

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 13, 2022, 9:30am

NACO Offices

304 South Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Lucey, President Elect Higbee, Vice President Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Humboldt County Commissioner French, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Nye County Commissioner Strickland, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, White Pine County Commissioner Carson and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Taylor Allison, Jacob Brinkerhoff, and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Commissioner French.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Lucey remarked on the ongoing county budget process and informed the Board that he and Vinson met with Erika Olsen from On Strategy to begin work on the details of the Board approved strategic planning session to be held later in the year. He also spoke about the upcoming elections and legislative session encouraging participation on the NACO Legislative Committee, reminding the Board of the significant role the Association plays in the legislative process.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that staff would be embarking on a county tour over the summer to address individual commissions on the work and advocacy the Association provides on their behalf. He then spoke about the upcoming NACO Western Interstate Region (WIR) conference and gave an overview of the event.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the April 22, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner French with second by Commissioner Lister.
6. **Discussion and Approval of June NACO Board Meeting Format and Possible Date Change.** Vinson referred to the approved Board meeting schedule included in the agenda packet and reminded the Board that they had approved conducting the June meeting in a rural eastern county, noting that White Pine County is able and happy to host the meeting. He then informed the Board that the previously approved meeting date of June 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day for counties to canvas the primary election and suggested choosing an alternate date to conduct the meeting. June 17<sup>th</sup> was discussed as an alternate date, but it was

discovered that the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority was scheduled to meet that day and that multiple Board members also serve on that body. Hosting the meeting on July 1 was then discussed as a possibility for conducting a combined meeting for the months of June and July. Commissioner Carson noted that the county would support any decision made by the Board. The Board voted to cancel the June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> meetings and to host a combined meeting in White Pine County on July 1<sup>st</sup> on a motion by Commissioner French with second by Commissioner Steninger.

7. **Discussion and Possible Approval for NACO Staff to Draft a Letter to the Office of the Governor Regarding State of Nevada Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 Budgets, Respectively, Including Potential Impacts to Counties.** Vinson reminded the Board that the State is in the process of drafting the 2023/2024 budget and that the Association has traditionally sent a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the State's partnership with counties and how its budget impacts counties. President Elect Higbee clarified that the meeting was regarding the State's budget, not the individual county budgets and Commissioner French inquired as to who would attend the meeting. Vinson noted that the meeting is traditionally attended by staff and that in years past county fiscal officers have been included. Commissioner French then offered to have Humboldt County request their Fiscal Officer, Gina Rackley attend the meeting. The letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner French with second by Commissioner Steninger.
8. **Update on Previously Discussed NACO Strategic Planning Session for 2022.** Vinson noted that as President Lucey had mentioned in his report, the planning for the Session had begun. He informed the Board that Ms. Olsen has worked with several local governments and that any contract proposed would be brought to the Board for approval. He then informed the Board that a draft agenda would be brought before the Board in August and the final agenda would be provided in September for the Board's approval. Commissioner Hartung informed the Board that Washoe County uses Ms. Olsen for all their planning sessions and that she has an amazing team that will serve the Board well.
9. **Possible Approval of Pinyon Public Affairs as a NACO Associate Member.** Pinyon Public Affairs Associate Membership was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lister with second by Commissioner French.
10. **Presentation by The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Including, Programs Providing Technical and Financial Assistance to Nevada's Counties, Jose Rosado, State Conservation Engineer.** Mr. Rosado gave an overview of the watershed program, and the ways that NRCS can assist counties with funding for projects. The types of projects discussed included structural rehabilitation, emergency watershed protection, and watershed and flood prevention operations. He also informed the Board of how the funding is distributed and discussed the eligibility criteria. Mr. Rosado concluded his presentation with information on additional funding provided to NRCS through the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and encouraged members of the Board to reach out to their local or regional offices and himself with questions or assistance on submitting projects for funding. Commissioner Carson inquired as to if WOTUS would be a factor for proposed projects and if mitigation of invasive species was an allowable project. Mr. Rosado stated that all factors would be addressed in the planning and NEPA phases and that NRCS would consult with all applicable agencies during those processes. Commissioner Lister inquired as to how marijuana cultivation was being addressed, specifically inquiring about project approvals for a county that allows the cultivation as a project sponsor. Mr. Rosado informed the Board that they had not been given clear direction by the USDA regarding that issue. Vinson inquired as to how projects are being solicited and Mr. Rosado stated that presentations like

the one given, and word of mouth are the current methods. However, he informed the Board that Chris Rose had recently been hired to help with program outreach. Vinson requested a list of counties that haven't previously been awarded projects and Mr. Rosado stated that he would provide a list of currently funded projects and would work toward providing Vinson with the requested historical data. President Elect Higbee concluded the discussion by noting flooding issues in Lincoln County and inquired as to if townships are allowed program sponsors, to which Mr. Rosado stated that towns and townships are included within the program.

11. **Discussion and Possible Approval for NACO Staff to Send a Letter to the Offices of Nevada Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen Supporting the Extension of Federal Private Health Insurance Subsidies for Individuals.** Vinson drew the Board's attention to a draft letter included in the agenda packet. He noted that with ARPA expansion of the subsidies that Medicaid enrollment had dropped and that counties, as the social safety net, had seen reduced match requirements due to lower enrollment. He also noted that without the extension of the federal subsidies that Medicaid enrollment would increase. Commissioner Lister inquired as to if NACO has an existing policy regarding the issue. Vinson stated that there is not an adopted policy, but the Board has supported individual insurance coverage in the past. The Board expressed concern with supporting federal subsidies and how that could expand in the future and inquired as to how the item came to be on the agenda. Vinson informed the Board that it was at the request of a national group. No action was taken on the item.
12. **Approval of NACO Resolution 22-02 Recognizing May 2022 as Older Americans Month.** Vinson read the resolution into the record and Commissioner Lister pointed out a typo within the document. The resolution was approved as corrected on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Commissioner Hartung.
13. **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 discussed the upcoming WIR conference, received an update on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, discussed Smart from the Start, greenlink meetings, and SLUPAC. The group also discussed upcoming Bi-State Sage grouse local area working group meetings and proposed additions to the endangered species list, the proposed withdrawals for the Fallon Naval Air Station, wild horses and burros and a recent meeting with Cheva Gabor from the Forest Service regarding shared stewardship of public lands.
14. **NACO Legislative Committee Update.** Jennifer thanked President Lucey for his encouragement of participation on the Committee, noting that the group's next meeting was that day at 2:00 p.m. She then gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting. President Elect Higbee brought up a proposed bill at the national level that would put the onus for proving ownership of RS2477 roads on the federal agencies. Commissioner French inquired as to who would provide the timeline, and it was clarified that the state legislatures would need to pass legislation governing the timing of the proof of ownership. Commissioner Lister concluded the item by informing the Board that the lobbying team for the bill would be requesting financial support.
15. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson informed the Board that the Committee had met on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the next workshop would be related to public lands, noting that more information would be brought to the Board. President Elect Higbee inquired about

new commissioner training and Vinson stated that it is a major priority of the Committee and that the newly formed County Manager Committee had taken an interest in the issue. He concluded the item by informing the Board that newly elected commissioner training would be a stand-alone event.

16. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** President Elect Higbee informed the Board that most of the discussion at the National Board had been around guidelines for the distribution and spending of federal pandemic aid dollars. Commissioners French and Steninger stated that they would have an update following the WIR conference later in the month. Board members also gave updates on activities within their individual counties.

17. **Public Comment.** Chris Rose introduced himself to the Board as the Partnership Coordinator for NRCS and encouraged the members to reach out to him with questions or for project support. Holly Gatske from Cooperative Extension informed the Board that the search for the new Director is ongoing as is the filling of positions in the northern areas. Taylor thanked the Board for sending her the contacts for the local needs assessments and informed them that she would be reaching out regarding next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.