

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting  
September 25, 2020, 12:00 p.m.  
*Physical Location for Board Members Only:*  
*Clark County Fire Department – Station 18*  
*575 E. Flamingo Rd.*  
*Las Vegas, NV 89119*

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**ATTENDANCE:** President French, President Elect Kirkpatrick, Past President Waits, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Clark County Commissioner Weekly, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Lander County Commissioner Clark, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Mineral County Commissioner Price, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, NACO Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Colby Prout and Amanda Evans)

The meeting was called to order by President French at 12:16 p.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Kirkpatrick with second by Past President Waits.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President French began his remarks with a moment of silence for the passing of Carson City Mayor Crowell, a long time NACO Board member. He continued his report by thanking Clark County for hosting the meeting and all the efforts involved. President French then urged the Board to watch federal regulations and noted that some proposed changes being discussed at the Agency level could have drastic effects on the way business is conducted within Nevada.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny reminded the Board that the 2020 Census concluded on September 30<sup>th</sup>. She announced the completion of the Nevada, We are Counties video, which was played for the Board. She thanked the counties for their assistance with the project. Dagny concluded her remarks by informing the group that outreach to Legislators for the upcoming 2021 legislative session is continuing.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meetings.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Supervisor Giomi.
6. **Discussion and Possible Approval of One NACO Nominee to the Nevada Board on Indigent Defense Services.** Dagny gave the Board an overview of the Board of Indigent Services and the newly created State Department of Indigent Defense Services. She reminded the Board that their appointees to the Board included Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola, Nye County Commissioner Wichman and former Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastly. Dagny also informed the Board that Carson City Mayor Crowell had previously Chaired the Board and that his passing left a seat open on that Board that the Association would need to fill. She noted that Churchill County Commissioner Olsen and Lincoln County

Commissioner Lister had expressed interest in serving on the Board, but Commissioner Olsen is ineligible because he already holds an appointment to another gubernatorially appointed board. Commissioner Lister was appointed as NACO's fourth designee on a motion by Vice President Waits with second by President Elect Kirkpatrick.

7. **Discussion and Update Regarding NACO's 2020 Annual Conference.** Dagny reminded the Board that the event would be taking place virtually November 17-19<sup>th</sup>. She noted that staff had been working on setting up the app that will be hosting the conference and noted the ways that attendees and sponsors would be able to interact throughout the event. Dagny informed the Board that staff was also working on ways to increase engagement because of the virtual nature of the event and hoped to have increased participation from the counties because of decreased costs associated with attendance. She gave an overview of the draft schedule and workshops, noting that the content would be in short bursts over the course of the event instead of all-day programs as is traditional during an in-person event. She concluded her remarks by informing the group that staff hoped to have registration open the following week. President French inquired as to if county administration would receive the registration announcement and if there would be a cost for registration. Dagny clarified that registration information would be sent to all County Commissioners, administrative offices, other elected officials and department heads, and that the cost of registration would be \$30/per person for Delegates (county officials and staff) and \$50/per person for Non-Delegates. No action was taken on the item.
8. **Approval of Additional NACO 2020 Associate Members.** The application of the Rural Nevada Development Corporation was approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Commissioner Lister.
9. **Update on the Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change (2019-22), Brad Crowell, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).** Dr. Kristin Averyt, Nevada's Climate Policy Coordinator, presented on behalf of Mr. Crowell. She reminded the Board of DCNR's presentation at the July meeting and gave them a brief overview of the Governor's Executive Order and the parameters of the strategy development as set by the Legislature. Dr. Averyt announced that the website for the program had been launched ([climateaction.nv.gov](http://climateaction.nv.gov)) and that the site included a survey to engage community participation. She informed the group that five of the eight scheduled listening sessions had been held and all public comment had been heard during those sessions. President Elect Kirkpatrick inquired as to if there had been communications with the federal delegation and it was noted that there had been. President Elect Kirkpatrick then requested that the counties be copied on those communications. President French suggested that the strategy include emphasis on community specific aspects such as fire safe communities and fuels management. Dr. Averyt noted that wildfire is part of the discussion and that they had also engaged with Cooperative Extension on the issue. Commissioner Hartung inquired as to the potential to require all new construction to exclude natural gas installation. Dr. Averyt noted that she had not heard of that as a legislative proposal. She further clarified that the strategy being developed was not a blueprint for legislation and no BDR proposals related to the program had been suggested by or put forth by DCNR. Dagny inquired as to if wildfire was seen as an issue for mitigation and requested an overview of the timeline for completion of the proposed strategy so that the Board would know when to expect the plan and when they may be able to provide comment on the proposal. Dr. Averyt stated that wildfire is a part of the broader discussion and that the strategy was scheduled to be delivered to the Governor on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Dagny then inquired about BDRs related to the program and Dr. Averyt stated that no BDRs or bills were being discussed by DCNR related to the program. President Elect Kirkpatrick inquired

as to the goals of the strategy if not to guide legislation. Dr. Averyt then noted that from the Department's perspective it is to act as a risk assessment to guide further discussion.

- 10. Presentation and Update from the University of Nevada Extension (UNCE), Director Ivory Lyles.** Dr. Lyles thanked the Board for the opportunity to update them on the activities of the Department and expressed his appreciation for, and value of the partnership with the counties. He referred to the written report included in the agenda packet and noted that he would be giving a synopsis of the document. Dr. Lyles first referred to recent challenges within some of the program staff and noted that they are working to remedy the issues and are partnering with the College of Education to help further shape the programs within UNCE. He informed the Board that the biennial budget had been submitted by the University but included no enhancement for the program, noting that the case for budget enhancement would still be made at the legislature. He discussed the 4-H camp facility at Lake Tahoe and the need for a similar facility to service the youth of southern Nevada. He informed the group that two committees had been formed to look at programs to promote natural resource programs in the southern part of the state as well as to look at the funding options for and feasible locations to house those programs. Dr. Lyles informed the group that they would begin the process of advertising for an economic development position and will work with the various commissions as they move forward in that process. He discussed a proposal between UNCE, the Attorney General's office and Clark County to address domestic violence issues but that the program would move forward contingent on funding. The Board was informed that changes were being made to the Master Gardner program to make it more accessible and 'landscape' applicable. Specifically, that 12 of the sessions would be converted to on-line based classes and the remaining six would be considered labs and would include more climate and area specific curriculum. A new research program was announced in conjunction with the College of Agriculture based on the Rafter 7 sheep breed, as was a volunteer development position. Dr. Lyles also discussed his desire to have a specific position for 4-H livestock projects which would be funded by some savings he had identified and would work with the counties to standardize the livestock programs and promote shows; this program will be brought back to the Board when more formally developed. Future goals for the program that Dr. Lyles identified were the development of a horticulture research center, equine programs for both youth and with an economic development component, and further involvement in schools with regards to nutrition and gardening components, especially within Clark County. Commissioner Clark inquired as to if there were schools in Clark County with those types of programs and Dr. Lyles noted that there were many. President Elect Kirkpatrick further clarified that there are more than 185 schools within the county with gardens, including many considered to be 'inner city' and that several of those have plans to expand to small livestock as well. Commissioner Lister inquired as to if there was research being conducted on the benefits of agriculture to climate issues and Dr. Lyles noted that the topic was more appropriate for the College of Agriculture's Experiment Station. President French inquired as to if wild horse and burros were being considered for the future equine programs and Dr. Lyles noted that the plan was to be more focused on youth. President French then referred to other programs where youth were involved in the training of the animals for adoption, which Dr. Lyles said he would keep in mind.
- 11. Discussion on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Related County Activities.** Dagny reminded the Board that the item is a standing item to facilitate conversation among the members. Caleb Cage, the Governor's COVID-19 Response Director, gave the Board an update on the situation within the state. He informed the Board that the State is working with counties that have met two to three criteria for elevated transmission and that restrictions had been removed from some of the associated counties. He also noted that meetings with the

currently identified counties with elevated transmission risk had been postponed for the week to allow those counties to refine their mitigation plans. He acknowledged difficulties with test turnaround times and challenges with getting the asymptomatic public to test to meet required testing thresholds. Mr. Cage informed the Board that approximately 25% of positive tests had come as the result of contact tracing and that approximately 30,000 people had downloaded the app to assist in those efforts. Commissioner Hartung thanked Mr. Cage for helping to relax some of the restrictions in Washoe County, noting the reopening of those businesses and their importance to the economy of the county and its residents. President Elect Kirkpatrick acknowledged that the situation as a whole is difficult and encouraged Mr. Cage to openly communicate with the counties for assistance. Mr. Cage acknowledged that the public needs to have incentive for testing and that the medical workforce is lacking, noting that work needs to be done on both, as well as the need to revisit some of the previous directives to properly address the current situation. Past President Waits inquired on enforcement efforts noting that they need to be individualized by the communities not the county as a whole. Specifically, that there are counties with communities with few cases that are being penalized for communities with issues. Mr. Cage stated that enforcement is being conducted by OSHA which is not under his purview. Commissioner Lister inquired as to if counties are supposed to receive a breakdown of their case volume and testing records. Mr. Cage stated that county management is supposed to receive those reports and if they are not being received to contact him directly. Supervisor Gioni discussed the expansion of rapid testing, the Dept. of Health and Human Services approval of additional tests that have added layers of certification and the need to streamline these processes. Mr. Cage informed the Supervisor that he would add that issue to the list he will be revisiting with the task force. Dagny addressed the issue with lack of asymptomatic tests being conducted and the affect that is having on the positivity rate within the current metric and the need to possibly revisit that metric. Mr. Cage stated that the issue is on the next agenda for the group, as is a media campaign. He also noted the need to maximize resources and that he is open to looking at things from a more holistic angle. Mr. Cage also informed the Board that Dagny has been a very effective ally for the counties and has driven many of the task force conversations in a challenging and productive manner. Issues with high positivity rates in areas where counties do not have jurisdiction like on tribal lands and in skilled nursing facilities were also discussed. Schools were also part of the discussion and it was suggested that mitigation efforts in schools statewide should be shared. Mental health was the last component discussed and issues with increased suicide's among youth and increases in substance abuse were encouraged to be addressed by Mr. Cage and his group.

## **12. Update and Possible Action Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands Issues Affecting Counties Including:**

- a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Commissioner Higbee, Chair of the Subcommittee informed the Board that they discussed briefly: Sage Grouse issues, grazing regulations and encouraged the group to keep an eye the State Engineer's designation of hydrographic basins.
- b. NACO Draft Comments on the Department of the Interior's Invasive Species Strategic Plan.** Colby referred to the draft letter included in the agenda packet and noted that the Subcommittee recommends its approval with the suggested edits from Subcommittee member and Eureka County Natural Resources, Manager Jake Tibbets. The comment letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner Lister with second by President Elect Kirkpatrick.

- c. Discussion of Presentation to the Nevada Legislature's Interim Committee on Public Lands by the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands Concerning Wild Horses and Burros.** Colby informed the Board that the Coalition had made their presentation on September 10 and that before their presentation to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, that the Subcommittee had been in discussions with the Coalition to help develop their proposal. He informed the Board that the Legislative Committee had adopted the resolution as one of their ten BDRs and that NACO had sent a letter outlining previously approved policy from the Board concerning wild horses and burros, as well as highlighting the Board's prior letters of support for the Path Forward to Nevada's Congressional Delegation.
13. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Waits reminded the Board of the upcoming workshop on Indigent Defense and noted that Vinson was doing a great job leading the group and developing the workshop. Vinson then gave the Board an overview of the workshop and its presenters.
14. **National Association of Counties (NACo) Board Member Updates.** President Elect Kirkpatrick informed the group that the Board was working with NACo Executive Director Matt Chase to get local government included in the next virus relief package, as well as to get an extension on the CARES Act through September of 2021. Commissioner Higbee discussed the virtual PILT Fly In to encourage the full funding of the program.
15. **Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.** President French also discussed the virtual PILT Fly In, noting that there was more robust participation due to the lack of need to travel. He also discussed a press conference that was held regarding public lands and the connection with multiple uses that can be found on the WIR website. Other conversations held at WIR included COVID stimulus, climate change issues, forest management, endangered species reform regulations and several white papers that would be forthcoming. Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that he had been appointed to the Public Lands Steering Committee and noted the need for a western voice on a committee of predominately eastern commissioners. Commissioner Lister also informed the Board that he had been appointed to the Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee.
16. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
17. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58.