

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2024, 9:30am
Clark County Government Center
Joshua Room – 6th Floor
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Past President Higbee, Churchill County Commissioner Getto, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Tipton.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi thanked Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Clark County for hosting the meeting noting that it would be his last full meeting as President, reminding the Board that the 2025 officers would be sworn in at the beginning of the January meeting. President Giomi remarked on the quality of NACO as an organization and discussed the importance of Nevada's diverse counties coming together to benefit the State as a whole. He discussed the robust agenda and noted that Vince had been working hard on the budget including effective communications with the Board prior to the meeting and looks forward to continued work on the initiatives started during his term as President.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson echoed President Giomi's thanks to Clark County for hosting the meeting, reminding the Board that the Association hosts two meetings each year outside of Carson City. He remarked on the Association's busy year, including the review of the By-laws and the 100th NACO Anniversary. Vinson informed the Board that the State is working on changing the local government records retention schedule and that they would be looking to work with county staff on the updates. He also informed the Board that NACO had partnered with the League of Cities and Extension on the bi-annual newly elected officials training that would be held on January 24th in Reno, encouraging the Directors to share the information with their newly elected colleagues. Vinson concluded his remarks by informing the Board that the New Commissioner Handbooks had been sent out.
5. **Approval of Minutes of November 22, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Kirkpatrick with second by Vice President Gardner.

6. **Approval of NACO Resolution 24-05 Recognizing January 2025 as National Radon Month.** President Giomi read the Resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by Commissioner Reese with second by Commissioner Getto.
7. **Presentation Regarding Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Update on the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), Including the Affordable Housing Program, Ronald R. Mobley, Special Legislation Program Manager, BLM Nevada.** Mr. Mobley gave the Board an overview of the legislation governing the Act including the boundaries for the lands available for disposal and how the revenues are dispersed. Commissioner Reese inquired about the use of revenues for parks, trails and other outdoor recreational uses and Mr. Mobley clarified that there are several categories that funding can be utilized for. Commissioner Kirkpatrick requested that the Board be sent the categories and application criteria, Mr. Mobley stated that he will send the category information and the Round 20 criteria but noted that criteria can be changed based upon information from subject matter experts. President Elect Andreozzi inquired as to which counties qualify for funding under the Act and Mr. Mobley stated that while not all counties are eligible for project funding, all counties are eligible to request disposal lands for affordable housing projects under Section 7b of the Act. He continued with the definition of affordable housing in the act and noted that all current land identified for affordable housing is within the Las Vegas Valley, and that all lands sold to date and those to be sold in the foreseeable future were and would be done at \$100/acre. Mr. Mobley discussed the social benefit of using disposed land for affordable housing vs. the costs associated with parks, trails and other approved uses of Act funds and current BLM procedures and requirements for land disposal/sale requests. Vice President Gardner inquired as to if there are deed restrictions placed on the lands sold to developers. Mr. Mobley stated that there have been requirements placed on the lands for 15 to 40 years that they be used for affordable housing. However, he did note that those restrictions have created issues for project financing and that tax credits and other incentives are being investigated in lieu of deed restrictions. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that under new rules 80% of the land used by a developer in a for-sale project must remain as affordable housing in perpetuity. President Giomi inquired as to the difference between land purchases by a non-profit vs. a for-profit developer and it was clarified that only 10% of lands acquired for profit could be used for market value sales. Mr. Mobley concluded his presentation by giving the Board an overview of the process timeline and the projected project nominations for 2025. President Elect Andreozzi stated that the program is a good opportunity and indicated incentivizing the disposal of land with complete infrastructure would be welcome. Commissioner Kirkpatrick commented on the shortage of housing for NHP and NDOT workers and discussed the potential amendment of current land leases to address the issue. Mr. Mobley stated that the State agencies are currently working on the issue. Cross jurisdictional issues, shortages of contractors, childcare and other barriers were also discussed. The use of the NACO Public Lands Committee was discussed to support requests for land disposal was also noted. President Giomi inquired as to if the SNPLMA process was faster than a lands bill and Mr. Mobley replied that it is. Commissioner Kirkpatrick also requested that maps be provided that show disposal lands available by county. Vice President Gardner thanked Commissioner Kirkpatrick for her continued support of the rural counties and expressed concern with available lands outside of existing infrastructure boundaries. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that those issues open opportunities for special improvement districts and Mr. Mobley clarified that land must be developed within five years or they would revert to BLM. Governor Lombardo's focus on rural issues was discussed and at the request of Mr. Mobley, Clark County Community Housing Administrator, Dagny Stapleton noted that

Nevada Rural Housing is well versed in rural housing challenges and reiterated that deed restrictions are placed by the county, not BLM.

8. **Final Discussion and Approval of the NACO Annual Budget for 2025.** Vinson reminded the Board that the proposed budget was presented in November and questions regarding the budget were requested at that time, he also reminded the Board that NACO runs on a calendar fiscal year. He directed the Boards attention to the budget descriptions included in the agenda packet and noted the streamlining of the various components in the county dues assessments. Vinson also drew the Board's attention to the year over year comparison also included within the agenda packet. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that the increased PERS assessment was not included in the November presentation because the State had not released it. Vinson stated that the non-public safety increase would be 3% but would not go into effect until July. He also noted that he would be looking to cover that increase with cost savings but would bring an augmentation to the Board for approval if necessary. The 2025 NACO Budget was approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Vice President Gardner.
9. **NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the Upcoming 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.** Jennifer thanked the members of the Legislative Committee and reminded the Board of the bills filed on behalf of NACO and their current location within the legislative process. She informed the Board that of the 166 bills filed at the time over 60 were being tracked. Jennifer discussed the deadline for the submission of Member BDR's on December 12 and noted that staff would be continuing to monitor bills as they are published. She noted that the next Committee meeting would be in January and that weekly meetings would begin in February. President Giomi expressed concern with AB33 which would add an inspector general position at the Controller's office and about SB2 which would make negotiations with bargaining units public and the effect that would have on local governments. Vice President Gardner expressed concerns with AB14 regarding qualified electors.
10. **Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator, Including Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities.** Amy directed the Boards attention to the document included in the agenda packet and reviewed the highlights of the work completed on behalf of the Board in the public health arena. She discussed the completion of the Foundational Public Health Assessment project informing the Board that the final report is available, and encouraging its use in strategic planning activities in the HHS realm. Amy discussed behavioral health initiatives, the support provided on SB118 projects, and Opioid needs assessments. Amy discussed NACO's participation in the State-run statewide Behavioral Health Emergency Response assessment. The project falls within the purview of DPBH, which hired Black Swan Consulting. NACO and other members of the project workgroup emphasized the importance of working with DEM, as local EMs and LEPCs would be instrumental in implementation of any plans. The assessment is mandated through the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. . Amy discussed the workshop on local public health governance held in August, noting that the supporting materials and the workshop recording can be found on the NACO website, and other conferences she had attended on behalf of counties. She also directed the Boards attention to the re-entry initiatives document included in the agenda packet in compliance of 2023 legislation when the counties could expect to begin seeing Medicaid reimbursements for those services provided. Amy also discussed technical support for counties for Medicaid billing and Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that she had requested one person for every three counties, but it was noted the current State model is for a shared system. Vinson concluded

the item by informing the Board that he would research the statutory support requirements included in AB389.

11. Final Update from Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) By-Laws Subcommittee.

Jennifer drew the Boards attention to the document included in the agenda packet and informed the Board that per the existing By-Laws, the draft would be submitted to each county's Board representative and a vote on the updates will occur at the January NACO Board meeting.

12. Honor Outgoing Nevada Association of Counties Board Members. The resolution was read into the record by President Giomi. He then noted that while she is not currently a Board member, White Pine County Commissioner Carson will be sorely missed and that her level of institutional knowledge is not easy to replace. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that she greatly appreciates the friendships formed at NACO and noted that those leaving the Board can remain involved through the Emeritus Committee. President Elect Andreozzi and Vice President Gardner also expressed appreciation for the outgoing members and loss of institutional knowledge. Vice President Gardner also discussed the county visits Past President Higbee made during his Presidential year. The resolution was approved on a motion by Commissioner Kirkpatrick with second by Commissioner Tipton. Vinson concluded the item by informing the Board that copies of the resolution and gifts would be distributed to the outgoing members.

13. 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.

Chair Tipton informed the Board that the Subcommittee discussed challenges with filling the Natural Resources Manager position and it was suggested to compare the current salary with that of SLUPAC. The Subcommittee also discussed the Cooperating Agency MOU with the BLM and it was noted that the process had stalled due to the BLM. The submission of Greater Sage Grouse protest letters and a template to help counties without Natural Resources staff was discussed as was the moving of the deadline for Amicus Brief submissions in the Baker v. Holland case at the Supreme Court. The Committee also discussed issues with the taking of water rights and received an update on the NAS Fallon bombing range expansion, specifically with the expectation that the county would assume responsibility for mitigation and infrastructure.

b. Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee. Vinson noted that it had been a busy year in the natural resources space with Federal decisions and rulemaking and referred the Boards attention to the summary included in the agenda packet.

14. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Past President Higbee informed the Board that he had attended the NACo Summit in Sonoma County, CA and that it was informative and constructive. He also discussed the successful reclamation efforts in the area following the Paradise wildfire, noting that they were largely due to county level organization. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

15. Public Comment. None were given

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.