

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 25, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

*Physical Location for Board Members Only:*

*Clark County Fire Department – Station 18*

*575 E. Flamingo Rd.*

*Las Vegas, NV 89119*

### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:**

The State of Nevada is currently in a declared State of Emergency in response to the global pandemic caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). In accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, which has suspended the provisions of NRS 241.020 requiring the designation of a physical location for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate, public meetings of the Nevada Association of Counties will NOT have a physical location open to the public until such time this Directive is removed.

The public may provide public comment in advance of a meeting by written submission to the following email address: [info@nvnaco.org](mailto:info@nvnaco.org) For inclusion or reference in the minutes of the meeting, your public comment must include your full name and be submitted via email by not later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

*The public may also join the meeting via telephone and provide verbal public comment during designated times by calling: (312) 584-2401*

### **AGENDA**

NACO Board members may attend via phone or video from other locations. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order. The NACO Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The NACO Board may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes.
2. Approval of Agenda. **For Possible Action**
3. NACO President's Report.
4. NACO Executive Director's Report.
5. Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meetings. **For Possible Action**
6. Discussion and Possible Approval of One NACO Nominee to the Nevada Board on Indigent Defense Services. **For Possible Action**
7. Discussion and Update Regarding NACO's 2020 Annual Conference. **For Possible Action**
8. Approval of Additional NACO 2020 Associate Members. **For Possible Action**

9. Update on the Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change (2019-22), Brad Crowell, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
10. Presentation and Update from the University of Nevada Extension, Director Ivory Lyles.
11. Discussion on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Related County Activities. **For Possible Action**
12. **Update and Possible Action** Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands Issues Affecting Counties Including:
  - a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee
  - b. NACO Draft Comments on the Department of the Interior's Invasive Species Strategic Plan
  - c. Discussion of Presentation to the Nevada Legislature's Interim Committee on Public Lands by the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands Concerning Wild Horses and Burros
13. NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.
14. National Association of Counties Board Member Updates.
15. Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.
16. NACO Board Member Updates.
17. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes.

Adjournment.

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify NACO in writing at 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703, or by calling (775) 883-7863 at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can request copies of the supporting material for the meeting by contacting Amanda Evans at (775) 883-7863. Supporting material will be available at the NACO office and on the NACO website at: [www.nvnaco.org](http://www.nvnaco.org)

*This agenda was posted at the following locations:*

NACO Office 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703

Washoe County Admin. Building 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89520

Elko County Manager's Office 540 Court Street #101, Elko NV 89801

POOL/PACT 201 S. Roop Street, Carson City, NV 89701

**NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)**

Board of Directors' Meeting

August 28, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Physical Location for Board Members:

Carson City Community Center – Sierra Room

851 E. William St.

Carson City, NV 89701

**UNADOPTED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** President French, Vice President Lucey, Past President Waits, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lander County Commissioner Clark, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, 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 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Associate Member Denise Castle, Executive Director of JOIN Inc., informed the Board that she was available to support any discussion on workforce needs pursuant to agenda item 11.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Commissioner Higbee.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President French thanked the members of the Board who were able to attend in person, noting it was the first attempt by the NACO Board to meet in person since the pandemic began. He discussed the challenges being faced in Humboldt County related to the pandemic and encouraged the members of the Board to remain vigilant in monitoring the actions and policies of the Department of the Interior, especially as they related to invasive species and wildfire.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny announced that letters of interest for the Association's Vice-Presidential position were being accepted and encouraged any Commissioner from across the State interested in serving to send letters to herself or Amanda. She reminded the group that the Vice President elected in November would ascend to the office of President in 2023. She discussed the information included in the agenda packet on the COVID-19 tracing app, including the fact that the information collected is completely anonymous. She reminded the Board of the climate change policy presentation they received in July and distributed additional information on the dates and times of the listening sessions that would be held regarding the Nevada State Climate Strategy. Dagny concluded her remarks by announcing that the Small Business Grant Program, being conducted by Douglas, Elko, Lincoln, Lyon, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe and White Pine Counties, application process would open on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the June 26, 2020 and July 31, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meetings.** The June 26, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Higbee

with second by Commissioner Wichman. The July 31, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with second by Commissioner Higbee.

6. **Discussion of Next NACO Board Meeting Date and Location.** Dagny reminded the Board that, per the approved 2020 Association calendar, the September meeting was scheduled to be held in Clark County. She informed the Board that the County is no longer open on Fridays, and that either the meeting would need to be moved to Thursday to be held at the Government Center, or that an alternative location would need to be found. She also informed the Board that to accommodate staff travel, the time of the meeting would also need to be changed due to revised flight schedules from Reno to Las Vegas. Due to regular Commission meetings the Board was not open to changing the date, and Supervisor Giomi and Commissioner Higbee suggested asking the cities if they could accommodate the group. Other alternative meeting locations suggested by the Board were meeting rooms at the airport or possibly through the fire department. Dagny noted that staff would investigate alternative locations for the meeting and the time of the meeting was changed to noon by consensus of the Board.
7. **Discussion Regarding NACO's 2020 Annual Conference.** Dagny reminded the Board that the conference is scheduled for November 17-19 and that a conversation was had with Churchill County regarding the event. Based on that conversation and current directives related to the Coronavirus pandemic, Dagny informed the Board that staff's recommendation is to host the event virtually this year. She informed the Board that staff had found a virtual app that would allow for Zoom workshops, virtual Board and Annual Business meetings, and still allow for attendee networking as well as sponsor engagement. She also explained that the schedule would be pared down and ceremonial traditions would be conducted during the Annual Business Meeting. Supervisor Giomi suggested polling for interest in a virtual event and President French noted that the groups options are limited and stressed the need to conduct the Annual Business Meeting at the minimum. Dagny informed the group that sponsors are still willing to participate in a virtual event and noted that the conference is an important revenue stream for the Association. She also informed the Board that staff had conversed with other state associations and that successful virtual events had been hosted by sister organizations. Commissioner Olsen said that while Churchill County would participate in a virtual event, they would like to roll their hosting duties to 2021. Commissioner Hartung noted that it is important for the group to follow the current directives and that he liked the idea of virtual workshops because of the ability for screen sharing etc. that would maintain the integrity that attendees are used to for the educational sessions. President French inquired as to staff capacity to conduct the event virtually and Amanda stated that she was comfortable moving forward in that direction. Dagny reminded the group that they had approved Churchill County to host in 2020 and Storey County to host in 2021. Amanda assured the Board that she had spoken to Storey County and they were ok with rolling their hosting of the event to 2022 so that Churchill County could host in 2021. The Board approved the virtual hosting of the 2020 Annual Conference, Churchill County hosting the event in 2021 and Storey County hosting in 2022 on a motion by Commissioner Olsen with second by Supervisor Giomi.
8. **Presentation of NACO's 2019 Financial Audit, Michael Bertrand, Bertrand and Associates, LLC.** Fiscal Officer Kalt noted that while there was a slight dip in revenues, they were made up for in approximately \$50,000 in budgeted expenses that were not realized. He also noted that the audit is completed so far into the year because of the release of pertinent PERS information. He informed the Board that the transfer of investment brokers was smooth and that additional funds were realized during that process as well. Mr. Bertrand referred to the footnote on the investment reports included in the backup

materials. He also discussed the findings included in the official report, noting that they were insignificant and only consisted of the reclassification of a couple of expense items. Mr. Bertrand informed the Board that the GASB actuary was not needed for this audit but may be necessary in the future. He concluded his report by informing the Board that the Association is running well and in a good financial position. Dagny thanked Mr. Bertrand and Fiscal Officer Kalt for their assistance and diligence in working with her. She also informed the Board that staff would continue to work on finding ways to ensure the most savings possible while still running efficient operations. President French thanked the gentlemen and staff for ensuring the strong position of the Association.

9. **Approval of Additional NACO 2020 Associate Members.** The Associate Membership of the Western Nevada Development District was approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Supervisor Giomi.
10. **Legislative Update Including Discussion on Possible NACO Bill Draft Requests (BDR) for the 2021 Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Vinson reminded the Board that they had approved two BDRs in July, one for property tax reforms and one that would allow the appointment of a person to more than one Gubernatorial appointed Board. Vinson then outlined two additional proposals for the Board's consideration. The first would place local government training for legislators into Statute. He noted that the Association could partner with the League of Cities and the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) to provide the training. President French inquired if the idea had been discussed with legislators and it was clarified that there is already statutorily required training for new legislators and that the proposal would be to add material to the existing curriculum. Supervisor Giomi stated that he supports the idea, noting the tremendous growth in Clark County and the fact that most legislators come from there. He also referenced the broad scope of decisions made at the legislature with sometimes narrow knowledge bases, noting that the training would help create better legislators which is always a win. Commissioner Higbee agreed with the statements by Supervisor Giomi and Dagny informed the Board that it is something that the Association had been working on for years, including planning a rural tour for legislators over the summer that had to be canceled due to COVID-19. The proposed BDR was approved on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by Commissioner Higbee, with Commissioner Clark the sole nay vote. The second proposed BDR was presented by Dagny and would clarify the process for establishing paternity. She reminded the Board of their previous conversation on the issue, noting that the current statute is unclear and therefore left up to interpretation within the court system. This current lack of clarity has resulted, in some counties, in lengthening the adoption process, leaving children within the system in limbo and impacting county budgets. President French inquired whether there had been language drafted and Dagny informed the Board that a group has been working on it. She noted that the District Attorneys and the Legislative subcommittee are in favor of the proposal. The BDR proposal was approved on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Commissioner Higbee.
11. **Discussion on COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts and County Needs.** Dagny reminded the Board that the item is a standing agenda item to facilitate discussion and provide additional information. She referred to the back up materials on the taskforce process, noting the Local Empowerment Advisory Council (LEAP) Committee's participation in developing the risk measures and mitigation strategies. Past President Waits informed the group that Lander County refused the CARES Act dollars from the State because of the Governor's conditions but was still encouraging citizens to abide by the Governor's Directives. She ended her remarks by inquiring if any of the other counties had refused the dollars. Commissioner Lister noted that Lincoln County had concerns with the language in the agreement as did

their legal counsel, but that ultimately accepted the dollars after Dagny provided them with the Federal Treasury Guidance that stated that the States could not place additional restrictions on the funds. President French noted that the enforcement of the Governor's directives was being conducted by OSHA with warning letters being sent prior to fines being issued. Commissioner Olsen expressed frustration with the way the positive counts are being determined, noting that the same people were being counted multiple times. He noted that the County had requested that the Covid-19 Mitigation and Management Taskforce (taskforce) acknowledge that the speed with which the state lab was turning out test results was poor. The Commissioner noted that Churchill County had used CARES Act dollars to help facilitate day care and virtual learning. He also noted that they had conducted two testing events in 7 days. President French noted that Humboldt County had determined "hot spots" of positivity through contact tracing and that with the use of rapid tests they had been able to effectively manage their infection rate. He also noted the issue of positives on sovereign nations being counted against the counties when they have no authority over enforcement or governance in those communities. He concluded his remarks by noting that they were considering using effluent wastewater PCR analysis in their schools to potentially detect and outbreak. Past President Waits noted that her Commission had also asked their county manager to investigate effluent wastewater PCR testing. Commissioner Goicoechea inquired as to what their next steps would be if elevated levels of the virus were found. Noting that just the presence of the virus isn't enough to detect how rapidly the virus is increasing and what protocols would be necessary. Commissioner Hartung noted that Washoe County is conducting effluent wastewater PCR testing as well to detect the general prevalence of the virus within the community to determine what tools they need to be working with to help control the spread. Commissioner Olsen inquired as to if it would be appropriate for NACO to send a letter of concern to the taskforce regarding the testing issue at the state lab. Dagny noted that the turn around time is an issue and that it had been discussed at the Taskforce. She also reminded the Board that she sits on both the Taskforce and the LEAP Committee as the county representative and she continues to advocate on behalf of counties. She also informed the Board that the LEAP has been able to make edits to the Taskforce's plan and commended the counties on how they have stepped up to deal with the crisis. She ended her remarks by stating that a letter wouldn't be a bad idea, so the taskforce knows it is an important issue to counties. Commissioner Lister stated that Lincoln County has issues with the metric, noting that it is an issue with small population counties. Commissioner Olsen noted that he had been tested several times to bolster his counties negative counts to keep their positivity rate down. A letter regarding the testing turnaround time frames was approved on a motion by Commissioner Olsen with second by Commissioner Hartung.

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

**a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee**

Colby informed the group that the Subcommittee had met the previous day and discussed wild horse and burro issues as well as the comment letter included in the back up for the next agenda item. He informed the group that the Subcommittee had directed staff to review and revise the Public Lands and Natural Resources Action Plan which will be brought to the Board for approval. The group also discussed the Emergency Fire Act that had been introduced in Congress, noting that it is in the initial stages and will be monitored by staff. Commissioner Wichman requested a future update on the software being developed to compare the amount of PILT payments vs. actual assessed value. President French noted the previous discussion of the group on the proposed resolution from the Coalition for Healthy Nevada

Lands, he noted that it is inline with previous actions of the Board. He also informed the Board that it was the Coalition's intention to have it introduced before the Legislature for adoption. Past President Waits commented on the BLM's completion of the agencies move to Colorado and their intention to find holding facilities for wild horses and burro's east of the Mississippi. President French commented on the BLM's loss of roughly 80% of its staff due to the move but noted that they are continuing to do the best they can with the program. Commissioner Carson noted the introduction of the Ruby Mountain Protection Act by Senator Cortez Masto, which would remove oil and gas leasing off Forest Service Lands and completely end leasing in areas of potential low-quality product. She noted it would be important to watch and that it would eliminate the need for NEPA processes when not necessary. Commissioner Higbee noted that Mr. Ivory would make himself available for a presentation and staff was directed to contact Mr. Ivory.

- b. NACO Comments on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Proposed Definition for "Habitat" Under the Endangered Species Act** Colby referred to the draft comment letter included in the packet, noting that the definition is necessary due to a Supreme Court ruling in 2018 that pointed out that while "critical habitat" was defined in the ESA, "habitat" was not. The FWS set out to make a definition consistent with the ruling. He mentioned that the PLNR subcommittee had approved the comment letter as drafted with a few minor modifications to emphasize that whatever is designated habitat must have the "current" capacity to support the species. The comment letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lister with second by Commissioner Higbee.
- 13. NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Waits informed the group that the Committee's next meeting would be held in September and that they are still planning on conducting the workshop on Indigent Defense in October.
- 14. National Association of Counties Board Member Updates.** Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that the groups recent meetings had mostly been conducted via Zoom and centered around COVID-19.
- 15. Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.** President French informed the Board that his call dropped during the last WIR meeting and he didn't have anything to report. No updates were given on Steering Committees.
- 16. NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.
- 17. Public Comment.** The Board thanked Carson City for the use of their facility and staff who conducted the remote access to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

## Agenda Item 6

<http://dids.nv.gov/Board/BIDS/>

<http://dids.nv.gov/>



# *Save the Date*

## **Nevada Association of Counties 2020 Virtual Annual Conference November 17-19**



We are happy to announce that the 2020 NACO Annual Conference will go forward in a virtual format! In recognizing the challenges that 2020 has brought to both the public and private sectors we searched far and wide for solutions to provide our members with an Annual Conference experience that would honor our tradition of providing premier education, collaboration and networking opportunities. We are happy to announce that we have partnered with Whova, an application that will allow us to provide virtual engagement and that will provide all of these traditions in one location, at the click of a button or the tap of a finger.

We know that your ability to interact with each other is important. We believe running our Conference virtually will provide you with all of these and more. As a conference attendee you will be able to:

- Develop your own attendee profile.
- Interact with fellow attendees via direct messaging, chat, and one-on-one or group video conference.
- Engage with Sponsors in their own virtual exhibit spaces.
- Attend virtual educational sessions, group meetings and download session materials.
- Engage with speakers and panelists.

Conference registration will be open soon. Watch your email, the NACO News and our website for more information. We look forward to 'seeing' you!

Do you have a business or know of one that is interested in supporting NACO and Nevada's counties? Contact Amanda at 775-883-7863 or [aevans@nvnaco.org](mailto:aevans@nvnaco.org) for more information.

# NACO ASSOCIATE MEMBER INFORMATION

## Company Information (please print or type)

Rural Nevada Development Corporation

Company Name

1320 E. Aultman Street

Headquarters Address

Ely NV 89301

City State Zip

775-289-8519 775-289-8214

Phone Fax

www.rndcnv.org

Company Website

## Official Company Representative (please print or type)

Mary Kerner CEO

First Name Last Name Title

Address (if different from above)

775-293-0809 mary@rndcnv.org

Phone Fax Cell E-mail

Additional/Alternate Company Contact (Name & E-mail)

Please provide a brief summary of what your firm does and how an Associate Membership with NACO will be mutually beneficial.

The Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) is a private non-profit doing non-traditional lending in Nevada.

The goal is to create and/or retain jobs and promote economic development in the rurals.

We also have housing programs including down payment assistance for first time home buyers, weatherization and home rehabilitation.

Thank you for your interest in joining NACO!

Please return your completed application to us at: 304 S. Minnesota St.  
Carson City, NV 89703  
or via E mail at: aevans@nvnao.org

## **Agenda Item 9**

<http://gov.nv.gov/News/Executive Orders/2019/Executive Order 2019-22 Directing Executive Branch to Advance Nevada s Climate Goals/>



**Nevada Association of Counties Meeting  
September 25, 2020  
Clark County  
Extension Director's Report**

**Unsolicited Emails Text**

Over the past few months you may have received several unsolicited emails regarding Extension. While University policy does not allow for discussion on confidential personnel items, I am available to answer other questions within Extension. As Director of Extension, I have every confidence in the leadership of our Area Directors and leadership team. Extension programs are strong and continue to focus on local issues and needs thanks to our creditable professional faculty and staff.

**Medical Assessment**

In response to a request by Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Extension is compiling information that will share doctor and medical workforce capacity in Clark County, including what we have currently and what it may look like for the future.

**Addressing Youth Needs During COVID-19**

Extension is working in partnership with UNR College of Education, Nevada Department of Education, and NACO to develop a plan to address needs for high-quality educational activities and programs to support academics and mental health during COVID-19. To date, activities include cataloging existing UNR resources that can be used by educators, families and youth, as well as collecting data to assess needs, current best practices, challenges and opportunities to inform how higher education, pre-K through 12 and communities can work together to address the needs.

**4-H Enhancement Request**

The Board of Regents did not include the Extension 4-H Enhancement Request in its 2021 and 2022 budget request. The request, less than \$5 million, focused on youth development for each county in Nevada. Although the request was not included, Extension will continue to make youth and workforce development a core focus. Nevada's investment in these two issues will pay for itself many times over.

**Natural Resource Education for Nevada Youth**

A priority goal of mine, as Extension Director, is to expose every 5<sup>th</sup> grader in the state to Nevada natural resources. In addition to the 4-H Enhancement Request, the following initiatives would be pivotal for this goal:

- Enhance State 4-H Camp at Lake Tahoe
- Develop a 4-H Camp in Southern Nevada
- Establish a state Advisory Council on Natural Resources
- Continue to work in partnership with agencies and organizations

- Link workforce development initiatives for Natural Resources

### Congressional App Challenge

In collaboration with the annual [U.S. House of Representatives Congressional App Challenge](#), Extension partnered with the Congressional offices of Congresswoman Dina Titus, Congressman Steven Horsford, and Congresswoman Susie Lee to offer [virtual coding workshops](#) in August and September. Extension staff led these webinars for middle and high school students, facilitating a brainstorm session on identifying a societal problem that could be addressed through app development. Students learned information on various free open-source app creation platforms and practiced within an app platform to begin the process of developing their own app.

### Workforce Development

Extension will be strengthening its Community and Economic Development program to address unmet needs, while being cognizant to not duplicate other state agency efforts. Over the next year, Extension will be developing a strategic plan and adding a new faculty position to focus on urban workforce development.

### Domestic Violence

Building on existing strategic partnerships and targeted research, Extension developed a multi-faceted systems approach in partnership with the Attorney General's Office and Clark County to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and homicide; improve victims' health, well-being and interactions with their children; reduce revictimization and recidivism; improve offender outcomes; and break the cycle of violence in Nevada.

The proposed program includes four primary components including a Gap Analysis, Law Enforcement Training, implementation of the High-Risk Team Model and expansion of Family Violence Prevention Programming. The program is estimated at \$7.6 million over a 3-year period for implementation in every county in the state. We are currently working to secure funds to implement this comprehensive, systems-based approach across the state.

### Master Gardener Changes

Extension is developing a Master Gardener Program that can be delivered in an online format. This will allow expansion of our consumer horticulture education programming to citizens in every county in the state. The multi-tiered program will include 12 classes open to the public on topics such as soil, water management, fertilizers and plant nutrition, native plants, vegetables, container gardening, herbaceous annuals, houseplants, and common trees and shrubs.

The second level of the program is for citizens with a desire to become certified Master Gardener volunteers and deliver research-based horticulture education to the public throughout the state. There are 18 online workshops on more advanced topics to include, among others, plant taxonomy, IPM and pesticide safety, insect identification, insect and vertebrate pest management, diseases in the landscape, noxious and nuisance weeds, plant propagation, hydroponics, palms, turf grasses, cacti, succulents, and diagnostic skills.

### Great Basin Research & Extension Center (Eureka County)

With support from the Extension Director, the College has recently launched the Great Basin Research and Extension Center in Eureka County. Drawing heavily on reinvested Extension funds, this new center will address the related issues of sustainable grazing management of dryland rangelands, livestock, crop production under water-limited environments, and alternative water and irrigation strategies for crop production. This [article](#) shares more information on this partnership endeavor.

### Information Technology Grant to Strengthen Counties

Extension was recently awarded the USDA Rural Utilities Service-Distance Learning and Telemedicine (RUS-DLT) grant in the amount of \$513,706. This grant will be used to upgrade distance learning technology infrastructure and provide equipment to increase capacity in 18 of our Nevada Extension offices. These 18 sites will receive network equipment upgrades, and 17 will receive high-definition codecs that will allow video, audio and interactive content

collaboration. The project will overcome the identified challenges by providing rural residents with additional educational opportunities addressing critical community needs through trainings, classes and workshops that would otherwise not be available in these communities.

#### Volunteer Development Position

Extension welcomed Cheryl Coleman as the Extension Volunteer Development Coordinator on September 14. This position will significantly enhance and innovate volunteer management systems and policies that will increase Extension's capacity to develop, deliver and assess high quality programs.

#### 4-H Livestock

We have established a committee of Extension staff working on 4-H livestock issues in the state of Nevada. Committee recommendations should be released soon, and I would hope each county will be able to buy in and support these recommendations.

#### Climate strategy

Governor Sisolak issued [Executive Order 2019-2022](#) in November 2019 to develop a State Climate Strategy by December 2020. The 2020 Climate Strategy will provide a framework designed to evaluate the alignment of policies with the timelines and benchmarks necessary for Nevada to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. This effort is led by Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor's Office of Energy. Steph McAfee, State Climatologist and Associate Professor in Geography and Extension, and others will be involved as this initiative develops.

#### Horticulture Research & Extension Center (Long-Term)

A goal of Extension is to establish a Research and Extension Center in Clark County. There is significant work being done at the Research Center and Demonstration Orchard in North Las Vegas. Experiment Station Director Chris Pritsos will be investing in expanded Horticulture research and Extension will be bringing on a faculty position in Horticulture.

#### Equine Center (Long-Term)

Extension would like to establish an Equine Education Center, in partnership with Clark County Commissioners, over time. There are over 50,000 domestic horses in Nevada, and a youth education program could be significant for the youth and our state. A first step would be to bring someone on board that could lead this effort for Extension.

## Agenda Item 11



Nevada Association of Counties  
304 South Minnesota Street  
Carson City, NV 89703  
(775) 883-7863  
[www.nvnaco.org](http://www.nvnaco.org)

September 9, 2020

COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force  
VIA: Email

Dear Task Force Members,

We send this letter on behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Board of Directors, to express our concerns about the continued high turnaround time for COVID-19 test results from the Nevada State Lab as well as other labs that process COVID-19 test results for Nevadans. We understand that this is a complex issue that has been an ongoing problem since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Though COVID-19 test turnaround times have decreased, especially in the urban areas of the State, this issue still impacts efforts to reduce the spread of the virus. Long turnaround times can be a deterrent for residents to get tested and significantly hamper contact tracing efforts. As of last week, some counties were still seeing delays of 5-7 days. We would like to ask whether the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force might be the right group to take a look at this issue with a fresh perspective, as well as to recognize the limitations that insufficient lab capacity puts on local public health efforts. As the Task Force knows, all 17 of Nevada's counties have been critical partners in the COVID-19 response, and the collaboration between counties and the State has been important in coordinating the public health efforts that are mitigating the spread of the virus. As a partner we request your continued attention to and work on the issue of test turnaround time. We would point to the success of Clark County in ramping up lab capacity in Southern Nevada through UMC as a positive example. NACO would also offer any support and assistance that we can on potential proposed solutions.

We know that the members of the Task Force, along with DPBH staff and the Governor's office, have worked tirelessly to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as well as to coordinate with counties and other stakeholders on statewide efforts. We thank you for all your hard work and look forward to continued collaboration on this issue and on the COVID-19 public health response in general.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

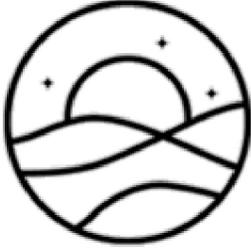
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. French", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Commissioner Jim French  
NACO President

## **Agenda Item 12b**

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/13/2020-17740/draft-invasive-species-strategic-plan-tribal-and-alaska-native-corporation-consultations-public>



# Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses

Rebekah Stetson, Chairwoman  
[healthynevadalands@gmail.com](mailto:healthynevadalands@gmail.com)

## RESOLUTION Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Management July 2020

**Whereas, The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (WFRHBA)**, as amended, ensured free-roaming horses and burros (FRHB) existing on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Forest Service (FS) managed lands in 1971, would be protected and managed as valued components of our public lands. Their range was to be sufficient to sustain herds, while ensuring a "thriving natural ecological balance" with wildlife, livestock and other public land multiple uses in accordance with the Multiple Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960.

**Whereas**, the WFRHBA directed BLM and the FS to determine, including in consultation with wildlife agencies, appropriate numbers (Appropriate Management Level (AML)) of FRHB to retain thriving natural ecological balance of habitat, forage, and water needs of wildlife, livestock and FRHB by assessment of plant and riparian sustainability. Once over AML, FRHB numbers were defined as excess to the carrying capacity of the land.

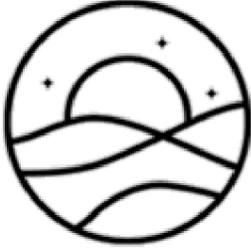
**Whereas**, BLM and FS have used and do use various public processes to set and adjust AMLs on a herd-by-herd basis including but not limited to Resource Management Plans, Land Management Plans, and Multiple Use Decisions and typically analyzed through requirements of and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Whereas**, in Nevada, water comprises a mere 2% of our public lands, in the form of scattered springs, small streams and ephemeral playas, and is essential for the survival of wildlife, livestock & FRHB alike. Since 2010, AML determination must include the level of functionality of those small riparian/water sources on which all living things on public lands depend.

**Whereas**, in order to assist in achieving the thriving natural ecological balance mandate, BLM and the FS remove above AML excess FRHB, make them available for adoption or placed in short term or long-term holdings, including lifetime pastures, or treated with fertility inhibitors and returned to public lands.

**Whereas**, Nevada is host to over 50% of all FRHB West-wide on our semi-arid and arid Great Basin and Mojave Desert lands.

**Whereas**, in Nevada, population numbers to ensure thriving natural ecological balance was determined to be an AML of 12,800 horses and burros in 83 Herd Management Areas (HMA's).



# Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses

Rebekah Stetson, Chairwoman  
[healthynevadalands@gmail.com](mailto:healthynevadalands@gmail.com)

**Whereas**, today in Nevada every HMA on average is 300% over AML, with 50,000 FRHB on BLM lands and 2,500 on FS lands. Some HMAs have populations at thousands of percent above AML. In addition, outside of WFRHBA authorization and direction, with little to no management, there are approximately 5500 other feral or stray horses and burros on state, tribal and 500 military lands.

**Whereas**, FRHB populations double every 3-5 years. The over AML populations of FRHB of the last four decades have, in many areas, impacted ecosystem health, habitat, forage, and water resources, in turn imperiling the health and well-being of wildlife, livestock, vegetation, and FRHB themselves.

**Whereas**, inadequate, short-term congressional BLM budget allocations have prevented the effective removal of excess FRHB required for healthy ecosystems and resulted in additional problems including insufficient pasture and holding facilities, no logistically effective long-term fertility inhibitors and populations above AML growing exponentially.

**Whereas**, in 2019 humane advocacy, wildlife and livestock organizations including the Humane Society of the United States and ASPCA collaboratively crafted a plan, [The Path Forward for Management of BLM's Wild Horses & Burros](#), proposing a pathway to reduce FRHB populations to AML using non-lethal methods. The underpinnings of this plan, in turn, became part of the 2020 [BLM Report to Congress for Achieving a Sustainable Wild Horse & Burro Program](#) which hinged on requiring sufficient short and longer-term funding for success.

**Whereas**, the NV Legislature recognizes "Wild Horse Annie's" (Thelma Johnson's) work, which assisted in culmination of passage of the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act, ensuring a place for FRHB on public lands while retaining a thriving natural ecological balance with other multiple uses on those lands, is failing to achieve those contract goals that were made in good faith and that balance needs be restored as quickly as possible.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the NV Legislature supports BLM's 2020 Report to Congress urging sufficient short-term funding for immediate effectiveness and longer-term funding for sustained efficacy and overall success, apportioned according to FRHB numbers in each state.

**Be it further resolved**, given the impacts of excess FRHB on our fragile Nevada Great Basin and Mojave ecosystems, the NV Legislature supports reducing excess FRHB to achieve AML, using non-lethal means, within 10 years to protect and restore the health and viability of our public lands and habitats for wildlife, FRHB, and other uses into the future.



# NACO Workshop

## Oversight of Public Defenders in Nevada - How the new state Office of Indigent Defense Services will work.



*When Assembly Bill 81 was signed into law, the result was the creation of the state oversight for Nevada's public defenders. AB81 created a new state office, as well as a Board to oversee the department. Now that the Board and office are up and running, hear from experts on the implementation of AB81 and how your county will be impacted. The panel will include rural county representatives and representatives from the Department of Indigent Defense Services.*

**Invited:** County Elected Officials & Staff

**When:** Friday, October 9th - 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Zoom Video Conference

Please RSVP to Amanda at [aevans@nvnaco.org](mailto:aevans@nvnaco.org) or by calling 775-883-7863, Zoom information will be provided upon RSVP. This workshop is eligible for 1 CPO Credit in Community Development or Leadership & Governance.

**NACO Committee of the Emeritus**