

## **NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)**

Board of Directors' Meeting  
November 15th, 2019, 9:30 a.m.  
NACO Office  
304 S. Minnesota Street  
Carson City, NV 89703

### **ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** President Waits, President Elect French, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Douglas County Commissioner Walsh, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Lander County Commissioner Allen, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Colby Prout and Amanda Evans)

**Remote Attendance:** Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Mineral County Commissioner Price, and Pershing County Commissioner Shank.

**Other Attendance:** Churchill County Manager Jim Barbee; Travis Brewer-LaChapelle, Office of Senator Rosen; President Marc Johnson, Dean Bill Payne, Provost Kevin Carman, Director Ivory Lyles, and Holly Gatske, University of Nevada; Marla McDade-Williams, Strategies 360; Linda Bisset, NV Energy; and Jamie Cooper, NDOT

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 Wichman with second by Commissioner Higbee.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Waits acknowledged a photo of Clark County Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Weekly in the National Association of Counties (NACo) publication This Week in Pictures. She informed the Board that the NACO's Justice and Public Safety Committee is working on the issue of federal benefit loss for those in the criminal justice system that have not been convicted with the introduction of two Senate bills that address the issue. She also noted that the work is being done on the affordability of flood insurance, which may include premium caps. President Waits concluded her remarks by acknowledging the birthdays of those members of the Board that occurred in November.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny informed the Board that the Nevada Dept. of Health and Human Services had released their individual county health reports and noted that a link to the reports was included in the agenda packet. She informed the Board that approximately \$30 million is available in Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grants for projects on county roads adjacent to or that grant access to public lands. She encouraged the Board to review the agenda materials provided on the program and noted that she is on the Subcommittee for review of the grant applications. She also informed the Board that informational webinars would be taking place and that final applications would be due in March 2020. Dagny informed the Board that the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (IAF) had opened the application process for claims for both county Medicaid Match reimbursements and hospital claims for indigent persons involved in motor vehicle accidents, and that those claims are due on December 16. NACO staff will review the claims and a meeting of the IAF Board is expected to occur in January or February and she will bring an update back to the Board following that meeting. Dagny gave the Board a final update on the 2019 Annual Conference and noted that revenues were better than expected and positive feedback was received. Vinson concluded the

Director's report by informing the Board that a workshop would be held by the Office of the Labor Commissioner on the new Prevailing Wage/Apprenticeship requirements that were passed by the Legislature during the 2019 session.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the October 18th, 2019 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Higbee.
6. **Discussion of Format for Future NACO Board Meetings.** President Waits informed the Board that she had requested the item to be on the agenda to discuss the practice of providing lunch. She noted that the meetings had not been continuing into the mid to late afternoon as they had previously and expressed concern with those members who travel from long distances being able to begin their travel home earlier in the day. Commissioner Wichman suggested stopping the practice of providing lunch and instead providing coffee and snacks. She then suggested leaving the decision of whether to provide lunch up to staff based on the content of the agenda. Discussion continued regarding the January meeting in Clark County and it was discussed to have the Public Lands and Natural Resources subcommittee meeting at 9:30 a.m., with the Board meeting following at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the Clark County meeting. Staff was directed to determine if lunch was necessary based on the agenda and then, if so, inform the Board of that fact when the agenda is distributed each month.
7. **Preliminary Discussion of NACO's 2020 Budget.** Dagny informed the Board that the Association's Fiscal Officer, Alan Kalt had been of great assistance to her during the development of the budget. She informed the Board that the county dues are based on the same formula as provided in the by-laws including a .5% assessment based on the counties' 2019 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. Dagny noted that the Association's beginning position is more positive for 2020 based upon savings in staff positions that were open for a period of 2019, operational savings, and the deletion of the video conference hosting costs. She informed the Board that the proposed budget includes a 2.5% Cost of Living (COLA) increase for most staff but that she included a 5% increase for Vinson due to do increased responsibilities. She concluded her presentation of the proposed budget by informing the Board that she had included two new line items, one for IT support and one for the costs associated with subscription-based software. She encouraged the Board to review the proposed budget and descriptions and reach out to her with any questions or concerns. President Waits informed the Board that the Executive Committee had met earlier in the morning to conduct a performance evaluation for Dagny and they recommend a 5% salary increase for Dagny. She also recognized staff for their hard work and dedication to maintaining the Association's budgetary concerns. The 2020 budget will be presented to the Board at the December meeting for final approval.
8. **Discussion on Nevada's Cooperative Extension Program, Including Future Funding Requests, President Marc Johnson, University Nevada, Reno.** University President, Marc Johnson addressed the Board and informed the group that the Extension Program would be the University's priority for requesting budget enhancements for the 2021 Legislative Session. He spoke about the mission of land grant universities, their requirements for community outreach, some of the honors UNR has received from US News and the Carnegie Institute. He also informed the Board that the University had developed a dual enrollment program with Western Nevada and Great Basin Community College's for several degree programs. He stressed that Regent support would be integral in the budget enhancement process, because the University cannot lobby for support of any plan not supported by the Board of Regents. Provost, Kevin Carman noted that the University is unique in addressing funding challenges due to the requirement for statewide outreach and stressed that education of both the Board of Regents and the members of the Legislature, in cooperation with the Counties would be key in obtaining support for the Program's request for budget enhancement. Discussion from the Board included the lack of recovery to pre-recession funding levels and community programing. The President noted that it would be important to provide justification on a programmatic level for the request for additional funding, and not rely on the argument of returning to pre-recession funding levels, because none of the University's departments had been returned to those funding levels. He

specifically noted that those programs/departments that appear to have the most funding recovery is because their enrollment has increased, but clarified that UNCE does not receive formula funding. President Johnson asked the Board for specific priorities to be identified for funding and that a plan would need to be completed by January, to begin the process for Regent approval. Dagny suggested a working group be put together and Commissioner Olsen inquired as to if the Extension program had developed a specific list of priorities and the costs associated. Extension Director, Ivory Lyles informed the group that there is a preliminary list of suggestions and that he would share them with the group, but he is most interested in the priorities of the Counties, as the largest funders of the Program. No official action was taken by the Board; however, a working group was formed to further discuss the issue and develop a plan to bring back to the Board for approval at a later date.

9. **Discussion Regarding S. 2666, the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA).** Colby gave the Board an overview of the Act - as currently written, 25% of revenues would be returned to the county in which the project resides, and that wind and solar are also included in the current iteration of the Act. Commissioner Wichman moved for sending a letter of support with specific language regarding the percentage of revenues and types of projects included. The motion passed on a second by Commissioner Higbee.
10. **Discussion and Updates Related to the 2020 U.S. Census.** Dagny reminded the Board that she is their representative on the Governor's Complete Count Committee and that the item will be a standing agenda item through the completion of the Census. She informed the group that a State Census Director had been hired and that state support staff, including positions dedicated to the rural counties, would also be hired. She reminded them that Federal staff is also present within the state for outreach support and resources are available to counties for conducting outreach efforts. She also noted that funds will be available to counties and others in the form of Grants from the State and she will keep them apprised of when application for these funds will be available.
11. **Update and Possible Action Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands and Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
  - a. **Update on Greater Sage Grouse Issues Including the BLM and USFS Greater Sage Grouse Resource Management Plans and the Activities of the State of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.** Colby reminded the Board of previous discussion regarding the injunction placed by the District Court of Idaho in October and informed the Board that the BLM and stakeholders are continuing to work through the process on how to effectively address that issue. He informed the Board that the Forest Service would be having an Objection Resolution meeting in December in Salt Lake City and that the Association would be represented at that meeting. Colby also informed the group that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council's regulations had been accepted by the Legislative Commission. The Board was also informed that a call with all sage grouse counties would take place on Monday Nov 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to discuss the legal developments regarding the BLM and strategize about next steps. No action was taken.
  - b. **Other Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** President Elect French, who Chairs the Subcommittee, informed the Board that discussion on the Path Forward, for Wild Horses and Burro's and the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout issues had been discussed during the previous days meeting. He also noted that the Bi-State Sage Grouse listing decision is expected in April of 2020, and the Fallon Regional Training Complex (FRTC) expansion and Waters of the US are also pending decisions. Commissioner Wichman noted that a meeting on the FRTC would be taking place with the Governor's office on the following Monday. President Waits inquired as to what was occurring with the individual county lands bills and Travis Brewer-LaChapelle, of the Office of Senator Rosen, informed the group that the Senators have divided the lands bills between their offices and that teams from both Offices are working on the FRTC issue. No action was taken.

12. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson informed the Board that the Committee had met the previous Friday and that they are in the final stages of planning the December 6<sup>th</sup> workshop on what counties need to do to comply with legislation passed in 2019. He also informed the Board that the Committee has begun preliminary planning for the February workshop and the New Commissioner Handbook for the Newly Elected Officials Training that will take place during the 2020 NACO Annual Conference. Additional discussion occurred regarding the recording of the workshops and staff was directed to investigate the issue.
13. **National Association of Counties and Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates.** On behalf of Commissioner Dahl, Commissioner Steninger informed the Board that items of discussion at the Western Interstate Region meeting in October included PILT and Secure Rural Schools funding, wildfire issues, public lands access, and wild horse and burro issues. Vinson, who also attended the meeting, added that discussion was also held on the social and other services counties are required to provide on public lands. Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that he would be attending a meeting of the NACo Board of Directors at the end of the month in Omaha and would have an update at the next meeting.
14. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.
15. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.