

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
October 20, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

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

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Phillips, Vice President Waits, Washoe County Commissioner Lucey, Douglas County Commissioner Thayler, Mineral County Commissioner Tipton, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, Lyon County Commissioner Alt, Carson City Mayor Crowell, Esmeralda County Commissioner Bates, Storey County Commissioner McGuffey, Elko County Commissioner Dahl and (NACO Staff: Dagny Stapleton, Amanda Evans and Tori Sundheim)

Remote Attendance: Past President Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank and Churchill County Commissioner Olsen

Other Attendance: Churchill County Assessor Denise Felton, Elko County Manager Rob Stokes, Carson City Manager Nick Marano, Humboldt County Recorder Debbie Engstrom, Lee Bonner-NDOT, UNR Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources Bill Payne, Ralph Thomas and Lisa Ross from NV BLM.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by President Phillips.

1. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that Commissioner French had been appointed to the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. President Phillips commented on Nevada's statehood anniversary and Commissioner Lucey noted that the telegraph transmission of the Nevada Constitution still holds the record for the longest in history.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Bates.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Phillips spoke about the Annual Conference and noted that NACO and Humboldt County staff conducted a wonderful and informative event.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny also mentioned Commissioner French's appointment to the Natural Resources seat on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board and noted that receiving additional representation from Nevada was great news as Nevada is the State with the largest percentage of wild horses. Dagny also noted that invitations had been distributed for a Nevada local government meeting at the White House and informed the Board that she had heard from colleagues that the Administration is conducting these meetings for each state. She asked the Board to let staff know if they or any of their colleagues plan to attend the meeting as the National Association of Counties (NACo) would like to extend an invitation for dinner the night prior to any commissioners who will be in D.C. She also informed the Board that NACo is concerned with the elimination of the SALT deduction in the current tax reform proposal being discussed in Washington, and that it was their position that the removal of the deduction would result in double taxation and have a significant effect on counties. She offered to provide further information if members were interested. She let the Board know that some promising applications for the Deputy Director position have been received and that there will be a draft budget for the Board to review at the November meeting. Vice President Waits also referred to a report on the NACo website that shows the effects of SALT on a county by county basis.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2017 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Herman.

6. **Approval of NACO Resolution 17-02 Thanking Humboldt County for Hosting the 2017 NACO Annual Conference.** The resolution was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Thayler. It was also noted that the City of Winnemucca was very supportive of the event.
7. **Approval for A&H Insurance LLC; Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth Inc; and Q&D Construction to be Associate Members of NACO.** Dagny informed the Board that all three had submitted applications and that Board approval was needed. The new Associate Members were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lucey with second by Commissioner Bates.
8. **Approval of the Appointment of NACO Executive Director Dagny Stapleton to Replace Jeff Fontaine as the Nevada Association of Counties Representative on the Federal Lands Access Program's Nevada Programming Decisions Committee.** The appointment was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with a second by Commissioner Bates.
9. **Discussion Regarding Future NACO Annual Conferences Including the Approval of Douglas County as the Host of the 2018 NACO Annual Conference to be held November 13-15, 2018.** Dagny explained the process for deciding conference hosts and noted that counties may put in requests at least a year in advance if they are interested. She reviewed the requirements to host the event as well as the list (included in the meeting materials) of past conference host counties going back to 1981. She informed the Board that she and Amanda had toured the facility proposed by Douglas County with Commissioner Thayler and staff believes that the space will more than accommodate the event. Commissioner Thayler noted that Douglas County is honored to potentially host the event in 2018 and that there are a lot of exciting things happening in their county that they would like to share. Commissioner Lucey inquired whether there were other counties interested in hosting future events. Dagny noted that some counties have indicated interest but that any are welcome and NACO staff stands ready to assist with any additional information. Commissioner Tipton explained Mineral County's lack of facilities and it was noted that there are opportunities to partner with counties that do have facilities. Douglas County was approved as the host of the 2018 NACO Annual Conference on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Mayor Crowell.
10. **Update on University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Including Discussion on the Preliminary Budget Proposal Submitted by The College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources.** Dagny noted the discussion at the previous meeting regarding the \$6M+ proposed budget augmentation for Cooperative Extension. Commissioners Herman, French, and Giunchigliani worked together with Dagny on the proposal draft, which was submitted by the Dean to University Administration. Dean Payne informed the Board that Dr. Ivory Lyles would begin his duties as the Director of Cooperative Extension on November 1, and that they had formed a core Cooperative Extension advisory board, on which he would like to include Executive Director Stapleton. He also mentioned that an audit of the program had been completed and would be sent to the Regents. The Dean noted that the final draft of the Extension budget augmentation request was submitted at just over \$7M and includes \$3.4M for Extension Educator's and specialists, and approximately \$1.2M in funding for 4-H programs. He informed the Board that he has been asked by the President to provide budget details for all proposed positions and that the President is behind the process. He outlined the budget process going forward and noted that UNR is internally setting priorities which will be submitted to the Regents in January and that final priorities would be submitted to the Legislature in June 2018. Dagny asked whether, in addition to her potential role on the Advisory Board there would be additional membership by Commissioners; she also asked about the timeline for creating the Board. The Dean noted that he hoped the core group could meet the first week that Dr. Lyles started his duties. Vice President Waits asked for clarification on the amount of the proposed budget augmentation and the Dean responded that it is \$7.197 million. He added that the whole amount is a line item for Cooperative Extension.
11. **Approval of a NACO Plan to Prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session by Conducting Outreach to State and Legislative Officials regarding County Priorities.** President Phillips noted that it is necessary to renew the NACO Legislative Committee to assist with the outreach efforts and that he would like to have Commissioner Lucey Chair the Committee and Past President Wichman be the

Vice Chair for the effort. Commissioner Lucey said it would be an honor and the appointments and plan were approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Vice President Waits.

12. **Update Regarding the Phase-out of Advanced Data Systems Used by Nevada's Rural Counties including County Contracts for Software Development and Licensing.** Dagny reminded the Board of the history of the ADS replacement process. She noted that NACO had taken a leadership role early in the process to bring the affiliate groups together and that this agenda item was intended as an update of where each of the groups are in that process. She noted that there is no longer one system that can serve the needs of all the groups that are required to make the transition. She reported that the Clerks have all gone with VoTech for voter registration software. Humboldt County Recorder Debbie Engstrom informed the Board that five county recorder offices were not affected by the phase out of ADS including Humboldt County but of the remaining ten counties only two are undecided but will be making a decision soon on the software for the recorder functions. She noted their Association had met earlier in the year with various vendors and to network with the users of other systems, and she echoed Dagny's statements that one vendor wouldn't work for all the affected counties, specifically for those with combined offices. She reported to the Board that the average startup cost was \$65K with about \$15K in yearly maintenance and that two counties have gone live with new systems. Churchill County Assessor Denise Felton informed the Board that 12 of the 15 counties have signed with DevNet for the Assessor and Treasurer software and many of those have also purchased software for their Clerks and building and planning departments. She noted that the 12 county group has been working through the necessary JAD (Joint Application Development) sessions with subject matter experts. She noted that there is specialized software that is managing the process and that they are 90% complete with the sessions and they will be complete in November. She noted that deliverables and testing will begin the first quarter of 2018 and that the July 2019 deadline to begin conversion is still in place. Carson City Manager Nick Marano informed the Board that Carson City, Lyon and Douglas Counties have hired a consultant and an RFP was released in September for their assessor/treasurer software. Following the release of the RFP, bids were received and proofed and following contract negotiation with the finalists a decision is expected to be made on December 7th for the three county consortium.

13. **Update and Possible Action Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Including:**
- a) **Greater Sage-Grouse.**
- i. **BLM's Proposed Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal Draft Environmental Impact Statement.** Tori informed the Board that the Withdrawal was canceled and that the final determination by the agency was that a 1% impact didn't support the action. She reported that there was a Federal Register announcement re-opening the plan amendment process which will only take one year per the new Secretarial order. She noted that the scoping process will end on November 27th and that a draft scoping letter would be provided at the November meeting. She sent a suggested course of action to all affected counties and reported that there had been conversation regarding the hiring of a consultant to help; she asked interested counties to reach out to her if interested. She noted that this process is a perfect opportunity to show the agencies and the public that the counties can provide alternatives that make sense for everyone involved. Vice President Waits asked if there was a need for the counties to again approve NACO to represent them in the process and Dagny clarified that it is a new process so there would need to be a new application for Cooperating Agency status, and that that application can include NACO as a representative. The Board approved allowing NACO to be added as a representative on individual county applications for Cooperating Agency status on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Lucey.
- ii. **The BLM's and U.S. Forest Service's Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans including the Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Filed by the State of Nevada and Nine Nevada Counties.** This Item was heard in closed session, no action was taken.
- iii. **Cooperating Agency Status for Upcoming BLM and U.S. Forest Service's Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendments.** Commissioner McGuffey noted that it is important for the counties that don't have sage grouse be able to support those that do. Commissioner Dahl noted that it might be a better idea to apply through the state office rather than through the district offices. The Board approved NACO applying for Cooperating Agency

status as a sole entity through the BLM state office on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Bates.

- 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 F&WS.** This item was heard in closed session, no action was taken.
 - c) **March 27, 2017 Memorandum from the Secretary of Interior to the Bureau of Land Management, “Improving the Bureau of Land Management’s Planning and National Environmental Policy Act Processes.”** Tori noted that the Secretarial Order is included in the agenda packet and that the order establishes new guidelines in the NEPA process. The order requires the processes to take no more than one year and be no more than 300 pages. She noted that it is important to keep in mind that the process will go much more quickly and so it is important to engage in a more timely and organized manner. No action was taken.
 - d) **Military Withdrawals**
 - i. **The U.S. Department of the Navy’s Notice of Intent to Prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization: Expansion of Land Ranges, Airspace Modifications, and Public Land Withdrawal Renewal.**
 - ii. **The U.S. Air Force’s Notice of Intent to Prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for the Nevada Test and Training Range Military Land Withdrawal at Nellis Air Force Base.** These items were discussed concurrently. Tori noted that no real update is available but that NACO is still working on this issue. Commissioner Tipton inquired about the socioeconomic conversation and Tori noted that due to the confidentiality agreement in the MOU that she can’t speak to that in a public meeting.
14. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Wichman noted that she is excited about the upcoming workshops and while she doesn’t look forward to turning over the Chairmanship of the Committee to President Phillips she is confident in his leadership. She added that she has very much enjoyed spearheading the group. Dagny reviewed the workshop schedule, specifically noting the Understanding Medicaid workshop on December 1st. The full schedule will be distributed to the Board.
15. **National Association of Counties and Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates.** Commissioner Dahl informed the Board that WIR met in Wyoming the previous week for a single day meeting. He noted the discussion included PILT, SRS, the Endangered Species Act and wild horses and burros. He informed the Board that WIR had identified 6 or 7 priority issues including wildlife corridors and opioids but the premier issue of the group is wildfire. Commissioner Dahl noted that lack of forest work has been a major cause of some of the catastrophic fires experienced in recent years. Commissioner Alt noted that some of the fault of the urban interface fires lies with land planning. Mayor Crowell inquired about the Nevada Fire Safe Council and Dagny noted that NDF has signed an MOU with Cooperative Extension to be the agency to stand the organization up again and that it is now called the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities. Dagny is NACO’s representative on that Board. She informed the Board that the first meeting had recently been held and that hopefully it will be fully up and running within the next year. She noted that she will bring the Board a presentation on the topic of fire adapted communities and the resources that will be available, including grants and educational materials. Commissioner Tipton noted that the Western Governors Association is also having a robust conversation regarding the urban interface fire situation.
16. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Commissioner Thayler informed the Board that Douglas County’s Aviation Round Up was a success and Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that Mineral County would be starting hearings on recreational marijuana.
17. **Public Comment** – Commissioners McGuffey and Alt spoke to Tori’s swearing into the Nevada State Bar by Chief Justice Cherry. Commissioner Lucey noted that the Congressional Energy Committee would be holding hearings on Yucca Mountain and suggested that the group have a discussion on that issue.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Bates at 11:55 a.m.