

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 31, 2023, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINTUES

Attendance: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Vice President Hall, Past President Kirkpatrick, Churchill County Commissioner Scharmann, Clark County Commissioner Gibson, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Holt, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Waits, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, Washoe County Commissioner Hill, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Fiscal Officer Kalt, Humboldt County Comptroller Rackley, Nevada County Fiscal Officers Association; Douglas County District Attorney Jackson, Nevada District Attorneys Association; and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Humboldt County Comptroller, Gina Rackley thanked the Board for her reappointment to the Committee on Local Government Finance.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Waits
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee remarked on the legislative session and informed the Board that he had recently been in Washington DC to advocate on behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), NACO and Lincoln County.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Annual Conference in July, discussing the election of their 2nd Vice President. He informed the Board that work would be taking place on the NACO office building, specifically that the walkway is scheduled for replacement and that the costs are within the approved budget. Vinson concluded his remarks by noting that the legislative session is halfway complete and that further information on the session would be discussed in a later agenda item.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the February 24, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by Commissioner Henderson.
6. **Update Regarding Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo's Emergency Declaration, from Severe Flooding in Thirteen Counties, Including Recovery, Mitigation and Federal Funding Efforts, Dave Fogerson, Chief of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Tim Robb, Office of**

the Governor. After introducing both himself and Mr. Fogerson, Mr. Robb remarked on the abnormally wet winter and informed the Board that they were in attendance to discuss what activities were currently taking place to mitigate flooding effects and what is being planned for future mitigation efforts. Mr. Fogerson gave the Board an overview of his experience including years spent in the service of local governments and outlined the DEM's responsibilities and processes for the distribution of resources during times of need. Utilizing the example of moving flood barriers from Churchill County to Eureka County to protect an area in immediate peril while obtaining new barriers to protect Churchill County from future flooding issues. He discussed the over \$20 million in damage to public infrastructure that has occurred so far and outlined how the Division is working on obtaining and disseminating funding for repairs and mitigation efforts. Mr. Fogerson also informed the Board that the Division is in the process of completing the necessary tasks to request a Federal Disaster Declaration from the President to unlock funding from FEMA and other Federal Agencies. Mr. Fogerson completed his remarks by discussing the issues that may arise with the Spring thaw and how the Division is addressing the acre feet of runoff water expected vs. the current capacity of the area's reservoirs. Commissioner Reese inquired as to how counties were to cover the required matching funds for repair and mitigation grant funding and Mr. Fogerson noted that the State has a disaster relief account that could cover half of the required match, but noted that the process is still being completed for requests for funding from the account for flooding that occurred in 2017. Vice President Giomi echoed that the barrier for access to those State funds is very high. Commissioner Gardner noted that a Douglas County GID [General Improvement District] had already identified \$5 million dollars in damages and inquired as to how those agencies play into the county request process, Mr. Fogerson informed the Board that GIDs are able to apply directly for necessary funding. President Elect Giomi and President Higbee both thanked the gentlemen for attending the meeting and noted that it was welcome to have representatives from the Governor's Office in attendance. Commissioner Henderson thanked them for touring damage in Lyon County as well. The Board provided direction for staff to provide a letter of support for the Divisions Federal disaster declaration request by consensus.

- 7. Update and Discussion Regarding, "Navigating a Path Forward: A Roadmap for NACO's Public Health Coordinator", Including, but Not Limited to Opioid Expenditure Reporting, County Opioid Needs Assessments, and the Fund for a Resilient Nevada.** Amy provided the Board a review of the approved Roadmap and updated them on the progress of completion for the tasks identified within the document, noting that she is available to support counties while assisting in identifying the individual needs of Nevada's unique communities. Amy discussed the conversations taking place with the University to expand the Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP) contract to include the collection of data on the efficiency and needs in county public health services and informed the Board that the Public Health page on the NACO website is live. Noting that the webpage contains resources on the Opioid Needs Assessment process, specifically copies of those Assessments that have already been approved by counties. Amy also reminded the Board that the hiring of contractors to complete the Assessments is an allowable use of awarded funds and that the Assessments are required for counties to request funding from the State. She also discussed the need for county funding applications to the State to be in line with the State's approved plan and stressed that the State's plan contains recommendations for prevention, treatment, recovery, and deflection/diversion in the criminal justice and public safety space. She concluded her remarks by reminding the Board that necessary reporting is due July 1 and that a template is being developed to assist counties with the requirement. Commissioner Andreozzi stated that the Public Health Coordinator position and Amy are both great assets to NACO and thanked Amy for her work in support of Elko County.

- 8. Presentation and Update Regarding the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD), Shannon Ernst Director Churchill County Social Services, Dr. Antonina Capurro Administrator Central Nevada Health District, and Caleb Cage Interim Administrator Central Nevada Health District.** Ms. Ernst apologized for the absence of Mr. Cage, noting that he was working on flood mitigation efforts in Churchill County. She then introduced the Board to Ms. Capurro and gave an overview of the creation process of the District. She reviewed the timeline of completion for the organizational tasks and informed the Board that District is scheduled to be fully funded and operational on July 1. Ms. Ernst completed the presentation by outlining the creation of office locations in each of the member counties and how the District will establish fee and permitting structures for the necessary programs and processes the District will be tasked with. Commissioner Scharmann inquired as to whether there would be a mental health component within the District and Ms. Ernst noted that mental health is covered under the cloak of behavioral not public health services but that the District will work in concert with other agencies to address those issues. Commissioner Andreozzi noted that he had been skeptical of the District's creation at first but that the process and plan appears solid, specifically in the differences between the statutory language of shall vs. may regarding the required activities of the District. Ms. Ernst assured the Board that the District will be concentrating on effective coverage of the required items before looking at any programming for coverage of optional items. President Elect Giomi requested clarification on how the representatives to the Board are determined and Ms. Ernst noted that the Commissioners of each county assign members to the Board. The item was concluded with Ms. Capurro thanking the Board for their time, noting that she looks forward to working with them in the future.
- 9. Update on NACO Bills and Other Policy Issues Affecting Counties During the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Jennifer gave the Board an overview of the session timeline and Vinson discussed the layout of the Bill Tracker included in the agenda packet, with Jennifer noting that staff is currently tracking 314 bills. She then updated the Board on the status of the Association's Bills. Specifically noting that AB47 regarding OHV trails was fully passed in the Assembly and transmitted to the Senate, and SB41 regarding child welfare services was scheduled for a committee work session the following week. The Board was informed that there were 67 days remaining in the Session and reminded that the first deadline (1st Committee Passage) was April 14th with the second deadline following a week later. The Board was given an overview of other bills affecting counties including several regarding workers compensation that, if passed, would have large collective impacts. Other proposed legislation discussed included bills staff testified in opposition to that contained unintended consequences, which staff continues to work with the sponsors on amendments, and bills that would affect tax revenues, and override local authority. The Board discussed possible reasoning behind some of the proposed legislation and Vinson thanked the individual county lobbyists for their partnerships with NACO to ensure the best outcome for counties. No action was taken on the item.
- 10. Update on Planning Activities NACO's 2023 Annual Conference, hosted by Elko County.** Amanda reminded the Board that the Conference would take place September 26-28th and directed the Board's attention to the Save the Date flyer included in the agenda packet. She announced that staff had worked with Elko County to determine the event's theme Nevada's Counties – Unified and Unique and informed the Board that sponsor information would be released within the next couple of weeks, with attendee registration following in late May or early June. Vinson concluded the item by thanking Elko County for hosting and their staff for assistance with the planning efforts.

11. **Consideration and Possible Approval of the Recommended Appointment from the Nevada Association of County Human Service Administrators (NACHSA) to The Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (IAF) Board of Directors to Serve as the Human Services Agency Representative.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the IAF and informed them that the vacancy was due to the resignation of Mr. Tim Burch from Clark County. He then directed the Board's attention to the letter from NACHSA included in the agenda packet with their recommendations for appointment. Per the recommendation made by NACHSA, Lyon County Human Services Director was appointed to the position on a motion by Past President Kirkpatrick with second by President Elect Giomi.
12. **Approval of a NACO Resolution in Support of National County Government Month, and Direction to NACO Staff to Draft and Submit an Op-Ed to Recognize the Efforts of Nevada's Counties.** Vinson read the resolution into the record and remarked that the submission of an Op-Ed was timely due to the active Legislative Session. President Higbee suggested to the Board that they have citizens "shadow" Commissioners to provide a broader scope of the responsibilities they carry. The resolution and Op-Ed were approved on a motion by Commissioner Henderson with second by Past President Kirkpatrick.
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.** Vice President Hall gave the Board an overview of the Subcommittee's discussion the previous day including environmental assessments regarding the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and grazing, centrally assessed property taxes for public lands projects, and the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument designation in Southern Nevada. Jacob also noted that the group discussed Sage Grouse LUPA, drinking water regulations, and submitted comments. He also informed the Board that both Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen had voted in favor of a Joint Resolution to block the President's new WOTUS rule. President Higbee discussed work being done a federal proposal to introduce a bill that would streamline counties being given title on RS2477 roads. The item was concluded by Commissioner Steninger requesting support for Elko County's lands bill.
14. **Updates from Members from the National Association of Counties Board of Directors and Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors.** President Higbee reminded the Board of the WIR request for funding for the National Center for Public Lands. Vinson reminded the Board that they had previously approved support of the Center and that invoices had been sent for the suggested 1% of LACTF funds in February. He noted that the Center is an initiative of the National Association and that the LACTF funds are one time funds secured by NACo. He then reiterated that the funds collected are pass through dollars and that NACO would not benefit financially from the county's contributions to the Center.
15. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
16. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.