

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 27, 9:30a.m.  
NACO Office Conference Room  
304 S. Minnesota St.  
Carson City, NV 89703

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Elect Lucey, Vice President Higbee, Past President French, WIR Representative Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Clark County Commissioner Gibson, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Storey County Commissioner Gilman, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, White Pine County Commissioner Carson and NACO staff (Vinson Guthreau and Amanda Evans)

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 Commissioner Goicoechea with second by Commissioner Olsen.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Elect Lucey stood in for President Kirkpatrick, no report was given.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that the Nevada Commission on Aging had two vacancies specific to County Commissioners and directed any Board member or other Commissioner interested in serving on the Commission to the information included in the agenda packet. He informed the Board that recruitment for the Public Health Coordinator position had taken place, and although there had been an interview conducted the Committee is still looking for the right candidate to fulfil the tone and mission of the position as presented to the Board. Commissioner Andreozzi, a member of the Selection Committee, echoed Vinson's remarks regarding the recruitment and selection process.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the July 29, 2021, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** Commissioner Lister noted the use of the word heaving instead of heavy during the discussion regarding heavy trucks during the NDOT presentation. The minutes were approved as corrected on a motion by Commissioner Lister with second by Supervisor Giomi.
6. **Update and Discussion of NACO's 2021 Annual Conference, September 28-30th, Hosted by Churchill County.** Vinson gave the Board an update on the planning process for the Conference and thanked Churchill County for their hard work in the process. Amanda gave an update on the timeline for registration and Commissioner Carson reminded the Board about the need to provide items from their counties for the Silent Auction.

7. **Approval of the 2021 NACO Honor Roll and NACO Participatory Democracy Awards for Presentation During the 2021 NACO Annual Conference.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the two awards and reminded them of several past recipients. The award recipients were approved unanimously on a motion by Past President French with second by President Elect Higbee.
8. **Possible Selection of one NACO Sponsored Applicant to Attend the National Association of Counties (NACO) 2021 County Leadership Training Institute in Washington D.C.** President Elect Lucey gave the Board an overview of the program and his experience as a past attendee. He noted that it is an intense and in-depth program but well worth the attendance. Commissioner Lister, also a past attendee, concurred with President Elect Lucey's comments. Vinson informed the Board that within the Association's partnership with NACO, there is a line item within the budget to cover the registration cost of the program if a nominee from Nevada is selected for participation. He noted that he had put out a request for Commissioner's interested in the program to contact him, and Commissioner Hall was the only response he received. Commissioner Lister inquired as to if the Association was limited to one nominee. Vinson clarified that was the case and that only 30 Commissioners from across the country are selected for the program. Commissioner Hall's nomination to the program was approved on a motion by Commissioner Goicoechea with second by Commissioner Lister.
9. **Presentation and Overview of Nevada County Human Services from the Nevada Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA).** Shannon Ernst, Churchill County Social Services Director made the presentation to the Board on behalf of NACHSA. Ms. Ernst began her presentation by explaining that human services are provided utilizing seventeen different models across the state based on the individual needs of each county. She gave an overview of the NRS governing the provision of human services in Nevada and explained the different tax bases utilized in funding these operations, she also explained the importance of grant funding to bolster the programs administered by the counties. Ms. Ernst discussed the ramifications of changes to the assessments from the State to the counties in the 2011 legislative session that effectively created unfunded mandates to the counties how these increased assessments affected the provision of human services across the state. She gave an overview of the NRS428, which governs Indigent medical care and discussed the Indigent Accident Fund, which funded by a portion of property tax and administered by NACO, helps to counties to pay their obligation to provide indigent care. Ms. Ernst concluded her presentation by explaining that NACHSA meets monthly to discuss the services each county provides and how collaboration can reduce duplication of services and exploit successful programs. She encouraged the Board to attend the meeting that will take place during the NACO Annual Conference and further participation with NACHSA. Commissioner Olsen commended Ms. Ernst on the amazing work she does for Churchill County. President Elect Lucey commented on the amazing ability of the Human Services Administrators to pull funding together for various projects the counties are unable to fund or fully fund. Supervisor Giomi inquired as to how the counties ensure that they are providing services to only those they are responsible for, and Ms. Ernst ensured the Supervisor that residency is looked at very closely and the county Human Services Administrators have a close relationship to ensure services are being provided correctly. Commissioner Lister inquired about the difference between a county hospital and a hospital district. Ms. Ernst explained that it is different for each county and used the example of the hospital in Churchill County being a non-profit and that the County has a cost share agreement with the hospital. Vinson clarified that Clark County was specifically called out in the overview because the County owns and administers University Medical Center. The

statutes and regulations regarding health districts were clarified and it was noted that it is critical for county health officers to be engaged when a health district is in place. Ms. Ernst then explained that Churchill, Eureka, Pershing, and Mineral Counties are in the process of forming a health district and noted that it is a requirement for counties entering into a health district to have adjoining boundaries. She also noted that the counties forming the district also have similar demographics and health needs. Vinson informed the Board that NACHSA is currently Chaired by Clark County Human Services Administrator, Tim Burch and NACO actively supports the group with state contract reviews and negotiations, assisting the State with leveraging federal match dollars, rural assessments, and various other items. He concluded the item by informing the Board that NACHSA and NACO are working together to obtain more predictability in not only the assessments but what services counties are responsible for and what they are paying for.

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

- a. Updates from the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Vice President Higbee informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed the proposed NASA withdrawals and noted that Nye County had requested support on the issue. The group also discussed the issues surrounding wild horses and burro's and encouraged the Board to contact the federal delegation in support of funding the BLM's 5-year program for removal of excess animals. Past President French discussed the ongoing situation with the Sage Grouse and the current limbo between the adoption of the 2015 or 2019 plans based upon recent court actions. It was also noted that three Nevada Counties have standing with the courts should the issue end up back before the court. It was also noted that Governor Sisolak's recent Executive Order (EO) regarding conservation inserts his office into the discussion and that recommendations were being requested from various State agencies. The fact that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) was not directly mentioned in the EO was discussed and the Subcommittee requested a letter to the Governor requesting engagement with the SEC regarding sage grouse management. Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts, Inc. reiterated that letters regarding the issues discussed were important and that drafts will be provided for discussion and approval at the next Board meeting.
- b. Providing Direction to NACO Staff Regarding Recent Administrative Actions Related to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS).** Mr. Drew informed the Board that the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is in the process of rescinding the rule adopted under the Trump administration and proposing the drafting of a new rule. He then suggested that the Board send a letter to the Corps discouraging the rescission and rewrite, stressing the need for counties to be involved in any rule making process and the inclusion of previous comments submitted on the issue. Commissioner Lister commented on the difficulty and time-consuming process of rescinding the existing rule and Supervisor Giomi discussed the Corps recent decision to call the entirety of the Carson River navigable. Supervisor Giomi further remarked that the decision, based on historical use, has significant effect on work that can and needs to be done near the river, noting the Carson River Sub conservancy is looking at options to address the decision. Mr. Drew encouraged the close monitoring of how the Corps handles season watersheds and noted the lack of transparency on their decision-making process. Commissioner Hartung inquired as to what should be done going forward and Vinson stated that the Subcommittee had suggested sending a letter as previously discussed and requesting a coordination in all future processes and actions. The sending of a letter, prepared by staff, was approved on a

motion by Commissioner Goicoechea with second by Vice President Higbee to ensure it was submitted prior to the end of the comment period current published in the Federal Register. The item was concluded by Commissioner Carson suggesting a letter to the Governor regarding his EO that puts the Department of Wildlife in charge of conservation to be discussed at the next meeting.

11. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson informed the Board that the workshop held on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in preparation of Treasury's August 31 reporting deadline was well attended by roughly 40 County Commissioners and staff. He reminded the Board that a recording of the workshop can be found on the NACO YouTube channel and informed the group that the next Committee meeting would be held in November.
12. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board (WIR), and Individual Counties.** Past President French informed the Board that recent discussion at WIR included a letter from President Biden ensuring that ARPA funds were not in lieu of or in place of Payment in Lieu of Taxes or Secure Rural Schools funding, and a definition of dollars for tribal economic development. Members of the Board concluded the item by giving updates on various activities within their counties.
13. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Lister discussed the forward momentum of processes at the Supreme Court regarding water and encouraged the Board to reach out to him with any comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.