

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 24, 2026, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Gardner, President Elect Andriola, Vice President Keller, Past President Andreozzi, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Getto, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Tolbert, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Mineral County Commissioner Ruse, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Storey County Commissioner Mitchell, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Fiscal Officer Kalt, and NACO Staff (Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Jennifer Berthiaume and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Vice President Keller with second by President Elect Andriola.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Gardner reminded the Board that following their appointment of Amy as the Interim Executive Director they had not addressed compensation. He informed the Board that the Executive Committee had discussed the issue and come to the decision that she would receive additional compensation in the amount of \$1,000.00/per week for filling the role of Interim Executive Director in addition to her role as Health and Human Services Manager. President Gardner also reminded the Board that Douglas County will be hosting the 2027 Western Interstate Region (WIR) conference for the National Association of Counties (NACo) and informed them that he is putting together a committee to work on the planning required by the host county, requesting that anyone interested in assisting with the planning efforts to reach out to him directly. President Gardner concluded his report by giving the Board an overview of the tours and programming that the County is planning for the event.
4. **NACO Interim Executive Director's Report.** Amy informed the Board that attendee registration for the Annual Conference would open later in the day and that a draft agenda would also be released to assist any county staff members that need to obtain permission for attendance. She informed the Board that Kelly Langley had retired from the Nevada Department of Taxation (D-Tax) and that her successor was expected to be announced the following week. Amy explained she had been informed that questions regarding the issues with C-Tax distributions had been addressed in their town hall events, but that questions regarding a specific entity could not be answered during town hall events due to confidentiality. Amy then informed the Board that an additional town hall would be held by D-Tax the following Wednesday, April 29th, and that information on how to attend would be included in the week's newsletter. She also informed the Board that the NACo AI Leadership

Academy would be launching in May and that the NACO workshop on unclaimed property housed at the State Treasurer's office would take place on May 1, encouraging attendance. Amy also thanked the Emeritus Committee for the workshop topic and Jennifer for her hard work organizing the workshop. President Elect Andriola requested a digital copy of the workshop flyer to share with staff and President Gardner noted that both the C-Tax town hall and NACO workshops were important opportunities for county fiscal staff.

5. **Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2026, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.

6. **Update and Presentation from Britta Appel, Director of the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT).** Ms. Appel reminded the Board that the Office was created in 2015 to address newly implemented federal Broadband funding. She then reminded the Board that in 2021 COVID funding was pushed down to the local level and gave an overview of where that money was allocated. She discussed the importance of Broadband connectivity to counties and how it relates to not only economic development but to education, health, and public safety. Ms. Appel discussed OSIT's objective to build out a Broadband network that reached every area in the State and discussed the various project phases including the Middle Mile projects that connect communities via interstate and highway corridors and provide redundancy capabilities should any part of the network be damaged. She also discussed the Last Mile projects which require service providers to connect service within ten business days to any consumer who makes a request for service. She noted that the minimum speeds the providers must adhere to as well as the requirement for service providers to have a low-cost option available to consumers. Ms. Appel informed the Board of restructuring of the BEAD program which allowed for the reallocation of ARPA and SLRF funding and allowed additional technology assets to be used by service providers including satellite in areas where hard connection service is unavailable or excessively cost prohibitive. Commissioner Tipton inquired as to the areas surrounded by service capability, but that are not being served. Ms. Appel stated that those "island" areas would be addressed under the 3rd phase of Last Mile projects funded by the BEAD program. She clarified that phases 1 and 2 provided the trunk that service providers tie into under the 3rd phase and that the requirement to provide a low-cost option is included in their contracts with OSIT, in response to questions by President Gardner. Supervisor Giomi inquired as to who owns the fiber lines, and Ms. Appel stated that the State owns a portion, clarifying that they reserved 36 strands to run State systems and that 12 strands are dedicated to rural services. She further clarified that the providers own and control the lines, but the Government retains interest. When questioned about areas where the lines run down a main road, how service was to be provided to consumers well off the main road, she stated that the ISP must figure out how to get the service to the home or business. She also clarified that if the service provider has contracted to provide fiber service, they must provide fiber service regardless of the distance from the trunk to the residence. Vice President Keller discussed issues with the level of services and challenges with things like telehealth capabilities through video conferencing. Ms. Appel informed the Board that the service providers contracts include guaranteed speed sufficient for video conferencing and streaming services but noted that extremely high definition and some gaming applications could have issues depending on the service package the consumer chooses. Ms. Appel informed the Board that she would be signing the BEAD grant agreement later in the day, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present to them and offered to present to any county that requested and update.

7. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Reappointment of Joni Eastley, former Nye County Commissioner to the Board for Indigent Defense Services.** The reappointment of Ms. Eastley was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Supervisor Giomi.
8. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Reappointment of Roger Mancebo, former Pershing County Commissioner, as one of two NACO appointees to the Board of Directors for Nevada Rural Housing.** The reappointment of Mr. Mancebo was approved on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by President Elect Andriola.
9. **Review and Approval of Updated NACO Chief Executive Officer Job Description.** President Gardner informed the Board that through their discussions regarding the process for opening the position up to applicants that the Executive Committee had updated the Job Description. President Elect Andriola explained that the document had last been updated in 2021 and there were some competing job titles and other areas where language needed to be tightened up. She informed the Board that she had obtained support from Washoe County Human Resources staff and that it had been determined that the job title should be Chief Executive Officer in keeping with the first reference in the 2021 job description, making the transition from Executive Director. President Elect Andriola also explained that other changes to the document included the provisions that the CEO must reside in Nevada and is expected to work out of the Carson City office. She also noted that the Mission Statement did not match the NACO website, and that language was updated. Vice President Keller inquired as to if the title was consistent with NACO and it was noted that it is. Supervisor Giomi also noted that the title of CEO is appropriate given that many counties are moving in that direction for their management executives as well. He also noted that the compensation and benefits portion needed to include paid sick leave and that the residency requirement should be amended to state that the successful candidate must reside in or relocate to Nevada prior to their appointment. The updated job description including the discussed additional language was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Vice President Keller.
10. **Update and Discussion Regarding the NACO Executive Committee Planning Activities to Conduct the Search for a New NACO Chief Executive Officer, including Position Announcement and Search Process and Timeline.** President Gardner opened the item for discussion and Supervisor Giomi reiterated the need to add paid sick leave and relocation prior to appointment language to the appropriate locations within the document. He also discussed the need to determine if there is a mechanism available to hire a former county or government employee who is drawing PERS retirement without disrupting their ability to do so, noting the possible pool of interested parties that have a tremendous background of service and vast historical knowledge that could be very valuable to the Association. Fiscal Officer Kalt stated that he believes it is possible given the number of school district superintendents that are retired teachers but under contract but that he would have POOL/PACT's human resources division provide clarity. President Elect Andriola also stated that she would have Washoe County's human resources department provide guidance as well. Supervisor Giomi noted that the information was necessary to include in the job announcement, but that being able to provide an answer to that question to potential applicants would be important. The Board reviewed the process that was followed during the 2021 Executive Director search and noted that the completion of an application should be done in the initial stage and submitted with the applicants cover letter and resume, instead of just prior to the interview stage. President Gardner informed the Board that the Executive Committee had decided that the application period should be open through the June Board of Directors meeting and would close at the end of the day on June

26th, with the Executive Committee reporting back to the full body at the Board meeting on July 31st. Further discussion of the previously followed process included the initial screening of applicants by the Executive Committee and then the interview process and final candidate selection being completed by a Hiring Committee. Commissioner Mitchell expressed concerns with taking too much time to fill the position due to the unique nature of Nevada and the ability of the appointee to get up to speed on the important policy issues and systems prior to the start of the Legislative Session in February of 2027 if they were required to relocate. Through additional discussion the Board determined that a scoring matrix would be developed by the Executive Committee, and it would be used by a hiring committee to screen the applicants and then the Hiring Committee to send the top candidates to the Executive Committee for interviews and the Executive Committee would make the final decision on whom to offer the position. President Gardner named a Hiring Committee to be chaired by Supervisor Giomi with the members consisting of Commissioner Helming, Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Reese, and Commissioner Tipton. The CEO Position Announcement and hiring process was approved as discussed on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.

11. **Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of NACO Resolution 26-01 in Honor of National County Government Month.** President Gardner read the resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Supervisor Giomi.
12. **Update from NACO Health and Human Services Manager.** Amy informed the Board that work continues on improvements to child welfare and that a contract had been executed to assist with data analysis, including funding of child welfare services from 2012 to current. She explained that assistance is necessary due to the dense amount of data and the working group requirements outlined by the Interim Legislative Committee on Health. Amy further explained that the analysis would show important trends and funding needs and referred the Board to the contract and supporting documentation contained in the agenda packet. Amy concluded her update by informing the Board that she also continues to collaborate with counties on applications for the Rural Health Transformation grant funding.

Updates from Standing Committees:

13. **NACO Legislative Committee.** President Elect Andriola informed the Board that the Committee continues to review BDR idea submissions for consideration by the Board. She reminded the Board that the next meeting of the Committee would be the following Friday, May 1st and encouraged participation. Vice President Keller inquired as to if BDRs were transferable if a county did not intend to use theirs and it was clarified that BDRs are not transferable, but a single county BDR could be amended through the legislative process to include all counties.
14. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus.** Past President Andreozi informed the Board that the Committee had met earlier in the morning and had discussed the upcoming workshop on unclaimed property, thanking Jennifer for her hard work on the planning and implementation of the event. He also informed the Board that the Committee had discussed the upcoming Annual Conference and shared ideas for speakers. Past President Andreozi also discussed the former Certified Public Official (CPO) program and the POWER courses that had been held in conjunction to the conference. Fiscal Officer Kalt clarified that the CPO program had been conducted by the University of Nevada, Extended Studies, and that POOL/PACT will do regionalized training if needed. Vice President Keller inquired about the

financial reward program attendees received upon completion and Fiscal Officer Kalt clarified that the reward was provided by POOL/PACT for program graduates from member counties, and that they would be interested in reinstatement of that program. President Elect Andriola thanked Past President Andriozzi for taking on Supervisor Giomi's initiative to revive the Committee and continuing the important work.

15. **NACO Committee on Housing.** Jennifer informed the Board that the Committee had received a presentation from UNR Extension's Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP) on their housing study and that the next meeting would take place in May with a presentation from the Nevada Housing Authority and the Committee would undertake goal setting activities during the meeting as well.
16. **NACO Committee on Cooperative Extension.** Amy informed the Board that the Committee was still in the planning stages, but she had a meeting later in the day with Extension's Director, Jacob DeDecker, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick to discuss the goals of the Committee and other drivers for the Committee to discuss.
17. **Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
 - a. **Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Jeremy Drew from Resource Concepts, Inc. informed the Board that the Subcommittee meeting scheduled for the previous day due to a meeting held by the BLM for Cooperating Agencies associated with the Greater Sage Grouse Resource Management Plan (GRSG RMP). He informed the Board that Lincoln and White Pine Counties had given presentations to the Interim Committee on Natural Resources and had received thoughtful questions from the Legislators in attendance. Noting that the topics the questions covered included water issues, county authority, and planning issues. Mr. Drew informed the Board that Jon Raby had announced his retirement as the State Director of the BLM with his exit date set for the following week. He announced that the Interim Director would be the current Deputy Director for Minerals, Justin Abernathy, and it is expected that it could be 120 days or more before a permanent Director is named. He informed the Board that it is expected that the appointee to the office of Undersecretary for the Department of Interior would be from the private sector and works with a firm similar to RCI in Wyoming. Mr. Drew also discussed BLM updates to grazing regulations expected in May, to be followed by the Forest Service. He also updated the Board on updates to planning rules that dictate RMP's as well as special designation rules. Updates to the regulations governing wild horses and burros are also expected, and he informed the Board that the Undersecretary is supportive of local feedback including comment letters. Mr. Drew also updated the Board on the statewide GRSG RMP briefings on how the plans have changed from the 2015 plan and the discussions being held on implementation of the 2025 plan, noting that some issues with the plans are the same and he also informed the Board that NACO would be hosting another Cooperating Agency meeting on May 7th to continue to work out the coordination and ideas for shared implementation. Mr. Drew also informed the Board that the BLM had given a presentation at the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council that included slides that are public. Jeremy concluded the update by informing the Board that the first SLUPAC meeting in a very long time would take place the following Tuesday and the discussion would include updates from the Division of Minerals and discussion on updates to the geothermal regulations including updated fees, which hadn't been updated since 2014; and mentioned the decreased

timelines being discussed for NEPA activity surrounding geothermal and rare earth mineral projects. No action was taken.

18. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, including the Rural Action Caucus (RAC) and the Midsize County Caucus.** President Gardner informed the Board that the next meeting of the Board of Directors would take place at the WIR Conference in May. Vice President Keller informed the Board that discussions at the latest RAC meeting included HR1267 which addresses water and wastewater PFSA exemptions, noting that 90% of wastewater utilities serve less than 10,000 people which create a challenge with workforce with the necessary qualifications to staff them. President Elect Andriola informed the Board that the Midsize County Caucus had only recently been formed and noted that the Truckee Meadows Water Authority has an apprenticeship program that could help to address workforce challenges for smaller utilities. President Gardner closed the item by reminding the Board that the Presidential appointment process is open for leadership positions on national policy committees and anyone interested in committee membership should send their name to Amanda to be added to the list for registration in July.
19. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board.** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that during the most recent meeting discussions were held on both PILT and SRS and that any counties that had not received their 2025 distribution should let staff know. He also informed the Board that the 2026 distributions should be released in May, and an announcement is expected in June with regards to any changes in how counties would like to receive their distribution payments. Commissioner Tipton also discussed changes in how NACo is conducting the advocacy Fly-In events for both and informed the Board that he would have a more detailed update following the WIR conference in May.
20. **Updates from Individual Member Counties.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their respective counties.
21. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.