

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 26, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Due to COVID 19 Restrictions this meeting of the NACO Board of Directors is accessible to the public via Teleconference

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Elect Kirkpatrick, Vice President Lucey, Past President Waits, Elko County Commissioner Dahl, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Mineral County Commissioner Price, Nye County Commissioner Wichman, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, Fiscal Officer Kalt, Eric Spratley – Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs Association, and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau, Colby Prout and Amanda Evans)

The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Kirkpatrick at 9:33 am.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with second by Vice President Lucey.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Elect Kirkpatrick informed the Board that President French was absent due to travel and wished him a happy anniversary.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny informed the Board that a call had been conducted regarding some of the challenges counties are facing with the transition to new software for some important county functions and encouraged anyone with additional issues or comments on the transition to reach out to Vinson. She noted that the State had received infrared thermometers and would be making some available to counties and encouraged any county in need to reach out to the State. Vinson reminded the Board that he served as the Association's representative on the SCR3 working group, to help devise a more sustainable and appropriate funding mechanism for roads. He informed the Board that the Chair of that working group had solicited input on the proposed funding mechanism and directed their attention to the comments sent by NACO, that were included in the agenda packet. He concluded his report by noting that input submitted included the long-standing position of the Board that any changes to the current funding system include an option for local government funding.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the May 29, 2020 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with second by Past President Waits.
6. **Discussion on Format for the 2020 NACO Annual Conference.** A discussion was held on how the event may move forward given the pandemic situation and current directives and recommendations on large gatherings. County budget adjustments due to lost revenue from the pandemic, and how those may affect the ability for Commissioners and staff to attend the conference were also discussed. President Elect Kirkpatrick noted a desire to delay a decision until more information on how the pandemic was progressing. The Board was

requested to communicate with Dagny on the potential and desire for an in-person event by the end of the following week. No action was taken.

- 7. Update and Discussion Regarding the National Association of Counties Second Vice President Election.** Dagny gave the Board an overview of how the Annual Meeting would be conducted in a virtual setting, including the voting credentials process and how, if desired, a county could appoint her as their proxy for the election. She also reminded the Board that in previous years the Association had caucused and voted as a block. Commissioner Higbee stated that he felt the group should continue voting in a block and Commissioner Dahl agreed. President Elect Kirkpatrick suggested that she contact President French after gathering information on both candidates, and then have a call among the Board to decide on who the group would cast their votes for. The group agreed with her suggestion by consensus and no action was taken.
- 8. Update and Discussion Regarding Use of CARES, Coronavirus Relief Dollars Awarded to Nevada's Counties.** Dagny informed the Board that the Governor's office had released information on the distribution of a portion of the dollars that would be shared with counties. She expressed appreciation to the State for the sharing of the funds with local governments and encouraged counties to develop a plan for the distribution of their allotments as soon as possible, reminding the Board that any dollars not spent by the end of the year would have to be returned to the State. Dagny referred to the backup provided that outlines allowable uses of the funds to be used as a guide for individual spending plans. She also encouraged collaboration with cities who received an allotment. Dagny informed the Board that she was compiling information on potential grant programs for businesses affected by the pandemic, using the model that Clark County had put in place. She noted that she was working with Lisa Granhan from Douglas County on a plan to assist counties, that could include the utilization of a national group to run the program. Some allowable uses for the proposed grant funding discussed include Personal Protective Equipment, working capital, and retrofitting of the business for COVID-19 related protections. She also informed the Board that a contract would need to be entered into and that counties would be billed for their portion of the contract based on dollars granted from their county commitment. She informed the Board that a ZOOM conference would be held the following Tuesday and encouraged any county interested in participating to appoint a staff member or Commissioner to act as the official representative of the county during that meeting. President Elect Kirkpatrick noted that Clark County's program was working and well received by the business community. Vice President Lucey encouraged participation in the ZOOM meeting, as well as working with Dagny on possible uses of the program and suggested inclusion of Paycheck Protection Program measures and rental assistance. Dagny requested that anyone interested in participation to contact her by noon on Monday and encouraged the group to have conversations with their business community on what their localized needs are. President Elect Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she had a conversation with the State's COVID Response Director, Caleb Cage, regarding cities reimbursing counties and the state for testing costs, noting that testing would be conducted for some time and that it is important to ensure that resources are available to pay for the testing. Commissioner Lister inquired as to the benefit of continued testing and Ms. Kirkpatrick noted that the next agenda item would address testing, but that current guidelines per the funding received from the federal government require the testing of approximately 2% of the population per month for one year.
- 9. COVID-19 Discussion on Staying Ready in the Event of a Second Wave and Associated Public Health Response, Jeanne Freeman, Quad-County Public Health Preparedness Manager, Caleb Cage, State of Nevada, COVID-19 Response Director, and Julia Peek,**

**NV Division of Public and Behavioral Health.** Ms. Freeman updated the Board on what her office had been working on to ensure the stability of public health in the region. She stressed the importance of ensuring that the healthcare system is not overwhelmed during a second wave of the virus, especially during the Flu season. She discussed their preparations for the Flu season including preparing a robust educational outreach program, a plan for vaccination of essential workers, and including other vaccines in Flu clinics, noting that they had seen a decline in the administration of routine childhood vaccines. She discussed their review of the plans other states had put in place for travelers and working with the local school districts on plans for potential reopening. Ms. Freeman also informed the Board that they are preparing plans for the potential distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine in January or February, including the inoculation of priority populations first, much like what was done with the H1N1 vaccine. She concluded her report to the Board with a discussion of their work with faith based organizations on what potential winter warming shelters could look like and that their response to a potential second wave of the virus, which wouldn't look much different than their initial response other the need for the mitigation of other issues that could arise due to the regular Flu and winter illness season. Ms. Peek spoke about the continued testing being completed and the process in place for contact tracing. She stressed the desire to stop the spread of the virus through direct contact exposure, noting that contact tracing begins immediately after a positive test result. She informed the group that tracing staff is being put in place as quickly as possible because the virus has the potential to spread quickly without strict quarantine orders. She discussed her office's mission to test and contain the spread of the virus, including a campaign to ensure that the public understands why social distancing and mask wearing are important to keep the virus at a controlled burn instead of an out of control fire. Ms. Peek discussed issues with timely reports of testing results and noted that the larger casino's had been working with out of state laboratories and that was also affecting timely reporting. She also noted that Amazon has plans in place for testing of their employee's but that an agreement had been reached not to implement those plans until seamless reporting could be achieved. Dagny noted the goal of the agenda item was to continue the discussions and think about how the CARES dollars distributed to the counties could be utilized. She again encouraged partnering with the cities that had received a distribution to ensure the most effective uses of the dollars received. Ms. Peek suggested that one use of the CARES dollars could be the acquisition of additional courier resources for getting testing specimens to the laboratories to assist with timely reporting of cases. Past President Waits inquired as to the feasibility of reporting rural cases by zip code as is done in the urban areas, noting that positive cases in the rural counties could be hundreds of miles apart. Ms. Peek stated that they are working on a zip code reporting model that could work for the rural communities while still adhering to privacy requirements. Joan Hall of Nevada Rural Hospital Partners informed the group that her members felt like they are getting a mosaic of conflicting information and requested that her group be involved the conversations with the emergency managers and local health nurses. She also informed the group that rural hospitals are having issues securing PPE. Ms. Peek stated that she would ensure that the group is included on the statewide testing calls going forward.

- 10. Discussion on County Strategies and Resources to Support Nevada's Communities, Including Small Business and Youth, During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Recovery.** Dagny informed the Board that the item was included as a follow up to a discussion held at the May meeting. She referred to materials included in the agenda packet that had been developed for businesses with Cooperative Extension and encouraged the Board to share the document within their communities. The suspension of youth support programs was discussed, and it was noted that Extension also has a robust catalogue of online programs for youth. The potential for a staggered start of the school year, including

the potential for a hybrid model of in person and online attendance was also discussed. President Elect Kirkpatrick noted that the remote programs through the 4-H program are amazing.

11. **Update from NACO's Legislative Subcommittee including Discussion on Activities of the Nevada Legislature that May Affect Counties.** The expected special session was discussed, including the challenges that may arise due to the directive that the public, including county representatives would be allowed in the legislative building. It was noted that the FY21 budget issues at the State interface with the issues being experienced by the counties and outreach was being conducted by staff to attempt to avoid cost shifts and sweeps experienced in the last recession. The letter previously approved by the Board was delivered to the Governor's office and communication, although limited was being conducted with his office. The Board was encouraged to reach out to Vinson with any ideas for bill draft requests (BDRs) for the 2021 legislative session. Vice President Lucey, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, encouraged the Board to participate on the committee and the calls to determine any potential BDRs the Association might bring. President Elect Kirkpatrick expressed concern with the property tax losses expected for the next fiscal year. Vice President Lucey and Commissioner Wichman also expressed concerns with the current property tax formula and the amount of time expected to recover to pre-recession revenues. Dagny reminded the Board that the Association had carried a bill in 2015 to revise the formula, though it had been unsuccessful. Commissioner Lister asked whether the State was anticipating any takings lawsuits from businesses. It was noted that some type of liability legislation was being discussed that would hold businesses harmless if a person were to claim that they contracted the virus at the business. Fiscal Officer Kalt brought up the fact that property tax attributes 30+% of general fund revenues and referred to a Department of Taxation document that addresses abatements each year and suggested a review of the issue with value drops and the associated caps. Mr. Spratley noted that the Sheriffs and Chiefs Association is expecting a push of police reforms during the special session and they had received 70+ possible reforms from the Office of the Attorney General, all of which would have budget impacts. President Elect Kirkpatrick encouraged the Board to contact Vice President Lucey to share ideas for BDRs. No action was taken.
12. **Presentation on the Final Study of County Medicaid Long Term Care Match Assessments, Presented by Milliman Actuarial Consultants Nicolas Johnson, Annie Hallum, and Nick Gipe.** Dagny reminded the Board that they had previously approved the study and that it was near completion. Mr. Gipe gave an overview of the scope of the project, including the inclusion of pandemic impacts. He noted that key drivers to the assessments are changes in demographics specifically the growth in the aging population (65+), inflation assumptions, federal match estimates based on economic indicators, and pandemic impacts to the federal cost share. Ms. Hallum gave an overview of the draft report included in the agenda package. Specifically focusing on the short-term increase to the federal share seen in FY20/21, and the estimates related to the state's economic recovery vs. the rest of the country. She noted that it is expected that the federal share will be higher for some time based on the state's economic recovery. Dagny informed the Board that she would bring the item back with the final report when completed.
13. **Update and Possible Action Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands and Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
  - a. **NACO Comments on Bureau of Land Management's Draft Environmental Assessment for Targeted and Prescribed Grazing of Annual Grasses in the**

**Great Basin Ecoregions of Nevada.** Colby informed the Board that the Committee had met the previous day and that the letter had been approved as drafted. The letter was distributed to the Board for review that morning, and the submission of the comment letter was approved on a motion by Past President Waits with second by Commissioner Higbee.

- b. Other Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Chair Higbee and Colby provided an update including a discussion on the the severity of the fire season and the fact that the pandemic had affected training for fire crews. Commissioner Higbee noted that Lincoln County had conducted their own training. Commissioner Dahl noted that targeted grazing would have been very beneficial to mitigating the impacts of fire. President Elect Kirkpatrick urged the Board to speak with urban legislators and remind them of the impacts of fire and to ask the State for CRF dollars to address training impacts. Dagny suggested the compilation of the needs and costs of training and then to send a letter to the Governor regarding the issue.
14. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Past President Waits informed the Board that the Committee would be meeting in July and the current plan is to have one last workshop in the interim. She also noted that the group is working on the Newly Elected Officials training.
15. **National Association of Counties (NACo) Board Member Updates.** Commissioner Higbee stated that he will send information on the National Association's elections process and the candidates for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for distribution to the Board. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she had been working with Matt Chase on the proposed HERO's Act and the inclusion of lost revenues in the proposals. She noted that the hope was to have action by the end of July and that she would update the Board as necessary.
16. **Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board Member Updates and Updates from National Association of Counties Policy Steering Committee Members.** Commissioner Dahl noted that the annual meeting of the Board had been canceled in May and there was no real change to the platforms of the Board.
17. **NACO Board Member Updates.** The Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
18. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.