and out of a possible 62 Commissioner Waits was elected the 2017 NACO Vice President by a total of 49-13.
8. **Public Comment.** None was given.

Adjourn