NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
August 22, 2025, 9:30am
NACO Conference Room
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89702

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Andreozzi, President Elect Gardner, Vice President Andriola, Past President Giomi, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Tolbert, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp, Fiscal Officer Alan Kalt, Carson City Treasurer Rasor and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Amy Hyne-Sutherland 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 Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

3. **NACO President's Report**. President Andreozzi encouraged registration and attendance for the upcoming NACO Annual Conference, stating that he finds much value in the conference, not only for the educational components but also for the ability to have one-on-one conversations with Commissioners from across the State. He concluded his remarks by thanking Clark County for hosting the event.

4. **NACO Executive Director's Report**. Vinson informed the Board that he had recently received a memo from the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) regarding the 48-hour Rule that requires a pre-trial release hearing to be conducted within 48 hours of arrest, including weekends and holidays, reiterating that the Rule requires county courts to be ready to conduct hearings seven days a week. He reminded the Board that through efforts of former county lobbyist Mary Walker for fiscal relief for counties, AB518 was passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. AB518 provided stipends for District Attorneys and Public Defenders of $450/day. Pursuant to the memo received, AB518 had expired, but the Legislature included funding in the Governor's budget equal to the funding included in AB518. The new funding also included a change that allows counties to request reimbursement through DIDS. Vinson noted that NACO staff had also worked to secure funding to offset the costs associated with the 48-hour Rule for several legislative sessions. Commissioner Reese inquired if the new funding was subject to PERS contributions, noting that PERS contribution levels continue to increase yearly and that those increases have a significant impact on county budgets. Vinson stated that the stipends were previously subject to PERS, and that the new funding may also be included in those contributions, but that according to the memo, an official opinion had not been made to determine that

component. Vinson concluded his report by stating that he will update the Board when that information is received.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the June 27, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

6. **Update from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, James Settelmeyer, Director**. President Andreozzi thanked the Director for his presentation and remarked on his long history of service to the State. Director Settelmeyer thanked the Board for their support and noted that he is grateful for the partnership with counties and the open lines of communication. He discussed changes at the Federal level, noting that some of the streamlining of processes were good, but that there were also challenges that come with much shorter federal project review timelines. He discussed challenges with Federal staffing levels but also applauded the decreased payment timelines which allow for counties to receive reimbursements more quickly. Director Settelmeyer discussed FMAG (Fire Management Assistance Grants) for wildfire recovery, noting that none had ever been approved for rural Nevada and that a lack of homes in a fire area does not mean there is a lack of impact. He also informed the Board that the Department of Environmental Protection is catching up with geothermal project applications and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) is also being able to issue proper system credits to avoid negative impacts from the projects. The Director encouraged the Board to bring forward issues with Nevada Administrative Code regulations, noting that the Department is extremely interested in streamlining processes, utilizing OHV licensing challenges due to a requirement for VIN inspections as an example. He informed the Board that the Department hired new personnel in the restructuring of their IT Department, a hearing officer at the Division of Water Resources and that they are looking into the development of a program for the use of AI technology, specifically in a closed loop application. Director Settelmeyer also discussed the importance of maintaining the deadline for submission of vested water right claims and the challenges with determining the ownership of pre-statutory claims versus deed water rights. Past President Giomi informed the Director that there is a Nevada based company doing closed AI programing and that Washoe County and Carson City were both utilizing the firm, noting that both their programs are or will be fully closed loops, utilizing only the data entered by the counties. Andrew Rasor, Carson City Treasurer inquired about a 2023 direction from the former Department Director that would change the way County Treasurer's bill groundwater basin special settlement fees and water rights on property tax billings, specifically noting the requested changes would be highly challenging for counties. Director Settelmeyer stated that the direction came from the Attorney General based on an audit process from a previous administration. He informed the Board that he objected to the new process, specifically after speaking to the County Treasurers, and that the change would not be taking place. Commissioner Reese asked who is responsible for OHV enforcement, and the Director stated that most enforcement is the responsibility of local law enforcement. Commissioner Perez discussed a water rights issue currently occurring in Esmeralda County and requested the Director to ensure the adjudication of the complex issue was fair. The Director stated that he would look into the issue and contact the Commissioner directly. Commissioner Tipton remarked that the decreased timeline for the Federal permitting process was leaving counties out of the comment loop and the Director acknowledged the problem but reminded the Board that the State is still maintaining a 30-day comment period. President Andreozzi inquired as to how the payment for the SEC credit system works. The Director concluded his report by informing the Board that the State's role is to verify the validity of the transfer and only receives an application fee. All purchases of credits are made between the buyer and seller.

Items 7-10 were taken out of order to allow Director Settelmeyer to arrive for his presentation.

7. **Presentation of NACO's 2024 Financial Audit, Michael Bertrand, Bertrand and Associates, LLC**. Mr. Bertrand directed the Board's attention to the letter entitled Communication to the Board included in the agenda packet. Directing their attention to page three, he noted that the only major adjustment required was due to GASB68 and the audit had gone very well. Directing the Board's attention to the financial statements, he informed them that he had given the opinion of 'unqualified', which is the highest opinion allowed. Mr. Bertrand then drew the Board's attention to the revenue and expenses on page 10, noting that revenues increased by $86K mostly due to responsible operations and interest income. He then turned the presentation over to Fiscal Officer Kalt, who thanked Mr. Bertrand and his team for the detailed audit conducted and presented. Mr. Kalt then discussed the increase in investment income and association assets due to the purchase of a vehicle. He discussed operating revenues the reduction in grant funding due to the conclusion of one of the public health subgrants from the State. Mr. Kalt also informed the Board that the association's expenses were down from the prior year due to good budget management. He also prepared the Board to see reduced interest rates in the future, which will show some volatility in the investment accounts. Mr. Kalt concluded his portion of the discussion by noting that the association remains in a strong financial position. President Elect Gardner inquired if the reduction in salaries was due to the lack of a Natural Resources Manager. Vinson stated that the open position was a factor in the decrease in the salary line-item. He then noted that the Board will see a change in the salary line-item going forward due to their December 2024 decision to make the Public Health Coordinator position a staff position, formally transitioning it to the NACO Health and Human Services Manager. Mr. Bertrand concluded the item by encouraging the Board to reach out directly should they have any additional questions.

8. **Update Regarding the 2025 NACO Annual Conference, Hosted by Clark County**. Vinson directed the Board's attention to the draft conference schedule included in the agenda packet, noting that there is more robust programing on Tuesday than has been included in the past. He announced the opening of the election process for the NACO Vice President, reminding the Board that the election would take place during the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Vinson informed the board that the schedule of educational sessions would cover an array of issues important to counties and highlighted the round table with the University of Nevada, Extension to be held on Thursday morning and the Governor's address during the Annual Banquet. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she has some exciting surprises planned for the President's Reception and that the food for the event would be excellent. Vice President Andriola inquired about current registration numbers and Amanda informed the Board that at the last review there were roughly 100 registrants, reminding them that registration would close on September 6th. President Elect Gardner inquired if tickets could just be purchased for the Annual Banquet where the Governor would be speaking. Amanda clarified that guest tickets could be purchased for the Banquet, but that they must accompany a full conference registration. President Andreozzi concluded the item by thanking Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Clark County for hosting the conference this year.

9. **Approval of Jessica Colvin, Chief Financial Officer, Clark County, as One (1) of Three (3) NACO Appointments to the Committee on Local Government Finance (CLGF). NRS.**

354.105. Vinson directed the Board's attention to the documents included in the agenda packet, giving the Board an overview of the Committee and its governing statutes. He reminded the Board that NACO has three appointments to the Committee and noted its importance, especially should a county come under fiscal watch, and reminded the Board that the three appointments have traditionally been distributed between Clark, Washoe, and a rural county. Vinson discussed the retirement of Jeffrey Share who had been appointed to the CLGF in June of 2024 at the request of Clark County CFO, Jessica Colvin. Due to Mr. Share's retirement Ms. Colvin requested to be reappointed to the Committee. He reminded the Board that Ms. Colvin had previously served on the Committee for a number of years and was a strong local government representative. Vice President Andriola stated that she had several people reach out to her in support of Ms. Colvin's appointment, and Commissioner Reese inquired about the length of the appointment terms, which is three years. Ms. Colvin was unanimously appointed to the CLGF on a motion from Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

10. **Update from NACO Health and Human Services Manager**. Amy informed the Board that one of the additions to the Tuesday conference programing is a Dementia Friends Certificate training and encouraged participation in the training, noting that although the training is free it does require additional registration to ensure the proper number of materials are available. She also informed the Board that the Division of Child & Family Services has Child Abuse Prevention training dollars available for rural counties that must be expended by November and encouraged counties to contact the Division to procure those trainings prior to the expiration for the usage of those dollars. Amy also informed the Board that with the expansion of Medicaid Managed Care statewide a call would be held with CareSource, a new provider who will serve all seventeen counties on September 3rd, noting that information on the call had previously been distributed but any Board members interested in participating should contact her for the information. Amy then reminded the Board of the short-term grant to support immunizations that they had accepted in June. She discussed the need to fully utilize the grant funds within the month of June and that a great deal of work had been accomplished in the brief time period. She drew their attention to the grant report included in the agenda packet and gave an overview of the three contracts that had been entered into to complete the work, noting that the contractors had previously worked on the Live Better Lyon and Keep It That Way (CDC) campaigns. Amy told the Board that billboards were erected in Nye and White Pine Counties, and videos and other materials were produced that all counties can utilize and customize. She announced a shared Google drive would be created to allow counties access to all customizable collateral, including playbooks for media campaigns and a full library of Canva assets. Amy also informed the Board that databases had been created for each county that include inventories of affiliated groups and media contacts. Amy concluded her update by informing the Board that the paid media component of the project is performing well and that she gets regular updates on its performance. Past President Giomi inquired as to whom she had reached out to regarding the availability of the materials and Amy informed the Board that county Human Services staff had all received information on the available resources. President Andreozzi inquired as to if there was a plan for full rollout of the program collateral and Amy stated that the website is currently under development and an announcement would be made when it is fully live, but that a table outlining the available resources would be at the Annual Conference. He then inquired if the material is also for non-profit organizations, and Amy stated that it is meant for counties to champion but that counties can utilize the materials in partnership with non-profit partners to encourage engagement. President Elect Gardner noted that the collateral appears to be mostly geared towards children and encouraged outreach to older adults. Amy acknowledged that childhood vaccines are the most prevalent within the campaign, but that brochures and

individual vaccine information geared towards older adults are included and available. Vice President Andriola remarked that having customizable files is a wonderful component and inquired if the funds had been fully expended. Amy stated that the $239K dollars had been fully expended and that having the building blocks from the Live Better Lyon and CDC campaigns had helped. Vinson concluded the item by thanking Amy for her hard work in the short time frame and the Board for approving the acceptance of the grant.

11. **Update from NACO Committee of the Emeritus**. Past President Giomi, Chair of the Committee, informed the Board that the Committee has been re-energized with a robust group of former Commissioners interested in staying close to NACO and sharing their vast institutional knowledge with current Commissioners. He reminded the Board that the Committee collaborates with staff on updating the County Commissioners Handbook and assists staff with conference educational session content and various workshops held throughout the year.

12. **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.** Commissioner Tipton welcomed Jeremy Drew from RCI to the meeting and informed the Board that the Subcommittee had received updates on renewable energy projects, noting that there are currently three projects with concern at the Governor's office for permitting. He informed the Board that beginning on January 1 there would be a new revenue sharing formula for energy projects on public lands and that 25% would be going to counties with additional royalty sharing revenues implemented as well. The Committee also discussed the current 30-day review period for Greater Sage Grouse plans, noting that the lack of incorporation of the University of Idaho study regarding grazing not being incorporated was of concern. The Committee also discussed the WOTUS Rule draft currently in review and the Fish Lake Vally Tui Chub's potential listing as an endangered species. Commissioner Perez informed the Board that comments were being written on behalf of Esmeralda County and thanked the Board for their support and any support comments that the counties would like to submit. Vinson concluded the item by thanking Jenny Lesieutre for her presentation on Wild Horse and Burro issues and informing the Board that the presentation is in line with the current positions of the NACO Board and that continuing work on the issue would be done.
    b. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Service Contract with Resource Concepts, Inc., (RCI) for Services Related to NACO's Natural Resources Manager**. Vinson reminded the Board that they had previously approved a scope of work for the contract and that RCI had previously supported the association in the same capacity. He also noted that RCI works closely with several counties and has been a great partner of NACO for many years. Vinson outlined that the contract would be time and materials, noting that RCI has a history of efficient work and there is a 30-day clause for change if needed. He also informed the Board that the contract is capped at the lowest tier approved for the salary of a staff Natural Resources Manager. Commissioner Reese stated that RCI is the most qualified in the state and Past President Giomi noted that the return on investment for the knowledge possessed by RCI would be extremely beneficial. The execution of the contract included in the agenda packet was approved on a motion by Commissioner Reese with second by Past President Giomi.

13. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors and Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors**. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that he had attended the NACo Annual Conference in Philadelphia in July and that 12 platform changes and 146 resolutions had been passed during the event. He also informed the Board that Commissioner Alicia Bell, Wayne County Michigan had been elected as the 2nd NACo Vice President. Commissioner Gardner also told the Board that Commissioner Keller was reappointed as the Rural Action Caucus Vice Chair. The Board was also informed that a new Mid-size County Caucus had been formed that will have a membership of counties with 500K-1M population. Commissioner Steninger informed the Board that he would be attending the WIR fall meeting in September and that Joe Jackson had resigned and they are still waiting on information regarding his replacement.

14. **NACO Board Member Updates**. Board members gave updates on activities within their counties.

15. **Public Comment**. Jeremy Drew thanked the board for their trust and stated that he and RCI look forward to filling the gap on natural resources issues on behalf of the Board. Holly Gatske from Extension informed the Board that they had opened an agriculture and water acreage specialist position that would be housed in Douglas County and that Extension is conducting a statewide natural resource needs assessment, with hopes of creating a full-time natural resources position to be housed in Humboldt County. She also informed the Board that Extension is being hit hard by federal grant cancellations, and they are preparing to send termination notices to some employees as a result. Joel Blakesley from the Coalition for Nevada Wildlife thanked the Board for allowing the previous day's presentation at the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee by Jenny Lesieutre on Wild Horse and Burro issues and both encouraged the adoption of emergency declarations by the counties. Ms. Lesieutre also informed the Board that she has a template available for creation of the declarations, noting that their completion is time sensitive for inclusion as support for work currently occurring in Washington DC.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.