

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 27, 2026, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINTUES

Attendance: President Gardner, President Elect Andriola, Vice President Keller, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Getto, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Tolbert, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, NACO Fiscal Officer Alan Kalt, Carson City Treasurer Andrew Razor on behalf of the Nevada Association of County Treasurers and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Supervisor Giomi.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Gardner discussed the extension of the deadline for application submission for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards to April 15th, and informed the Board that submission is free for counties with populations under 50,000. He also encouraged participation in the upcoming NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans in July and informed the Board that there were three candidates vying for the 2nd Vice President position. The election will take place at the conference.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that all of his remarks would be covered under agenda items.
5. **Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2026, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Supervisor Giomi.
6. **Discussion and Departure of NACO Executive Director Vinson Guthreau, Including Transition and Hiring Plan.** President Gardner began the discussion with mixed emotion, noting that he was happy for Vinson's Gubernatorial appointment as the Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), but was sad to lose him at NACO. He informed the Board that he had expected to present a new employment agreement with an increased salary for the Executive Directors position, a discussion that had begun late in 2025 and was finally approved by the Executive Committee shortly before Vinson's appointment. He explained that the new contract included an increase in salary for the position from \$150,000 to \$175,000 and that it had been agreed upon that the increase

would be retroactive to January 1st. President Gardner noted that the Executive Committee had accepted Vinson's resignation with the aspects of the new employment contract in place. Fiscal Officer Kalt informed the Board that Vinson's payout included 340 hours of accrued vacation leave but did not include any banked sick time. Mr. Kalt also reiterated that Vinson's last day of employment was that day. Members of the Board offered words of thanks and congratulation to Vinson, and many noted that his transition was not a loss to counties as they work often and closely with DCNR. Vinson concluded the discussion by thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve as the NACO Executive Director and directed their attention to his resignation letter included in the agenda packet, stating that the letter expressed his feelings the best. Vinson's resignation was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Vice President Keller. President Gardner informed the Board that the Executive Committee recommended that Amy be named as the Interim Executive Director while the search for a permanent appointee was conducted. Amy's appointment as the Interim Executive Director was approved unanimously on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by President Elect Andriola. Amy stated that she is happy to serve and thanked the Board for their trust.

7. **Creation of a Competitive Search Committee, for Hiring of a Permanent NACO Executive Director.** President Gardner proposed that the Committee be comprised of the NACO Executive Committee with Vinson serving as a non-voting member. Supervisor Giomi inquired as to what the plan is for the filling of the position. President Gardner stated that he did not want to put a hard deadline in place and suggested waiting until after the primary election, noting that individuals may be interested in the position that are heavily involved in the election process. President Elect Andriola stated that the Committee needs to develop the process with full transparency and that the process would need to come before the Board for approval, not to delay the process but for it to be well thought out. She also reminded the Board that a special meeting could be called if necessary. Supervisor Giomi informed the Board that he had been involved during the last Executive Director search and that bringing the plan to the Board for approval was important, he also noted that the role needs to be filled well in advance of the 2027 Legislative Session. The creation of a Search Committee comprised of the Executive Committee including the development of a plan for the search and a timeline for appointment to be brought back to the Board for discussion and possible approval was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Supervisor Giomi. The need for documentation of the process for future use and possibly working with the Human Resources department of one of the counties was also discussed. President Gardner concluded the item by clarifying the makeup of the Executive Committee which includes the Association officers and Commissioner Kirkpatrick as an At-Large member.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Memo of Understanding (MOU) for NACo's Western Interstate Region Conference (WIR), May 24-28, 2027, in Douglas County, Nevada.** Vinson informed the Board that NACo wishes to host the Conference in Lake Tahoe at the Tahoe Blue Event Center in 2027 and noted that the WIR Conference had not been hosted in Nevada since the early 2000's. He directed the Board's attention to the MOU received from NACo and informed the Board that the item was added to the agenda to ensure transparency. Vinson informed the Board that there would be no fiscal impact to the Association and the role NACo would play would be one of support and resource coordination. He also reminded the Board that the National Association has a full staff dedicated to the planning of their events and reiterated that while the host county does have a fiscal obligation, the State Association does not. President Gardner informed the Board that he would also be presenting the MOU to Douglas County for approval and that he has met with private sector partners that will assist with the County's fiscal obligations.

President Gardner also informed the Board that that the County is required to promote the event at the upcoming WIR Conference in May and Commissioner Tipton stated that he would be billing to pass out information. Promotion at the upcoming NACo Annual Conference in July was also discussed, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that she is working on attending the July conference. Commissioner Tipton also brought up the fact that Vinson was planning to attend both the WIR and NACo Annual Conference and suggested that Amy plan to attend both as the Interim Executive Director. Vinson reminded the Board that conference attendance by staff does not require Board discussion or approval. The execution of the MOU in support of Douglas County hosting the 2027 WIR Conference was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by President Elect Andriola.

9. **Approval of NACO's November and December 2025 Financial Statements.** Vinson reminded the Board that the financial statements are brought forward quarterly and directed their attention to the statements included in the agenda packet. He informed the Board that the statements reflect the closing of 2025 with expenses under budget and revenues exceeding the budget amounts. He also reminded the Board that the 2026 approved budget is reflective of the actuals for 2025. The financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Supervisor Giomi.
10. **Approval of the NACO's November and December 2025 and January and February 2026, Investment Reports, Respectively.** Vinson stated that the investment statements are also brought forward quarterly to ensure fiscal transparency. He informed the Board that the accounts continue to adhere to the Board approved Investment Policy. Vinson also reminded the Board that they would see a name change on future statements but that the staff that manages the account would remain the same. Fiscal Officer Kalt informed the Board that 10% of the revenues discussed under the previous agenda item came from the investment portfolio and good cash management. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Supervisor Giomi with second by President Elect Andriola.
11. **Update from NACO Health and Human Services Manager.** Amy reminded the Board that the application period for the Rural Health Transformation Programs \$36 million flexible funding grants was open and that the applications are due on April 30th. She also noted that she was available to assist with the facilitation of coordination for the collaborative efforts that will receive weighted scoring during the approval process. Amy also reminded the Board of the workshop series being conducted in coordination with the Division of Child and Family Services on rural child welfare is underway and informed them that good next steps were determined from the discussion held during the first workshop, noting that feedback from juvenile probation included a further review and potential changes to the associated assessments from the State to counties. Amy informed the Board that she would be attending the Interim Committee on Health and Human Services meeting the following week and that it coincided with National Public Health Day. She then thanked the Board again for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Executive Director and reiterated her commitment to serve during the transition period. Commissioner Perez concluded the item by informing the Board that Amy had been wonderful in guiding the Esmeralda County team on several health and human services topics.

Updates from Standing Committees:

12. **NACO Legislative Committee.** President Elect Andriola thanked all those who are participating on the Committee and informed the Board that the next meeting would be held on April 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Jennifer informed the Board that Committee participation had been great and that

several topics for possible Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) had been submitted. She informed the Board that staff continues to work through the vetting process for idea submissions for the Board's future consideration and approval prior to the deadline for BDR submission. The various deadlines were discussed and Jennifer stated that she would include the previously presented timeline in the Board Summary sent to all Directors following the meeting at the request of President Elect Andriola but noted that the first deadline is in May and the final BDR submission deadline to the LCB is September 1st. President Gardner reminded the Board that NACO is able to submit 5 BDRs and that each rural county receives 1 and the urban counties are able to submit 2. Supervisor Giomi discussed challenging interactions with the State regarding land owned by the State within counties and suggested the possibility of modeling legislation after the federal lands bills, using the example of Carson City having taken over a previously state-run water system and the State's ownership of land within it existing open space and where there is additional water infrastructure. Commissioner Kirkpatrick discussed the State's prioritization of workforce and affordable housing and informed the Board that she will work on language to ensure community benefit for housing projects.

13. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus.** Vinson informed the Board that the Committee is continuing to plan the next workshop and that the next meeting will take place on April 24th.
14. **NACO Committee on Housing.** Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that a high-level discussion on challenges was held at the initial meeting. She informed the Board that she was tasked by Clark County to meet with the BLM and builders and that she continues to try to negate 1-size fits all regulations. She discussed several topic options and including making housing areas and new shopping areas coexist in redevelopment plans and places like Austin where workforce housing is a priority, noting that housing solutions for highway patrol officers etc. cannot be a priority that never gets executed.
15. **NACO Committee on Cooperative Extension.** Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she owed Amy a call regarding the agenda. She reminded the Board that Extension can do more in the rural counties and that several areas of missed opportunity had been identified, like a completed study on housing that was never shared. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that Director DeDecker had agreed to participate, and President Gardner concluded the item by informing the Board that he had received feedback from Douglas County Health and Human Services staff that there were several components and programs of Extension that they were unaware of following the roundtable held at the most recent Annual Conference.
16. **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 informed the Board that the new SLUPAC Chair, Joseph Marynak, attended the meeting. Jeremy Dre of Resource Concepts, Inc. informed the Board that the next SLUPAC meeting had been set for April 27th and encouraged those counties that had yet to submit their nominees to the Governor for appointment be sure to do so. He also informed the Board of an upcoming tour of the various District Offices to be conducted by the BLM regarding the Greater Sage Grouse Resource Management Plan Updates and reminded them of the importance of securing Cooperating Agency status. He also informed the Board that workshops would be held in Elko and Reno, and one was being planned in conjunction with NACO for May 7th. Mr. Drew discussed the Forest Service's updated rule on hard rock minerals being open for comments and informed the Board that the Committee had been updated on issues with the execution of commitments from the Department of Defense on the recent land withdrawals. The Committee also

discussed issues with GreenLink permitting delays and questions with regards to generation projects moving forward, but lack of details on which ones. The Committee also discussed the proposal to site data centers on public lands and the issues that could be present without local consultation. The severe overpopulation of wild horses and burros was also discussed at a BLM count of over 42,000 with the approved AML at 27,800, with Mr. Drew informing the Board that even though there is no currently identified funding emergency gathers are being proposed. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the Interim Committee on Natural Resources held a discussion on data centers and noted that the State is still trying to figure out how to address them. He also informed the Board that Nevada is #3 in the US and #5 in the world for targeting for data centers. President Gardner inquired as to why that is and the explanation is surrounding large tracts of land close to fiber connections that will allow for the expansive space necessary for closed loop cooling. President Elect Andriola commented on work being done by the Truckee Meadows regional planning board on data centers and offered to share their data to negate duplicative research. Vice President Keller noted that closed loop systems use less water than other commercial uses and also noted that if cited properly counties could benefit from higher personal property tax revenues. President Elect Andriola discussed the impending perfection of nuclear power generation and President Gardner noted that it is important for all counties to get ahead of the planning processes, with Commissioner Tipton encouraging inclusion of data centers within the individual county master plans.

17. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, including the Rural Action Caucus and the Midsize County Caucus.** President Gardner informed the Board that the agenda item had been updated to include the Causes and drew their attention to the material included in the agenda packet regarding the appointment process for leadership positions on NACo Steering Committees. Vice President Keller informed the Board that he had nothing to report but would be better prepared at the next meeting. President Elect Andriola informed the Board that she had just joined the newly formed Midsize County Caucus.
18. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region Board.** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that there is a lot coming up, and that most of the WIR conversations are surrounding preparation for the conference in May.
19. **Updates from Individual Member Counties.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
20. **Public Comment.** Jennifer thanked Vinson for his dedication, guidance, and leadership, noting that he is leaving a strong foundation and would be missed. Holly Gatzke informed the Board that Extension will be posting a Natural Resources position to be stationed in Humboldt County. She also noted that Extension continues to realign with staff in the counties to collaborate on programming and to bridge gaps in funding due to lack of available grants. Lyon County Commissioner Hendrix commented on the NACo Rural Energy Academy discussion surrounding projects and informed the Board that developers expect to pay up to 4% of gross revenues to community benefit programs and projects and encouraged the Board to include them in development agreements.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.