

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 23rd, 2018

## ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Weekly, President Elect Waits, Vice President French, Washoe County Commissioner Lucey, Mineral County Commissioner Tipton, Carson City Mayor Crowell, Lyon County Commissioner Hunewill, Storey County Commissioner McGuffey, Douglas County Commissioner Thaler, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee and NACO Staff: (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Tori Sundheim and Amanda Evans)

**Remote Attendance:** Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen and Pershing County Commissioner Shank.

**Other Attendance:** Elko County Manager, Rob Stokes; Lyon County Commissioner, Don Alt; Nye County Manager, Tim Sutton; Nye County Public Information Officer, Arnold Knightly; Molly Walt, Nevada Commission for Women; Mark Krueger, Nevada Attorney General's Office; Ed Smith, UNR Cooperative Extension; Michael Beaudoin, Nevada Division of Forestry; and Lee Bonner, NDOT.

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

1. **Public Comment.** Molly Walt from the Nevada Commission for Women gave a brief overview of the Commission, its creation by the Legislature, the makeup of the Board of the Commission and upcoming strategic planning session and workshops. Ms. Walt requested to be placed on a future agenda to provide more detailed information on the Commission. President Weekly agreed to her request. Mark Krueger of the NV Attorney General's Office informed the Board that his office would be reaching out to the counties to gather information on impacts and damages to the counties due to the current opioid crisis. He assured the Board that the investigation the State is undertaking with several other states will not have an impact on any opioid lawsuits the counties may decide to enter into. He also informed the Board that Patty Cafferata, the Office's official County Liaison, would reach out to NACO with information on an opioid working group.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Lucey.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Weekly reappointed Commissioner Tipton and Vice President French to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the NACO Public Lands Committee. He acknowledged the birthdays of those Board members born in February and congratulated Commissioner Lucey on the recent birth of his daughter.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny formally introduced Vinson to the Board and outlined his qualifications and experience, including his former position with the Association. She informed the Board that Alan Kalt, who has been an Association appointee to the Committee on Local Government Finance (CLGF) for over twenty years, had retired and therefore the Board would need to appoint a new member to that Committee. She asked the Board to consider nominations for a rural representative to the CLGF for appointment at the next Board meeting. She also informed the Board that the Legislative Committee would be convening soon and discussed the outreach activities the Committee would be conducting and asked any Board members interested in serving on the Committee to reach out to her or Vinson to be added to the distribution list. Dagny informed the group that the first meeting of the Cooperative Extension Advisory Counsel was held the previous Friday in Las Vegas and that the proposed budget enhancement for Extension of \$4.7 million continues to move forward. She also relayed that Extension Director Lyles would like to address the NACO Board March. Dagny also informed the Board that the Right to Council Commission had convened and that two meetings had been held. She announced that one of the first tasks of the Commission was to hire a consultant to gather data from the rural counties on how they provide indigent defense. The

Commission hired the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment Center for this task and Dagny announced to the Board that David Carroll and his associates would be reaching out to the rural counties shortly. Dagny also announced that National County Government Month is in April and that NACO Staff is working on ideas for promoting counties and their services. She concluded her report by discussing the release of the 2018 NACO Directory and the successful replacement of the NACO telephone system.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the January 19, 2018 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Wichman.
6. **Approval of Additional 2018 NACO Associate Members.** The newest application for Associate Membership was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Tipton.
7. **Approval of the Appointment of Alan Kalt to serve as NACO's Fiscal Officer.** Mr. Kalt was appointed to the office of NACO Fiscal Officer on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Wichman. He will assist with the Association's financial reports and budgeting process and will also attend NACO Board meetings as needed.
8. **Approval of NACO's 2017 Financial Statements and January 31, 2018 Investment Reports.** The financial statements and investment reports were approved on a motion by Mayor Crowell with second by Commissioner Tipton.
9. **Discussion and Presentation on the Newly Organized Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities, Ed Smith, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Michael Beaudoin, Network Coordinator (Nevada Division of Forestry).** Mr. Smith reviewed the Network, its history and goal of educating and supporting communities on wildfire prevention. He informed the Board that the Network has 173 members in ten communities and that the leadership of the Network is transitioning from Cooperative Extension to the Nevada Division of Forestry. Mr. Smith introduced Michael Beaudoin, who was recently hired as the Network's Coordinator through the Division of Forestry. Mr. Beaudoin gave the Board an overview of his experience and qualifications. He informed the Board that he feels that Nevada is at the leading edge of wildfire mitigation and that he would like to come back to the Board when he has completed his strategic plan for the Network. Commissioner Lucey noted that Arrowcreek in Washoe County is a member of the Network and inquired as to exactly what the definition of an adapted community is. Mr. Smith clarified that an adapted community is a community committed to reducing wildfire threat and one that is able to survive a fire with little assistance from fire fighters; he elaborated that the primary mechanisms for reaching this goal are education and fuels management projects. He also noted that member communities receive assistance with project funding, educational programs and organization. Commissioner Lucey requested that the Network to work with each county on fuels management plans. President Waits inquired whether presentations were going to be given to each county Board of Commissioners. She was informed that the Network plans to request time on each agenda. President Weekly was informed that Mr. Charleston and Mountain Springs are members of the Network in Clark County and he offered to put Mr. Beaudoin in direct contact with Commissioner Brown, in whose district both of the communities are located. Vice President French noted the importance of interfacing with wildland support groups and fire districts and he was assured that the Network would be doing so. Mr. Smith concluded the presentation with the announcement of his retirement and thanked the Board for their support and cooperation over his career. Dagny concluded the item noting that the program is nationally recognized and that the Network is in need of two community representatives to represent the Northern and Southern areas. She asked members to let her know if they had any suggestions for nominees.
10. **Federal Legislative Update Provided by the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Staff.** Deborah Cox, Legislative Director and Johnathan Shuffield, Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands joined the meeting via teleconference. Ms. Cox informed the Board that there are openings on policy steering committees and that she would work with Dagny on getting any members appointed, should they wish to serve. She discussed the political climate in Washington and the announcements of many members of Congress that they would not be running for re-election. She made note of challenges with unfunded mandates and regulations. She informed the Board that

NACo had been working on the tax reform bill, closely watching the budget and appropriations, public health care issues including the opioid epidemic, public lands issues and infrastructure. She spoke about the budget and appropriations processes and the continuing resolutions (CR) the government have been working under. She noted that an omnibus spending bill is being drafted and the hope was to have it passed prior to the expiration of the current CR. Ms. Cox also discussed the President's infrastructure plan and noted that NACo had been working closely with the White House and the various Congressional committees on the plan. She noted that Congress is now looking at how to shape legislation to accomplish what the President outlined in the plan. Ms. Cox referenced the comprehensive analysis NACo had completed on the plan which can be found on the NACo website and encouraged conversations with the Nevada Delegation on the plan. Mr. Shuffield started with PILT and informed the Board that the President's budget includes full funding for the program in 2019 and that the final funding level for 2018 would be known sometime around the end of March. He informed the Board that there would be a press conference regarding SRS on March 6<sup>th</sup> and that they are still working on getting fixes in place regarding fire funding and forest management provisions, but that there is bi-partisan support for the reauthorization of the program. He also informed the Board that the President's budget asked Congress to remove the rider that was making population control of wild horses and burros a challenge. Commissioner Higbee inquired about PILT re-distribution and calculations. Mr. Shuffield informed the Board that a Montana Congressman is looking at sponsoring legislation that would remove the population caps to direct more money to small population counties and potentially add funds to the program but that it has yet to be introduced. Dagny thanked Ms. Cox and Mr. Shuffield for their presentation.

11. **Update and Discussion on NACO and NACO Members' Participation in the National Association of Counties 2018 Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., including Meetings and Events Held During the Conference.** Board and County representative attendance at the Conference was confirmed. Dagny reviewed the agenda for the trip and noted that an itinerary will be sent to those attending prior to the Conference. She referenced the Federal Priorities document included in the packet and noted that it is similar to years past and that there were some minor changes to the previously distributed document. She asked members to direct their attention to the public lands and transportation sections, to which NACO staff had made minor changes based on current discussions in D.C. and the receipt of additional information. The Association's 2018 Federal Priorities were approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Lucey.
12. **Update and Possible Action Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the Public Lands Committee would be developing draft language for MOU's with the Forest Service and BLM. She also noted that the Committee will be providing an updated Public Lands Action Plan. Tori informed the Board that a meeting is being held at Holland and Hart to discuss the redo of the BLM and USFS's sage grouse plans and encouraged all affected counties to participate.
  - a. **Proposed Department of the Interior Reorganization Including NACO Position, and Joint Position Letter from the Western Governors' Association, NACO Western Interstate Region, and the Utah and Wyoming Associations of Counties.** Tori gave an overview of the item and informed the Board that she had recently attended a meeting about the proposed reorganization in Salt Lake City. Several Nevada County Commissioners also attended that meeting. She noted that there was a contingency of western associations including the Western Governors Association and several state associations of counties that had produced a letter to respond to the proposal. She informed the Board that a revised letter based upon a map that had been released that morning had been distributed for the Board's consideration. She also noted that signing onto the letter is a strategic response and that the Board would be free to take a stronger position in the future if they see fit. Tori stressed that signing onto the letter is effectively a seat at the table and that there wasn't an opportunity to change the language because several of the other participants had already approved the letter as written. Dagny was instructed to sign the letter on behalf of the Association on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Tipton. Commissioner Lucey asked to have it brought back for discussion after the NACo Legislative Conference. Dagny asked for and received clarification that the Board's official position on the proposal in its current form is opposed.

- b. **The Center for Biological Diversity's Lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeking to Vacate their Decision not to List the Bi-State Sage Grouse as an Endangered Species and NACO's Motion to Intervene on behalf of the Service.** Tori informed the Board that the reply brief had been submitted and that oral arguments were scheduled on March 16<sup>th</sup>. She added that the case is a window into future listing decisions and how the FWS will or won't be able to adopt policy recognizing local conservation efforts. Dagny recognized Tori's work on the reply brief, informing the Board that Mono County and the AG's office had deferred to her and that she would be conducting the oral arguments in San Francisco.
13. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Dagny informed the Board that Vinson had been working on the county commissioner brochure and that the Washoe County Clerk's office had help with the final design for distribution. She also noted that the County Clerk's cannot distribute the brochure but that Vinson had been developing a strategy for distribution through community groups and state and local party associations.
14. **National Association of Counties and Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates.** The next meetings of the individual Boards will be held at the NACo Legislative Conference and Vice President French and Commissioner Tipton will have updates at the next meeting. Commissioner Lucey also informed the Board that Commissioner Hartung would be attending the Transportation Steering Committee on his behalf and that he will have an update in March as well.
15. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.
16. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.