

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
December 18, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Attendance Only

ADOPTED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: President French, President Elect Kirkpatrick, Vice President Lucey, Past President Waits, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Mineral County Commissioner Price, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, 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 9:32 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Nate Helton of Senator Rosen's office introduced himself to the Board as the Senator's Northern Nevada Regional Representative and encouraged members of the Board to reach out to him with any needs or concerns. Past President Waits encouraged members of the Board to view the Christmas Star on December 21st. David Fogerson introduced himself to the Board as the new Manager of the State Department of Emergency Management. Mr. Fogerson informed the Board that he came from the East Fork Fire Department in Douglas County and encouraged the Board to turn in requests for FEMA funding reimbursements and let them know that the Department had COVID-19 rapid tests available.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Carson with second by Past President Waits.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President French reflected on his last meeting as the Association President and thanked the Board for their support. He noted that of the eight boards he currently sits on NACO is the most proactive and effective. President French concluded his remarks by stating that he believes the Association will continue to remain relevant on not only the State but National level.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny informed the Board that staff will continue to try to find a way to have an in-person meeting. She honored President French and thanked him for his guidance, support and the time dedicated to the Association and position.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the November 19th, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Price with second by Commissioner Giomi.
6. **Discussion and Approval of NACO's 2021 Budget.** Dagny informed the Board that the requested changes to staff salaries were included and no other changes to the budget had been made since members reviewed the draft in November. The Board approved the budget as presented on a motion by Fiscal Officer Kalt with second by Vice President Lucey.

7. **Approval of NACO Board of Director's Meeting Dates for 2021.** Dagny referred to the proposed calendar included in the packet. She noted that the January meeting was scheduled to be held in Clark County, but because of the current directives relating to COVID-19, and the need to have the meeting a week early due to the start of the Legislative session, a meeting in Clark County in July was proposed. With that change the calendar was approved on a motion by Commissioner Price with second by President Elect Kirkpatrick.
8. **Discussion and Approval of Establishing a New Checking Account at Either Nevada State Bank or Wells Fargo Bank; Transferring NACO Funds into the New Account; and Closing NACO's Checking Account with Bank of America.** Dagny informed the Board that the item had been brought forth after consultation with POOL/Pact and Fiscal Officer Kalt. She noted that issue is purely operational, and that staff is requesting the approval of the item because the current institution is not meeting the needs of the Association. The item was approved on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by Commissioner Price.
9. **Approval of NACO Resolution 20-03 Recognizing January as National Radon Action Month.** Dagny reminded the Board that they have approved a similar resolution in years past. Past President Waits inquired as to why it was being heard in December instead of January as in past years. Dagny clarified that the January meeting of the Board is at the end of the month and passing the resolution in December makes it more useful to the University of Nevada Extension, Radon Education Program. The resolution was passed on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Commissioner Price.
10. **Recommendation of a Nominee for Appointment by the Governor for NACO's Seat on the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles (NRS 490.067).** Dagny gave an overview of the Board and reminded the Board that their former appointee, Sue Baker, would be retiring from Clark County and would no longer be able to serve. She noted that it is important for the Board's nominee to have an interest in the field. President French informed the Board that he would be interviewing a potential nominee and would like to see the item tabled until the January meeting. Dagny noted that item had been discussed at the Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee meeting as well and requested that nominees be brought forth by mid-January for discussion at the next meeting. No action was taken.
11. **Wrap Up Discussion Regarding the 2020 NACO Annual Conference.** Dagny gave the Board of a brief recap of the event including the number of registrants and sponsors. She reminded the Board that the recordings of the educational sessions and associated presentations could be accessed through the NACO website. She concluded the item by thanking the Board for their support and participation and reminding them that the 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled for September in Churchill County.
12. **Discussion on COVID-19 Response and Related County Activities Including an Update on State and County Vaccination Plans from the Nevada Division of Health and Human Services, Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health.** Dagny informed the Board that due to the meeting of the Legislatures Interim Finance Committee Ms. McDaniel and Ms. Peek were not able to attend. Ms. Loper informed the Board that her position is specific to immunizations and chronic diseases. She then gave the Board a presentation that included information on the plan for vaccine distribution. She informed the Board that the planning process had begun in April and was modeled on the vaccination plan for the H1N1 virus from 2009/10. The public version of the plan is

expected to be released in mid-January and will have a phased strategy. She noted that the State had partnered with CVS and Walgreens for administration of the vaccine in congregate settings such as skilled nursing facilities. She then gave an overview of the tiered distribution strategy, including the criteria for the development of those included in each tier. Ms. Loper's presentation included a timeline for vaccine distribution and noted that guidance will be released for employers. Her presentation concluded with an overview of the development of the vaccine, including funding and safety protocols. President Elect Kirkpatrick inquired as to how the data for the 14 counties without health districts was being communicated, specifically noting that members of the Congressional Delegation were asking county level officials about data regarding amounts of vaccine available that had yet to be communicated by the state. Ms. Loper agreed that data was not being properly communicated at several levels including from the Federal level. She informed the Board that her department is in contact with its county partners including Emergency Managers and Health Nurses. President Elect Kirkpatrick encouraged the need for a weekly update to the County Commission Chairs and Dagny noted that the Association would be happy to facilitate those updates. It was also clarified that the counties determine who is in each tier for their jurisdictions. Commissioner Goicoechea inquired as to what the contingency plan was for holding doses of the vaccines back for the required second inoculation. Ms. Loper stated that she believed that is why the Federal Government was holding back doses in the initial distribution. Commissioner Keyes stressed the need to keep in mind the need for cold storage. Commissioner Shank inquired as to what the plans were for the prisons and it was clarified that prison staff are in the first tier and inmates are in the second as congregate populations. No action was taken.

13. Update on NACO BDRs and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties Leading into the 2021 Session of the Nevada Legislature. Vinson informed the Board that the Legislative Subcommittee had been meeting regularly to go over the bills that were being released, noting that at that time they were mostly agency and local government proposals. He gave a brief overview of the Association's bills and informed the Board that he and Dagny were meeting regularly with Legislators. He informed the group that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be held on January 8th and that the Committee would meet weekly during the Session. Dagny reminded the Board that they had authorized a working group in October to facilitate a larger discussion on the proposals submitted regarding property taxes. She informed the Board that the group had met and held detailed discussions on the released bills as well as other proposals, and how they would affect not only county revenues but also taxpayers. She noted that they will continue to have discussions with Legislators, other lobbyists and stake holders and bring additional information back to the Board. No action was taken.

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

- a. Approval of Updates to NACO's Public Lands Action Plan** Colby informed the Board there were no substantive changes to positions included in the Plan, last updated in 2018, and that the Subcommittee had approved the plan included in the agenda packet. He mentioned that some of the wording and format had been updated where needed. The Plan was approved as presented on a motion by President Elect Kirkpatrick with second by Commissioner Higbee.
- b. Discussion of Possible NACO Involvement in Ongoing Litigation Against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Over Decision to Withdraw Possible Listing of the Bi-State Sage-grouse Under the Endangered Species Act** Colby informed the Board that the Committee had been discussing the issue and reminded them of

previous action taken as interveners approved by the Board. He noted that discussion included considerations of time, cost, and whether NACO could offer any assistance on the narrow question of whether the Fish and Wildlife Service did not properly rely on its data in determining not to list the Bi-state Sage-grouse. Colby informed the Board that the Subcommittee had determined that involvement is not currently warranted but could be in the future and that future discussion may take place as needed. President Elect Kirkpatrick inquired if the Western Region was working on the issue. President French noted that the Western Interstate Region believes that any action taken could telegraph to the Greater Sage-grouse and that they are monitoring and working on the issue. No action was taken.

- c. **Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization and Nevada Test and Training Range (NNTR), Including Legislative Status** Vinson informed the Board that the National Defense Authorization Act, which included only status quo withdrawals and not the additional lands requested, had passed in Congress, and was delivered to the President. Vince noted that while the President had indicated vetoing the Act that it had passed Congress with veto proof margins. He also informed the Board that both the Navy and the Airforce had indicated that they would come back to the next Congress with their additional land withdrawal requests. Vinson concluded the item by noting that Senator Masto is very engaged on the issue. No action was taken.
 - d. **Other Updates from the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee** Subcommittee Chair Higbee informed the Board that they had discussed bill language brought by Elko County and President French noted that a broader discussion on the proposed legislation would need to occur before it would be ready for any consideration by the Board.
15. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Waits gave an overview of the activities of the Committee during the year, including the educational workshops held and the update of the New Commissioner Handbook. President French noted that he would be the Committee's next Chair and that nominations to the Committee would be announced soon.
 16. **National Association of Counties Board Member Updates.** President Elect Kirkpatrick informed the Board that the National Board is working on the next COVID relief package, including negotiation on direct funding to counties by stressing regional services, extension of the CARES Act funds and additional funding for vaccine distribution and basic needs such as rental assistance etc. Commissioner Higbee informed the Board that they were also discussing the logistics of getting broadband, including 5G, into rural communities.
 17. **Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties' Policy Steering Committee Members.** Dagny informed the Board that Commissioner Dahl was currently on the Western Interstate Region call and that the item would be tabled until the January meeting.
 18. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.
 19. **Public Comment.** No public comment was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.