

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 30, 2025, 9:30am

**NACO Conference Room**

**304 S. Minnesota Street**

**Carson City, NV 89703**

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Andreozzi, President Elect Gardner, Vice President Andriola, Past President Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Getto, Douglas County Commissioner Tolbert, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, 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 Kalt and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, and Amanda Berg.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Robin Reedy, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Nevada (NAMI) addressed the Board regarding the 988 Coalition. She invited their participation noting that input is needed regarding local needs, existing barriers, and currently available services. She informed the Board that the next meeting of the Coalition would be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and that the group would also be organizing jurisdictional groups as well. President Andreozzi thanked Ms. Reedy for her comment, noting that he had heard great things about successful crisis de-escalations by 988 and that he is looking forward to working with the Coalition on behalf of Elko County.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Vice President Andriola.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Andreozzi reminded the Board that the location of the next Board meeting will be in Elko County and that he is looking forward to hosting the meeting and members of the Board.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the report from the Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety included in the agenda packet, reminding the Board that Andrew Bennett, Director of the Clark County Office of Traffic Safety is the Board's appointee to the Committee. He informed the Board that Mr. Bennett will be providing summaries to the Board following each meeting. Vinson also noted that several bills were introduced during the Legislative Session regarding traffic safety and informed the Board that he was available for questions or that he can put those with questions in touch with Mr. Bennett directly. Vinson concluded his report by reminding the Board of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference being held July 11-14 in Philadelphia and noted that advanced registration for the event would close on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

5. **Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Helming.
6. **Update on Planning Activities Regarding the June 2025 NACO Board of Directors Meeting Being Conducted in Elko County.** President Andreozzi again reminded the Board that the meeting will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup> in the Elko County Commission Chambers and that dinner would be hosted the preceding evening at the Star. He reminded the Board that staff had secured a room block for those attending in person and that Elko County is looking forward to hosting the Board. Vinson concluded the item by informing the Board that he would collaborate with Commissioner Tipton regarding the Public Lands and Natural Resources subcommittee meeting traditionally held the afternoon before the meeting and that he expects the off-site meeting to be as excellent as the meeting held in Eureka County the previous year.
7. **Presentation from Desert Research Institute (DRI) Regarding Nevada County Water Resource Plans, Alexandra Lutz, PhD, Associate Research Professor, Division of Hydrologic Sciences, DRI.** Ms. Lutz thanked the Board for the opportunity to present to them and informed them that DRI's participation in the development of the plans for rural and frontier counties is being funded by a grant from the State. She gave an overview of the statutory requirement for counties to have water resource plans in place by 2019, which will also be required to be updated every ten years. Ms. Lutz then gave an overview of the main requirements that must be included in the plans, including an inventory of water sources, analysis of existing and expected demand, analysis of sources versus demand, and management plans if demand exceeds supply. It was noted that the plans will not change existing law or regulation, serve as support for advocacy, reallocate water, or focus on infrastructure or project planning. Ms. Lutz also discussed the responsibility of DRI to provide technical expertise and support for the writing of the plans and the individual county responsibilities to provide data, community engagement and plan review. A review of the project timeline for submission to and approval of the plans by the State Engineer was given to ensure completion by December of 2026 when the grant funding terminates. Ms. Lutz also informed the Board that there is up to \$20,000 to support county participation if necessary. Past President Giomi noted that some counties have third party water purveyors, including non-profits and corporations and inquired as to if they are mandated to participate in the sharing of information. Ms. Lutz stated that she was unsure of the ability to compel those organizations to provide information and that she would get back to the Board with that answer. President Andreozzi thanked Ms. Lutz for the presentation, noting that water is the most valuable resource and that he is looking forward to assisting with his County's plan.
8. **Update on Highlighting of Nevada's Counties Regarding the 2025 Capitol Christmas Tree, Selected from Nevada to be Displayed in Washington, D.C.** Amanda thanked the Board for their participation in the tree skirt project representing Nevada's counties and reminded them that she would need their individual panels to be returned no later than the Board meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also encouraged the Board to share her contact information with those working on their panels in case there were any questions. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation is working with the Forest Service on the project and has a PowerPoint presentation available to present to the counties if interested. He also informed the Board that the intention is to harvest the tree in time to have it available for display during the Nevada Day parade. Past President Giomi requested that Amanda let the Board members know if there were any

issues with project and Commissioner Helming informed the Board that Lander County's panel was complete and would be delivered to Amanda.

9. **NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.** President Elect Gardner thanked staff for their hard work and dedicated advocacy on behalf of counties during the Legislative Session. Vinson informed the Board that a final legislative tracker and comprehensive update would be provided at the June Board meeting, reminding them that the Governor has ten days following the conclusion of the Legislative Session to either sign or veto legislation. Jennifer updated the Board on the status of NACO bills, informing them that AB70 regarding cost recovery for counties related to renewable energy projects had been signed by the Governor and that AB14, which would require County Commissioners to be registered voters as well as qualified electors had been sent to the Governor for approval. Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the legislative tracker included in the agenda packet, noting the addition of color-coded bills that had been approved by the Governor, including AB50 sponsored by Clark County that will allow the creation of electronic databases during mass casualty events to assist in reunification and identification efforts. She informed the Board that there were four days remaining in the Legislative Session and that of the 1,199 filed bills approximately 85 had become law, 296 had been passed through both houses of the Legislature, 226 awaited action by the Governor, and one veto had been issued. Vinson announced that SB116, which addressed pay for local elected officials, had been signed by the Governor and encouraged counties with technical questions regarding its implementation to reach out to him directly. He also noted that guidance will be provided to county fiscal staff following the conclusion of the Session, including on the use of the CPIU as a guideline. Past President Giomi noted that most counties had included the increases in their budgets in anticipation of passage of the bill, noting that adjustments may be necessary but that the counties should be able to comply with the implementation requirements. He also noted that while there may be short term questions and minor implementation issues that the equity and predictability included in the legislation were a long time coming and necessary. President Elect Gardner stated that the bill contained critical information for future use and President Andreozzi noted that the July 1 implementation date, while controversial was also a welcome inclusion in the final bill. Vinson thanked the Board for their advocacy efforts and support and noted the importance of the support of the other county elected officials in the passage of the legislation. Vinson also noted that SB116 is better than the proposal that failed during the 2023 Legislative Session and informed the Board that the support of R&R Partners and the Griffin Group was vital to the final passage of the bill. He then informed the Board that the larger jurisdictions will see unfunded mandates in regard to child welfare, and that there will be changes to elections and how they are run, noting that staff is working hard to mitigate fiscal impacts. Vinson also informed the Board that staff had done a tremendous amount of advocacy to ensure that proposed legislation that started out with high negative impacts to counties ended in more a manageable manner. He reminded the Board that the remaining bills are predominately fiscal in nature and that a comprehensive summary would be provided in June. Vinson concluded his remarks by acknowledging Jennifer's work on tracking fiscal impacts. President Elect Gardner remarked on legislation that would have reduced fuel tax indexing and law enforcement funding in Clark County and how the passage of those bills will all more funding from NDOT to be passed to rural needs. He also remarked on the failure of SB324 which would have affected the sale of bottled water in Lake Tahoe and the passage of SB426 which will have affects on transportation in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Vice President Andriola also remarked on the fast passed nature of the final days of the Legislative Session and thanked staff for their dedicated work, communication, and follow up on behalf of counties. No action was taken.

- 10. Update from NACO's Health and Human Services Manager, Including the Possible Acceptance of an Outreach and Communication Grant from Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH).** Amy informed the Board that SB423, which would include additional funding for foundational public health was not moving, but that the \$15 million included in the Governor's budget appeared to be safe. She reminded the Board that the funding distribution would follow SB118 from 2023 and that the counties that would receive over \$100,000 would need to have their interlocal agreements completed by June 17<sup>th</sup> (2025) in order to meet the requirements for approval by the Board of Examiners in August. She informed the Board that she would work directly with the counties that needed assistance following the conclusion of the Legislative session. Amy also reiterated that the funding would not carry over and must be expended within the fiscal year or it would revert back to the State. She also discussed questions regarding increases in assessments for Medicaid match programs and informed the Board that the increases were due to provider rate increases approved during the previous legislative session, announcing that a meeting would be held with Nevada Medicaid on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to address the questions. Amy then directed the Board's attention to the overview of a proposed grant included in the agenda packet. She explained that the State had entered into a contract for the services but that the contractor could not perform the work prior to June 30, when the funding would revert back to the Federal Government, prompting the State to inquire as to if NACO could coordinate the work within the allotted time period. Amy explained that private contractors had been identified that can complete the scope of work by June 30. She informed the Board that a portion of the identified projects under the grant included customizable resources for future use by counties and would also maximize the some of the work already done by the state , she concluded her remarks by also informing the Board that NACO would receive a 10% indirect reimbursement of all expended funds for the administration of the 30 day grant. Vice President Andriola clarified that if the funds under the award were not expended by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June they would revert back to the Federal Government and Amy stated that they would. The acceptance of the grant award was approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi and President Andreozzi requested that a report be given to the Board following the conclusion of the grant.
- 11. 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.** Vinson informed the Board that Commissioner Tipton had been unable to attend the meeting the previous day due to prior commitments. He informed the Board that Commissioner Steninger had given the Subcommittee an update on the WIR conference held earlier in the month and had also discussed the filling of the vacant Natural Resources Manager position. Vinson thanked the Board for increasing the compensation for the position but informed them that there continued to be a lack of qualified applicants. He reminded the Board of discussions with Resource Concepts, Inc. (RCI) early the positions vacancy for assistance with natural resource issues, but that they had previously lacked the bandwidth necessary to be effective on behalf of NACO. Recent conversations with RCI have determined that they now have available resources and a scope of work for a possible partnership is being developed for the Board's consideration. Vinson informed the Board that should a scope and associated costs be approved RCI would start work on behalf of NACO on August 1<sup>st</sup>, reminding the Board of the longstanding partnership between the Association and RCI and the previous contract work done on natural resources issues. The Subcommittee also discussed the recent proposal of the US Fish and

Wildlife Service for a listing of the Fish Lake Valley Tui Chub under the ESA. While the fish is only found in Esmeralda County, Vinson informed the Board that other counties had offered support with comment submissions. Commissioner Perez stated that the proposed listing had only just been made and that the county is working towards a plan of action and is grateful for the support.

12. **Update from NACO Committee of the Emeritus.** Vinson informed the Board that the Committee was restarting and is traditionally Chaired by the Immediate Past President of the Association, he noted that the membership list is coming together, and the first meeting would be held in July. He reminded the Board that the Committee is responsible for assisting with workshops and conference topics and was developed as a way to leverage institutional knowledge and mentor new Commissioners following the institution of term limits. Vice President Andriola inquired as to how many members the Committee would have, and Vinson informed the Board that around fifteen former Commissioners had agreed to participate.
13. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors.** President Elect Gardner informed the Board that a meeting of the NACo Board was held at the recent WIR conference where he had attended an orientation for new Board members. He discussed a presentation on the benefits of NACo membership, which was given during the orientation, noting that while the Board members understand, members of the community do not and that a PowerPoint presentation is being developed as an educational tool. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that discussions were held on the proposed Farm Bill reauthorization and changes to municipal bonds. FEMA was also discussed, including the elimination of the BRIK (Bitumen Royalty-In-Kind and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) program and changes to their grant award process which would be beneficial to counties. He also noted that Congressman Amodei is still hopeful to get a Northern Nevada lands bill passed.
14. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board.** President Elect Gardner informed the Board that a new Second Vice President was elected who is a Commissioner from Oregon and the next WIR conference will take place in Maui. He also informed the Board that Douglas County is in talks with NACo to host the 2027 WIR Conference in Lake Tahoe.
15. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
16. **Public Comment.** Megan Quintana, 988 Unit Supervisor at the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services gave the Board an overview of the Unit and announced the opening of a second call center in Southern Nevada to increase their ability to manage calls from those in crisis. President Elect Gardner listed the NACo Policy Steering Committees and encouraged the Board to share the opportunity to serve on the Committees with their colleagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.