

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 19, 2020

Immediately Following the Annual Business Meeting

*Virtual Attendance Only*

## Adopted Minutes

**ATTENDANCE:** President French, President Elect Kirkpatrick, Vice President Lucey, Past President Waits, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Clark County Commissioner Weekly, Elko County Commissioner Dahl, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Mineral County Commissioner Price, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Storey County Commissioner Gillman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, NACO Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Colby Prout and Amanda Evans)

The meeting was called to order at 10:28 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Vice President Lucey with second by Commissioner Shank.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President French referred to the remarks made during the Annual Business meeting.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny referred to the remarks made during the Annual Business meeting. She also reminded the Board that a meeting for rural Commissioners to meet with Senator Cortez Masto would be held the following day at noon.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the October 23, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Commissioner Shank.
6. **Discussion on December NACO Board Meeting and Proposed NACO Board Meeting Dates for 2021.** Dagny referred to the proposed Board of Directors 2021 calendar that was included in the agenda packet. She recommended that the May meeting be moved from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> because the Memorial Day holiday and the end of the legislative session. She also suggested moving the January meeting from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> as it is scheduled for Clark County and their offices are closed on Fridays. She also noted that the January meeting is proposed for the 4<sup>th</sup> week instead of the 5<sup>th</sup> week due the expected start of the Legislative Session. Past President Waits stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> is Lander County's regularly scheduled Commission meeting and it was decided that holding the July meeting in Clark County would accommodate all counties as it is a 5<sup>th</sup> week meeting and after the close of the Legislative Session. Staff was directed to make the changes to the proposed calendar and bring it back to the Board for final approval in December. Dagny also inquired as to the Board's desire to possibly meet in person in December. An afternoon meeting with a Board dinner following was discussed. All members of the Board wish to meet in person but noted the limitations in place and uncertainty due to the pandemic. Staff was directed to monitor

the situation and if possible make arrangements for an in person meeting if it could be conducted safely and within the parameters set forth by the State at that time. No action was taken.

**7. Nomination and Possible Approval of NACO's Two Appointments to the National Association of Counties Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board of Directors.**

President French gave an overview of WIR, its importance as part of the National Association of Counties (NACo) policy platform at the national level, and reminded the group that he and Commissioner Dahl have served on that Board for some time. He informed the Board that he would like to continue serving on the WIR Board, but that Commissioner Dahl would be terming out in January and would no longer be eligible to serve. Commissioner Dahl nominated President French and Elko County Commissioner Steninger for appointment to the WIR Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Past President Waits; the motion passed unanimously.

**8. Update on County Long Term Care Medicaid Match Contracts and Assessment Bills.**

Dagny gave the Board a brief history of the contracts and assessments, noting that these assessments are the largest of any that counties receive from the State. She reminded the Board of the actuarial study completed earlier in the year that showed the assessments will increase dramatically over time. Dagny also reminded the Board of the actions taken by the Board for the Fund for Accident Care to Indigent Persons (IAF) to help support counties in the payment of those bills. She informed the Board that all 17 counties must participate in the program in order to pull federal dollars into the program. The State is currently working on the contracts which will be negotiated with the counties and a roundtable with Medicaid is being scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the assessments. Dagny also informed the Board that issues with some bills the counties have received being more than the contract amount had been elevated to the Director of the department. Dagny shared that the FY22/23 projected assessments should be shared soon and reminded that they must be approved by the Legislature. No action was taken.

**9. Update on NACO BDRs and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties Leading into the 2021 Session of the Nevada Legislature.**

Legislative Subcommittee Chair, Vice President Lucey informed the Board that a discussion on property tax reforms would be taking place later that afternoon. Vinson informed the Board that staff is continuing to monitor Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) and are actively watching the development of the State's budget, noting the recent request by the Governor for all departments to reduce their budget requests by 12% due to COVID-19 repercussions and the uncertainty of future economic impacts. He informed the Board that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will be December 4<sup>th</sup> and all Commissioners are welcome to participate. Vinson also reminded the Board that the group meets weekly during session. Chair Lucey noted the group is identifying the new members of the Legislature and that with no super majority in power there will be much more room for negotiation. He stressed the importance of strengthening relationships with returning Legislators and the development of relationships with new members, as well as educating them on the duties and importance of the counties. Chair Lucey also informed the Board that Legislative Leadership is currently determining the membership on committees and what the session will look like due to the pandemic. President French inquired as to what individual Commissioners and the 17 Boards can do to assist, and Chair Lucey noted that is important for them to participate as much as possible. Dagny concluded the item by reiterating the importance of member participation on the Legislative Subcommittee. She also informed the Board that due to the 12% budget cuts the Community Health Nurse

Program in the rural counties could be cut and that she and rural county representatives would be participating in a call on the issue the following day. No action was taken

**10. Update and Possible Action Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands Issues Affecting Counties Including:**

- a. Updates from the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Colby informed the Board that the Subcommittee had held substantive discussion on several items but took no action. The Subcommittee discussed legislation proposed by Elko County, and the lawsuit surrounding the Bi-State Sage Grouse listing decision. He requested that any issues regarding broadband connectivity be brought to his attention. Colby also informed the Board that the Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP) is moving forward with the inclusion of an outdoor recreation component. Colby concluded the item by informing the Board that the State Water Engineer had extended the deadline for the submission of testimony on the proposed orders regarding hydrographic basins in the State to December 1. No action was taken.
- 11. NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Waits commented on the success of the few workshops that were able to be held during the year due to the pandemic, as well as the well-attended Newly Elected Officials training held in conjunction with the Annual Conference earlier in the week. Vinson informed the Board that the New Commissioners Handbook update is complete and that the Handbook will be distributed to all newly elected Commissioners. He thanked Past President Waits for her leadership and reiterated that the feedback received regarding the training was positive. Vinson concluded the item by reminding the Board that the Committee is Chaired each year by the Immediate Past President, making the next leader of the group President French.
- 12. National Association of Counties Board Member Updates.** Dagny informed the Board that Commissioner Higbee could not attend the meeting due to a family emergency, but that he had requested she inform the Board that there is a meeting coming up and he will have a report at the next meeting.
- 13. Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.** Commissioner Dahl also informed the Board that there is an upcoming meeting of the WIR and agenda items include election information, vaccine distribution, the transition from the Trump to the Biden administration and updates on public lands issues and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments and the distribution formula. No Policy Steering Committee updates were given.
- 14. NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their communities
- 15. Public Comment.** Amanda thanked the Board for their support of and participation in the virtual annual conference that week. She also informed the Board that recordings of all educational sessions as well as copies of all presentations given would be posted on the NACO website. Commissioner Keyes informed the Board that, after months as the only County with no COVID-19 cases Esmeralda County had recently had their first diagnosis. Commissioner Wichman stated that after all her years as a Commissioner and member of the NACO Board she will greatly miss the members and group when she terms out in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.