

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 26th, 9:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Kirkpatrick, President Elect Lucey, Vice President Higbee, Past President French, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Clark County Commissioner Jones, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lander County Commissioner Waits, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Nye County Commissioner Strickland, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, White Pine County Commissioner Godon and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Colby Prout, Amanda Evans and David Longo).

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Nate Helton from Senator Rosen's staff addressed the Board and informed them that the Senator is looking forward to the meeting scheduled for March 9th to discuss the Association's 2021 federal policy priorities.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Kirkpatrick noted that she is still mainly focused on COVID-19 related tasks and that she is working on the inclusion of county representatives on the health authority calls with the Governor's Office to ensure that counties can fully participate in the planning process for the return to local control scheduled for May. President Kirkpatrick also expressed the desire to have the meeting conclude in time for the group to be able to view the Governor's scheduled roundtable on the proposed Innovation Zones later in the day.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny informed the Board that the 2021 NACO Annual Directory update had been completed and copies had been sent to all 17 counties, a digital copy can also be found on the Association website. She informed the Board that the Opioid lawsuits are beginning to settle and that millions of dollars will be filtering into the states and counties. She recommended that all counties who filed suits reach out to their attorneys and ask about settlement negotiations. It was also recommended that discussions be had with the Attorney General's office on distribution formulas for the counties share of any dollars coming to the State. She also informed the Board that NACO would be happy to help set up any necessary meetings. President Kirkpatrick note that counties should receive the most dollars because it is mainly a local issue and that larger conversations on the issue would be necessary. Dagny also discussed the Governor's recent announcements on the easing of restrictions surrounding COVID-19. Dagny concluded her remarks by introducing the Association's Legislative Intern, David Longo.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the January 22, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Gibson.
6. **Presentation and approval of NACO's Unaudited Year End 2020 Financials, and January 2021 Financials.** Dagny gave an overview of the information included in the

agenda packet and informed the Board that overall, the Association expenses remained under budget for the year. She also noted that some line-item expenses were over and some under and that was mainly due to COVID-19 related savings and expenses. Fiscal Officer Kalt noted that the Actuarial Study was an unusual item that the Board might not seem familiar with on the Financial reports and informed them that the investment income was also higher than expected. Fiscal Officer Kalt concluded his remarks by noting that the Association is in good financial standing. The financial reports were approved on a motion by Supervisor Giomi.

7. **Final Approval of NACO's Federal Policy Priorities for 2021.** Dagny reminded the Board that a draft of the document was brought before the Board in January and it had been changed to reflect their comments during that meeting. It was noted that the changes to the January draft were highlighted in yellow and that the document will be presented to the Delegation to be discussed during upcoming meetings. President Kirkpatrick noted that she would like a breakdown of what exactly what is in the upcoming pandemic relief bill during those meetings. The Association's 2021 Federal Policy Priorities were approved on a motion by Commissioner Goicoechea.
8. **Discussion Regarding the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference, and Virtual Meetings Between NACO Representatives and Nevada's Federal Delegation.** Dagny gave the Board an overview of the event, specifically noting that it is being held virtually due to pandemic restrictions. She encouraged all Commissioners and interested staff to attend this year as registration is free. She then informed the Board that staff had worked out the free registration for all 17 Nevada counties with NACo and due to savings realized because of lack of travel expenses that NACO had paid the group registration fee. Vinson reminded the Board that they had approved the scheduling of meetings with the delegation for the 9th and 10th of March. He continued by letting the Board know that he had been working with Delegation staff and meetings had been scheduled with Senator Rosen on the 9th and Congressman Amodei and Congresswoman Titus for the 10th, with further meetings in the works based upon the individual schedules of the Congress members. He requested that the Board email him with their county's official representative by the following Monday, so that coordination on individual talking points could be held. Commissioner Andreozzi inquired as to how the meetings would be held, and Vinson informed him that most of the meetings would be taking place over Zoom, but information would be distributed to the attendee list once all meetings had been scheduled. President Kirkpatrick noted that it would be important to have a telephone option available as well. No action was taken on the item.
9. **Update on the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care for Indigent Persons (IAF), Including Board Approved IAF Distributions to Counties for FY21 and FY22 to Pay a Portion of Counties' Assessments for the Nonfederal Share of Expenditures for Long-Term Care Pursuant to the State Plan for Medicaid.** Dagny gave the group a brief overview of the Board and the Fund, noting that Past President French is the Chair of that Board. She informed the Board that a meeting had taken place earlier in February where that Board approved the portion of the Fund that can be used to help counties pay for the above noted assessments. She informed the group that the allocation for FY22 is \$18 million to be shared across all 17 counties. She also informed the Board that the payments for FY21 had gone out from the State the previous week. Dagny reminded the Board that the payments must be used against the assessments, but that would free up dollars for use on other indigent programs, she also reminded the Board that the distribution was based on the percentage of assessments paid by each county. Dagny concluded the discussion by acknowledging her predecessor, Jeff Fontaine, and all the work that he had done over the

years to return some of the dollars to counties, finally coming to fruition. The item was approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with second by Vice President Higbee.

- 10. Presentation on the High Performance Leadership Academy (HPLA), and Possible Approval of a Partnership Between NACO and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to promote HPLA to Nevada's Counties, Dr. Tim Rahschulte, CEO, Professional Development Academy.** Dr. Rahschulte gave the Board an overview of the program, noting that to date, 11 Nevada counties and 2/3's of counties nationwide had participated in the program, with \$4 Million in total scholarships having been awarded to County Commissioners and staff. He discussed the mission of the program, which is to support the most challenging aspects of county work and recognized that strong leadership is vital to county functions. Dr. Rahschulte reminded the Board that the Academy's partnership with NACo had occurred in 2018 and in that year, it had become one of NACo's 'Signature Projects'. He informed the Board that there were over 1,000 registrants in the January Cohort, and the Academy has a 98% graduation rate. It was also noted that Dagny had completed the Academy in November in a Co-hort specific to State Association Executives. Brandon Natsuhara informed the Board that the Academy would like to extend their commitment with NACO by offering a master services agreement with NACO which would include a cost share of all registration fees from Nevada enrollees to the Association. Dagny thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and stated that it was a genuinely great program. She informed the Board that Vinson had also completed the program and reiterated that the program is available to all county commissioners and staff. Dagny further explained that under the proposed master services agreement, included in the agenda packet, NACO would receive dollars for all Nevada registrations in return for adhering to the contract's promotional services agreement. It was further discussed that the Academy would help with all enrollment procedures and that Dagny would distribute additional information on the Program to those interested. Commissioner Strickland inquired as to 'return on investment' and the time commitment of those enrolled. Dr. Rahschulte explained that it is a 12-week program and that about four hours a week is the expected time commitment, offering an example calendar to be included in additional information distributed by Dagny. It was also noted that corporate enrollees in the program pay a retail price of \$2,000 but that county enrollees receive a scholarship of \$850 due to their partnership with NACO to help buffer the costs. The item was concluded by informing the Board that the program is also accredited through multiple professional organizations and participants are awarded Continuing Education Unit credits. The execution of the master services agreement was approved on a motion by President Elect Lucey with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.
- 11. Presentation from the University of Nevada Extension and UNR College of Education and Human Development - Nevada Stakeholder Perceptions of Youth Educational and Mental Health Needs during the Pandemic, Carrie Stark, State 4-H Youth Development Director, Extension & Bill Evans, Professor in the College of Education & Human Development & Extension Specialist.** Dr. Ivory Lyles, Director of Extension thanked the Board for the opportunity to give the presentation, reminding them of a conversation held at a meeting of the Board earlier in the year regarding the needs of children as the pandemic progressed. He informed the Board that this conversation was the impetus for the partnership between Extension, the College of Education and the State Department of Education that resulted in the day's presentation. Ms. Stark gave an overview of the partnership and the program, including the development of the survey conducted. Mr. Evans then gave an overview of the survey results, noting that survey had 55 questions, over 1,300 surveys were returned and that 2,000 answers to open ended questions had been received. Ms. Stark and Mr. Evans concluded their presentation by discussing the next

steps in the process, the dissemination of the findings of the surveys and work being done with partners to make future informed decisions on education delivery. They noted that 37 programs to support children had been submitted to the stakeholders by different agencies. A list of these programs will be included in the final report, and they are still looking for additional resources.

12. Update on NACO Bills and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties Leading in the 2021 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Dagny informed the Board that the deadline for bill introduction, the first of the Session, is on March 15th and that of the over 1,000 BDRs submitted only 300 bills had been released. She noted that this will make for a busy next few weeks and that the Legislative Committee and staff would be busy reviewing all new bills released for any affect of counties. Dagny informed the Board that the Association's property tax bill had yet to be scheduled for a hearing, but, that staff would continue outreach in the hopes it will receive a hearing. The Board was informed that a collaborative effort is occurring with counties across the state to develop language for an amendment to AB33, the Associations bill regarding the method for determining paternity. It was noted that both AB1 (education for legislators on local governments) and AB2 had been presented in committee. The Board was informed that there was a lot of conversation and questions during the hearing on AB2, and an amendment will be proposed to limit the number of Governor appointed Boards and individual may serve on to three. Past President French inquired as if there had been any discussion on social justice in the appointments. Vinson noted that it is part of the conversation, but he has addressed those questions by noting that qualifications for service on those Boards is very important, especially for underserved communities. Commissioner Gardner noted that he could see both sides to the issue and that the amendment makes sense. Vinson then expanded the conversation on AB1, noting that the hearing went well, and the Speaker's comments were helpful. Dagny referred the Board to the Bill Tracker and informed them that the Public Lands and Natural Resources committee had discussed the recently released AJR3 the previous day. Colby explained that the resolution expresses support for President Biden's Executive Order (EO) to encourage conservation of 30% of the country's land and water resources by 2030. He further noted that the resolution urges both state and local governments to cooperate with the federal government to meet that goal. It was noted that the resolution would have political support and will move quickly for the legislature. Colby suggested a course of action could be to advocate for ensuring there is a local voice in those decisions. Past President French inquired as to how the EO dovetails with Federal Land Planning Management Act (FLPMA) and Colby was unsure because no details had been released from Washington on the execution of that plan. President Kirkpatrick noted that often resolutions are put forth to avoid additional legislation, and that testifying in neutral and encouraging local involvement in the decision-making process is probably the best way to go. Commissioner Gardner inquired why SB98 regarding the inclusion of Storey County into the Carson Water Sub-conservancy District was labeled as monitor instead of support, as the counties involved, and the District, support the measure. Dagny explained that it was labeled as monitor to make sure it was elevated to the Association's attention but that they had yet to be asked for support for the measure. She noted that while it is specific to only a few counties if the Board approved support they would be happy to do so. Vice President Higbee noted that he did not want the resolution going forward to DC, noting that Lincoln County has an extremely limited tax base because of the amount of federal land it already contains. Commissioner Goicoechea expressed support for SB98 and noted the need to be selective in which battles the Association chooses to take at the Legislature. He expressed the need to work on the language within the resolution and work toward the inclusion of local involvement, the lands staying on the tax rolls and other items of county importance. Commissioner Strickland noted agreement with Vice President Higbee. President

Kirkpatrick suggested looking back to AB226 from a previous session for amendment language, Vice President Higbee also encouraged the inclusion of language on following the individual county master plans. The Board approved support for AB98 and directed staff to reach out to the sponsors of ACR3 and share the county concerns on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Vice President Higbee.

13. 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 discussed various Executive Orders related to public lands, the National Environmental Protection Act, and the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule. He informed the group that comments on the Forest Service Handbook and Manual were due April 17th. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was also discussed but it was decided that there was no need for the submission of comments. Colby noted that the group also discussed bills at the legislature that could affect public lands and natural resources. A letter restating the Association's position on wild horse and burro issues was discussed as was the recent decision in federal court in Idaho regarding greater sage grouse that stated that the Trump administration's decision to lift the ban on mining in sage grouse habitat was unlawful and remanded back to the BLM for review. Committee Chair Higbee also informed the Board that the Committee is recommending support for SB77, which will allow discussion in closed session of items relating to projects where counties have signed nondisclosure agreements with federal agencies. Chair Higbee also stated that he has concerns with bills submitted by the State Board of Agriculture, noting that he sits on that Board and they had not been offered the opportunity to review them, requesting that Colby track those bills for future review and discussion. President Kirkpatrick noted that Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County's Natural Resources Manager, was working with Clark County on language for an amendment to SB77. Commissioner Goicoechea thanked Dagny and Jake, for the work they were doing on the SB77 amendment language and expressed hope that it would move forward. No action was taken.
- 14. NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson informed the Board that the 2021 membership of the committee had been finalized and read the list of members included in the agenda materials into the record.
- 15. National Association of Counties Board Member Updates.** President Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she had been working on the proposed COVID relief legislation and that she had been successful in having the distribution model adjusted to ensure more funds go to counties. She concluded the item by encouraging the Board contact their Delegation members to further support direct allocations to counties.
- 16. Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.** Past President French informed the Board that recent discussions at WIR included the movement for removal of Trump Administration EO's that may affect current policy, a bill for a one-million-acre buffer zone around the Grand Canyon in the form of a Wilderness Area, and herbicide policy on public lands. Vice President Higbee noted that the Rural Action Caucus (RAC) is looking for members and encouraged participation as most of the caucus members are from the Midwest and East.

17. **NACO Board Member Updates.** The Board members gave updates on activities within their counties.

18. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Goicoechea informed the Board that his fellow Eureka County Commissioner, Michael Sharkozy's wife passed away earlier in the week. Mr. Helton informed the Board that he had made notes on all discussions related to the Delegation and that he would discuss their concerns with Senator Rosen.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.