

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

July 26, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

NACO Office

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Waits, President Elect French, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Mineral County Commissioner Price, Lyon County Commissioner Hunewill, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Carson City Mayor Crowell, Lander County Commissioner Allan, Nye County Commissioner Wichman and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau and Amanda Evans)

Remote Attendance: Vice President Kirkpatrick, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, and Pershing County Commissioner Shank.

Other Attendance: Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Scott Keller, Dr. Ivory Lyles, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Natalie Okeson, office of Senator Rosen; Lee Bonner, NDOT; Kim Burgess, US Census Bureau; and Marla McDade, Strategies 360

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

1. **Public Comment.** Mayor Crowell remarked on the Pledge of Allegiance and its importance in uniting the nation.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Price.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Waits thanked those who attended the NACO Annual Conference in Clark County and remarked on the amazing job that County staff did in their planning efforts. She also noted the number of vendors in the exposition hall, specifically on her visit with a firm representing rail transportation - both passenger and freight. She acknowledged Commissioner Shank's birthday and informed the Board that the cocktail hour during the annual banquet will include the attendance of animal shelters who will have interactive activities with pets up for adoption. She also announced that dress for the Banquet will be casual.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny welcomed Clark County Commissioner Jim Gibson to the Board - because Commissioners Weekly and Kirkpatrick currently sit on the Executive Committee Clark County is allowed an additional representative, however, Commissioner Gibson will act as a non-voting member unless either Commissioner Weekly or Vice President Kirkpatrick are not in attendance. Dagny reminded the Board that the election for the Association's Vice President will be held during the annual General Membership meeting at the upcoming NACO Conference and requested that any Commissioner interested in the position submit a letter to her by August 5th for consideration by the Nominating Committee. She discussed the invitation extended by the White House for Commissioners to meet with members of the Cabinet on September 11th and 12th and requested that anyone planning on attending to let her know. Dagny also reminded members of the National Association's PILT Fly-in, occurring the same week. She concluded her remarks by announcing that Colby Prout had accepted the position of Natural Resources Manager and would be starting on August 1st.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the June 28th, 2019 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Price with second by Mayor Crowell.

6. **Recommendation of Three Nominees for Consideration by the Governor for Appointment to the Social Services Agency Seat on the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care for Indigent Persons (NRS 428.195).** Dagny reminded the Board that they had previously approved the submission of Mike Pawlak, Director of Social Services for Clark County to the Board, but that he was retiring from the County and would no longer be able to serve. She informed the Board that Tim Burch, Administrator of Clark County Human Services had indicated willingness to serve and that Mary Jane Ostrander and Karen Beckerbauer, Directors of Carson City and Douglas County Human Services were willing to resubmit their applications as additional nominees to satisfy the statutory requirements. The Board voted to submit all three names to the Governor on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Mayor Crowell.
7. **Approval of One of NACO's Four Nominees to the Governor for the Board on Indigent Defense Services.** Dagny reminded the Board of their discussion of nominees conducted in June and informed them that three of them were not able to be appointed because they already served on other Governor-appointed boards. She informed the Board that Humboldt County Manager, Dave Mendiola was willing to submit his name in lieu of others. The Board approved the nomination of Mr. Mendiola to the Board on Indigent Defense Services on a motion by Mayor Crowell with second by Commissioner Wichman.
8. **Approval of a Resolution in Honor of Clark County Hosting the 2019 National Association of Counties Annual Conference.** The resolution was read into the record by President Waits and was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Mayor Crowell.
9. **Update Regarding the National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy.** Dagny gave the Board an overview of the program. Any county officials or staff can attend the web-based program and noted that the cost is greatly reduced for the first employee to attend. She referenced the video link included in the agenda packet and President Waits informed the Board that she had conversed with people who had attended the Academy and they were very impressed with the program.
10. **Discussion and Possible Approval for NACO to Coordinate an Actuarial Study of the Costs to Nevada's Counties for the Nonfederal Share of the Expenditures for Long-Term Care Pursuant to the State Plan for Medicaid.** Dagny reminded the Board that the Medicaid match assessments are the largest that the counties receive from the State and are a part of the counties' responsibilities for providing indigent services. She noted that although the State has made efforts to include not only NACO but the Nevada Association of County Human Service Administrators in the conversations regarding the assessments that there have still been large increases in these assessments without prior knowledge of the counties and often after the counties' budgets have been closed. She informed the Board that during the Legislative Session there were two additional increases that were not discussed during the interim that will affect the counties over the biennium, 20% in 2020 and 34% in 2021. Reasons for the increases given by the Department of Health and Human Services include increased caseloads and costs of care. Dagny informed the Board that the completion of the proposed study would allow both the State and the counties to have accurate data going forward on what the numbers for the assessments are, what those are based on, and what projected costs might be. This would enable the counties to prepare for any necessary increases, provide accurate to the Legislature during budget discussions, and facilitate potential conversations at the IAF (Indigent Accident Fund) Board regarding how the Fund could be leveraged to assist in covering these costs. She noted that Clark County is willing to provide financial assistance for the study as well as assist with the RFP. Washoe County also has funding available to assist as does the current budget of the Association. The Board approved NACO coordination of the study on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Allan.
11. **Discussion and Updates Related to the 2020 U.S. Census.** Dagny informed the Board that the Governor's Complete County Committee had convened and reminded them that she is their representative on the Committee. She noted that the initial conversation of the Committee

centered around what can be done to ensure increased participation and that she would be giving regular updates on the activities of the Committee. Dagny reminded the Board that an accurate count is critical, as the data gathered during the Census determines Congressional representation, affects the amount of federal tax dollars returned to the state (roughly \$2k per person), and C-Tax distribution among other things. Kim Burgess, of the U.S. Census Bureau addressed the Board and informed them that she is the current Specialist for all counties except Clark and Nye. She discussed the importance of each county creating a Complete Count Committee. She informed the Board that the Census Bureau will begin physical address verifications in the short term and reiterated the importance of obtaining an accurate count of traditionally hard to count populations in both rural and urban census tracts. Kim Burgess spoke and suggested incorporating members of community and civic organizations onto county complete county committees. Ms. Burgess and Dagny both suggested that each county commission take action to create a Complete County Committee within the next month or two. Dagny informed the Board that there is a \$5M set-aside in the State budget that will be discussed at the next meeting of the Complete County Committee and may result in grant funding available to the counties to assist in costs associated with Census efforts.

12. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Support from NACO to the USDA for Implementation of the Rural Broadband Integration Working Group and the Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development as Mandated in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.** Vinson referenced the two House Resolutions included in the agenda packet, and gave a brief overview of both. The first Resolution requires 26 Federal Agencies to create a working group to consult on barriers to deployment of broadband in rural communities and requires that a report be submitted to the President within 150 days after creation of the working group. The second Resolution requires the same Agencies to improve program coordination and requires them to identify challenges to facilitating economic development within rural communities. Vinson informed the Board that both Resolutions had been passed in the Farm Bill and that the Office of Senator Cortez Masto had requested that the Board support communications with local Agency offices to spur implementation of the requirements. Staff was directed to engage as necessary on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Allan.
13. **Update on the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) program, Dr. Ivory Lyles.** Dr. Lyles began his remarks by referencing the previous agenda item and informing the Board that the University is currently working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to determine the University's responsibilities surrounding the broadband issue, how the University's resources across the state can be leveraged to improve connectivity and to identify UNCE's roll in assisting with rural economic development. Dr. Lyles noted that the requested budget enhancement for UNCE was not included in the final biennial budget but that the University is continuing work on strengthening the program throughout the State. He gave an overview of the positions that had been filled and would be filled within the counties and informed the Board that UNCE would like county representation on all necessary search committees. He discussed the economic impact assessments being conducted by UNCE in each county and informed the Board that the next meeting of the Advisory Council, which Dagny is a member of, would occur in September. President Elect French acknowledged the improved relationships between the program and counties since Dr. Lyles had come on board and inquired as to the restoration of program funding. Dr. Lyles noted that he couldn't give a percentage of change but informed the Board that in 2009 the program's budget was \$12M and that the current year budget is only \$4M. He informed the Board that outreach efforts are being conducted with members of the Legislature by Extension staff in order to provide better education on the program and its benefits to local communities in both the urban and rural areas of the state. Commissioner Wichman thanked Dr. Lyles for inclusion on the search committee for filled positions within Nye County and many of the members of the Board echoed President Elect French's comments about the improved relationship between the counties and UNCE. The item was concluded with remarks from Mayor Crowell about the NV State Fair that was beginning that day and its focus on 4-H, FFA and other agricultural endeavors. No action was taken by the Board.

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

- a. NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee Update.** Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts informed the Board that the BLM's Greater Sage grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) is complete and that the Agency is starting implementation and working with the State on the existing Conservation Credit System. He also informed the Board that the Forest Service is expected to release their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with their proposed Record of Decision (ROD) in August and that there would be a 60-day comment period once the documents are released. President Elect French inquired as to any developments with their proposed sound restrictions and Jeremy reminded the Board that there was extensive participation in the development of the draft EIS and detailed comments submitted but that no information had been released as to what the final documents would include. Additional updates from the Committee included that responses to comments submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service on the listing decision for the Bi-State Sage grouse and the proposal to extend the protected territory for the California Condor into Nevada have yet to be received. Commissioner Allan expressed concern with the Condor proposal and noted that the introduction of wolf species in non-native habitat areas are causing issues in other states. The Department of Defense's proposal to expand the Fallon Range Training Complex was also discussed and the Board was informed that the affected counties had received a summary response to their comments as Cooperating Agencies but they are still bound by an NDA so additional details could not be discussed. The Board was informed that the Department is expected to send their ROD to Congress in January and engagement with the Delegation has begun. Commissioner Lister informed the Board that he had heard that there was a possibility that both the Fallon and Nellis land withdrawals could be included in a lands bill that could create issues with effective input going forward. The item ended with discussion on RS2477 roads and the need for engagement on travel management plans. Staff informed the Board that a session during the upcoming Annual Conference would include a panel on county roads.
 - b. Discussion of Proposed Changes to both BLM and USFS NEPA/Planning Processes, Including Approval of NACO Draft Comments to the BLM Proposal.** Mr. Drew discussed both Agencies' proposed rule updates as they apply to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) processes. He informed the Board that the BLM has yet to release their draft document and referenced the proposed comment letter for the USFS proposal included in the agenda packet. He gave a brief overview of the letter and encouraged further county participation including the requesting of Cooperating Agency status where appropriate. The comment letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Price.
- 15. NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson informed the Board that the Committee had reconvened after taking a hiatus during the Legislative Session and had discussed the Newly Elected Official Training program. He also informed the Board that suggestions for interim workshop topics would be brought to the Board for approval.
- 16. National Association of Counties and Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates.** Meetings of both groups were held during the National Association of Counties Annual Conference earlier in the month. President Elect French informed the Board discussion in the WIR meeting included a proposed guide book for the Department of the Interior and USDA on engagement with local governments and Cooperating Agencies, county natural resource plans, HR3043 that would require the full funding PILT under permanent authority as a budget line item, rules for exclusions of road restoration and repair, proposed upcoming reforms to the Endangered Species Act and the proposed \$2 Trillion in infrastructure repairs and maintenance. Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that Policy Resolutions approved by the Board of Directors included support for mental health funding, PILT, and rural broadband.

17. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.

18. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that he had spoken with Tim Williams at the NACo Conference and noted that the BLM is moving forward with plans to relocate the Agency's offices to Grand Junction Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Higbee with second by Commissioner Allan.