

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Immediately Following the Annual Business Meeting

Tahoe Blue Event Center

Azure Room

75 Hwy 50

Stateline, NV 89449

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The public may provide public comment in advance of a meeting by written submission to the following email address: info@nvnaco.org For inclusion or reference in the minutes of the meeting, your public comment must include your full name and be submitted via email by not later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

AGENDA

Items on the agenda may be taken out of order. The NACO Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The NACO Board may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes
2. Approval of Agenda. **For Possible Action**
3. Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2026, NACO Board of Directors Meeting. **For Possible Action**
4. Approval of NACO Staff Recommendations for NACO Participatory Democracy Awards and NACO Honor Roll Awardees. **For Possible Action**
5. Discuss the creation of a NACO Finance Committee, including review of DRAFT Finance Committee guidance. **Information Only**
6. Presentation from the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD). **Information Only**
7. Update from Extension Director on Community Needs Survey Relaunch & County Engagement Plans. **Information Only**
8. Update from NACO's Government Affairs Manager. **Information Only**

Updates from National Standing Committees:

9. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, including the Rural Action Caucus and the Midsize County Caucus
10. Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region Board

11. Updates from Member Counties

12. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes

Adjournment.

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify NACO in writing at 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703, or by calling (775) 883-7863 at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can request copies of the supporting material for the meeting by contacting Amanda Berg at (775) 883-7863. Supporting material will be available at the NACO office and on the NACO website at: www.nvnaco.org

This agenda was posted at the following locations:

NACO Office 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703

Washoe County Admin. Building 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89520

Elko County Manager's Office 540 Court Street #101, Elko NV 89801

POOL/PACT 201 S. Roop Street, Carson City, NV 89701

NACO Website: www.nvnaco.org

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

August 28, 2026, 9:30am

NACO Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

UNADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Gardner, Vice President Keller, Past President Andreozzi, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Jennifer Berthiaume, and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Vice President Keller with second by Supervisor Giomi.
3. **Approval of Minutes of July 31, 2026, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Vice President Keller with second by Past President Andreozzi.
4. **NACO President's Report.** President Gardner informed the Board that the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects announced the retirement of Executive Director Fred Dilger and the appointment of New Executive Director, Belinda Evenden. Noting that Ms. Evenden had been an applicant for the NACO Chief Executive Officer position.
5. **NACO Chief Executive Officer's Report.** Amy drew the Board's attention to the position announcement in the agenda packet for a Health and Human Services Research and Policy Analyst explaining that the initial deadline for candidate review had been extended to September 11th and informing the Board that 6 applications had been received. She also encouraged the Board to share the posting. Amy next discussed changes to the NACO calendar for the remainder of the year. She explained that the October meeting was cancelled due to conflicts with Board member calendars that could result in not having a quorum, as well as the fact that it also conflicted with her attendance at the National Committee of County Association Executives annual meeting. Next Amy announced that due to the Clark County work schedule the December meeting would be changed to Thursday, December 10th, which will also allow members to attend the National Finals Rodeo and Cowboy Christmas if they desired. Amy also informed the Board that due to conversations surrounding abatements, she had held a meeting with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to ensure county's are included in those discussions. The Governor's Office had stressed the importance of communication with the local Regional Development Authorities and Amy announced that a virtual meeting would be held with GOED and the RDAs on September 14th from 10:30 – noon, and that additional information would be

distributed once the details were complete. She announced that a newly elected officials training is being developed and that it is currently being planned for January 25th in Carson City. President Gardner asked if it was specific to Commissioners, and Amy clarified that all newly elected officials are welcome and encouraged any existing Commissioners interested in the training to attend as well. Amy also informed the Board that a NACO data center platform is being developed ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session, noting that it is being developed with county input and will include only items that all counties agree on, she also informed the Board that legislation has already been presented around the issue that will affect local authority. Commissioner Helming inquired as to when the next data center meeting would be held, and Amy informed her that a session on the subject is part of the agenda for the Annual Conference. Vice President Keller inquired about National Association of Counties (NACo) activity on the subject and Amy stated that links to NACo meetings would be included in the meeting recap provided by Jennifer.

6. **Ratification of the NACO Executive Committee's appointment of Amy Hyne-Sutherland as NACO Chief Executive Officer, Effective August 1, 2026.** Amy's appointment was unanimously ratified on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Supervisor Giomi.
7. **Approval of NACO Resolution 26-02 in Support of the Charters of Freedom 250 Project.** The resolution was read into the record by President Gardner. Commissioner Helming informed the Board that Lander County had purchased a second set to be displayed in Austin and President Gardner noted that Douglas County had received a recommendation that the plaques be taken to the different schools prior to permanent placement. The resolution was approved on a motion by Past President Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Helming.
8. **Presentation, Review, and Acceptance of NACO's June 2026 Financial Statements.** Fiscal Officer Kalt informed the Board that the Association remains in good financial standing. He noted that Association assets remain strong, all county dues have been received, and that expenses are below the budget amounts. Fiscal Officer Kalt noted that the continued fiscal responsibility of Amy and Amanda's attention to processes and day-to-day expenses are a large part of those budget savings. President Gardner inquired as to the amount set aside for internet services and Amy stated that is one item that is being looked into by staff. She also informed the Board that all budget line items and Association bills and contracts would be looked at closely to identify potential cost savings. The financial statements were accepted on a motion by Past President Andreozzi with second by Vice President Keller.
9. **Update from NACO's Government Affairs Manager.** Jennifer stated that she was excited that Amy's appointment was now official. She informed the Board that she had attended many of the final meetings of the Interim Legislative Committees and had distributed an array of information to the county lobbyist group on the work sessions the committees had undertaken. She informed the Board that she had already created a document to monitor BDRs as they are continuously released and noted that there is already a vast amount that have been submitted. Jennifer also attended the Clark County Commission meeting during which Amy had given a presentation on NACO, and she also attended an Extension farm-to-table event on behalf of the Association.
10. **Update on NACO Annual Conference Planning, Agenda, and Registration.** Amanda informed the Board that there were over 170 registrants, 34 conference sponsors, and 22 exhibitors for the event. She also reminded them of the Dementia Friends and Dementia

Champions training that will take place on Tuesday morning, as well as the Experience Carson Valley tour being planned following the conference on Thursday, noting that there are links to all of the events in the NACO News, published and distributed each Friday. The Board was also informed that the room block had been extended to Friday, September 4th and were encouraged to make their bookings if they hadn't done so already. President Gardner noted that the Minden Mill Distillery tour that would be a part of the Experience the Carson Valley component is a not to be missed event, noting that it is a farm-to-table operation and all of the ingredients used in the distillation of their spirits are grown in Douglas County. It was also clarified that all of the conference events except for the President's Reception would be taking place at the Tahoe Blue Event Center. President Gardner also gave an overview of the County's planning efforts for the President's Reception and discussed the participation of NACO representatives including the Director of Member Engagement, Tammy Tincher.

Updates from Standing Committees:

11. NACO Legislative Committee

- a. **Final review and approval of NACO's Bill Draft Requests (BDR) for the 2027 Nevada Legislative Session.** Jennifer informed the Board that President Elect Andriola who Chairs the Committee was absent due to her necessary attendance at the Interim Finance Committee to discuss the recent wildfires in Washoe County. She drew the Boards' attention to the BDR proposals included in the agenda packet, reminding them that they had been discussed during the July meeting. She informed the Board that she had received no questions or concerns during the preceding month from the Board or other county representatives. Jennifer did inform the Board that she had received some interest in the approval of the proposals from outside entities and that the discussions held had indicated support. President Gardner inquired as to if there was another group that would be submitting a BDR regarding the Emergency Management Funding proposal, and Jennifer informed the Board that the proposal was developed in conjunction with the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association and conversations had been held with Senator Steinbeck, who does have a placeholder BDR regarding the subject. Supervisor Giomi inquired as to whether the Senator knows of NACO's BDR, and it was clarified that he does, but there were differing opinions during discussions with the Senator on the need for base vs. gap funding. Jennifer then clarified that individual county BDRs are not transferable, but that NACO can offer support and collaboration on their development. Collaboration with the League of Cities and Municipalities was also discussed, and while there is consistent communication between staff, the topic of their BDRs submissions was not shared. Amy shared that the League had hired Arc Dome Strategies as their lobbyist for the upcoming session, and Jennifer noted that their Executive Director, Kelly, has acted to course correct the group from previous issues. President Gardner closed the item by encouraging counties to bring their BDR proposals to NACO for support.

12. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus.** This item was taken out of order to accommodate the schedule of Past President Andreozzi who Chairs the Committee. Past President Andreozzi informed the Board that the Committee had met that morning and continues to passionate. The Committee discussion largely centered around refocusing and restructuring the Committee to enhance their mission of education, reminding the Board that past Nye County Commissioner, Joni Eastley was the author of the New Commissioner Handbook. It was also noted that the meeting schedule would be revised at Amy's suggestion so that the

Committee's work would not be hampered by the Board of Directors meeting. Past President Andreozzi informed the Board that the group is currently comprised of past Commissioners Varlin Higbee, Joni Eastley, Laurie Carson, Jerrie Tipton and Bob Hastings. The Committee is also discussing the creation of a Commissioners Corner at the recommendation of Jennifer. The content of the resource would be short video clips addressing issues such as the recent adjournment of a Commission meeting instead of it being recessed. It was clarified for the Board that there are qualifications for membership on the Committee and that it is by invitation. Past President Andreozzi concluded the item by stressing that it is important that participation is consistent and President Gardner noted that it is an important Committee to preserve institutional knowledge lost due to term limits.

13. **NACO Committee on Housing Solutions.** Jennifer drew the Board's attention to the agenda packet, containing the BLM presentation on the land disposal program for low-cost housing. She noted that the Committee had also discussed the need to ensure that duplicative efforts to work on housing solutions are reduced by ensuring that the NACO housing solutions committee continues to coordinate with additional partners such as the Governor's Office, GOED, the Nevada Housing Authority, and RDAs.
14. **NACO Committee on Cooperative Extension.** The Committee did not meet; therefore, an update was not provided.
15. **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.** Jeremy Drew from Resource Concepts, Inc. provided the update on behalf of Chair Tipton. Mr. Drew informed the Board that the NACO virtual Energy Forum held on August 14th had been a great success with over 40 attendees and that the presentations and recording were available to members upon request. He informed the Board that a SLUPAC meeting had been held in Battle Mountain and that meetings are scheduled, but that staff tasked with organization was leaving the Department. Mr. Drew discussed the wrapping up of the Legislative Interim Committees and noted that an omnibus style bill on water policy that will affect counties is expected, as well as legislation on wildlife crossings, and data centers including possible elimination of abatements and a potential moratorium within the state were discussed. The Committee also discussed US Forest Service rule updates on land access including a potential repeal of their roadless rule, and revisions of their travel management plans were being discussed. Mr. Drew next reminded the Board that a meeting with the BLM regarding the Greater Sage Grouse would be held at the Annual Conference and the Board was informed that applications for the NACo Academy on Data Centers are due on October 22nd. The Board was also informed that a meeting regarding the Fallon Range and Training Complex land withdrawal would be held on September 22nd and would largely focus on ranching impacts and what qualifies as fair and complete compensation as well as relocation of the Gabbs Hwy. Commissioner Helming inquired as to where the relocation of the Gabbs Hwy. would occur if it would affect Middlegate. Mr. Drew clarified that the relocation would begin about five miles South of the community. The US Forest Service Roadless rule was explained at the request of Commissioner Perez, and it was noted that it will have much more of an impact on other states that are densely forested.

16. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, including the Rural Action Caucus and the Midsize County Caucus.** Vice President Keller informed the Board that he had received a survey to determine the meeting schedule of the Rural Action Caucus. President Gardner informed the Board that the Board of Directors had not met since the Annual Conference in New Orleans. Amy addressed the OMB proposed changes to federal grants and informed the Board that the Senate had passed a Continuing Resolution to delay implementation but that the House would need to take up the matter following the Summer Recess.
17. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region Board.** Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he would have an update following the groups next meeting in October.
18. **Updates from Individual Member Counties.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
19. **Public Comment.** Carson City Treasurer, Andrew Rasor informed the Board that the county Treasurers are watching BDR288 closely, noting that it appears to be the same as AJR1 from the previous legislative session that would reset real property taxes valuations to those of new construction upon sale or transfer. White Pine County Assessor, Burton Hilton echoed those concerns, noting that if the policy is adopted Assessors will have major concerns regarding implementation and the number of appeals that will be brought before the counties. Both individuals sit on the NACO Board of Directors as non-voting members as the Presidents of their individual Affiliate Associations. Patty Antonucci of NDOT announced that paving will begin in Glenbrook on August 31st and is expected to conclude in the middle of September. She also discussed Burning Man arrangements for traffic control, and the I-80 bridge and wall maintenance being conducted in Washoe County. President Gardner announced that Douglas County will have a ballot question to split the office of Clerk/Treasurer and encouraged the Board to look into the statutes governing the splitting of combined statutory offices due to population caps. Holly Gatzke from UNR Extension announced that a Water Specialist would be starting in December and the office would be housed in Douglas County. She also announced that interviews were being conducted for a Natural Resources Specialist that would be housed in Humboldt County. She also noted that regardless of where the offices are housed they will both be statewide support positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Participatory Democracy Award

The recipients of this award have demonstrated the importance of open and honest dialogue with their constituency in addressing critical issues in their community and state. They have engaged the public in the governance process by encouraging and promoting public participation in setting public policy and have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in our republican form of governance.

Honor Roll

The individuals whose names appear on this honor roll have been recognized by the Nevada Association of Counties because of their special achievement in and service to county government.

As a recipient of this award, a person must exhibit honor, integrity, and meet the highest ethical standards for public service.

Further, this award is to serve as a public record and reminder of the accomplishments of a select few who gave freely of their time and energy to contribute to the integrity of county government and the betterment of their community.



NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Purpose: The Finance Committee supports the Chief Executive Officer and the NACO Board of Directors in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility for the organization's financial health, sustainability, accountability, and stewardship. The Committee provides oversight and recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer and the full Board. It does not replace the Board's ultimate authority or management's responsibility for day-to-day financial operations.

Membership:

1. Chair, NACO Fiscal Officer (NACO Treasurer per current NACO bylaws)
2. NACO Board Vice President
3. Finance/Business Expertise - Commissioner with Accounting, Banking, Finance, Investment or Budget Expertise
4. County Fiscal Perspective – County Treasurer, CFO, or County Manager with substantial budgeting experience
5. At-Large Board Member – Selected for independence, judgement, and engagement, not necessarily for expertise in finance, an “outside eyes” perspective that ensures questions are raised that may not occur to financial specialists.

Ex-Officio Member: NACO Chief Executive Officer

1. Financial Oversight & Reporting

- Review regular financial statements, including the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow, budget-to-actual results, and key financial indicators.
- Monitor financial performance, liquidity, reserves, and material variances from budget.
- Ensure the Board receives clear, timely, and understandable financial information to support decision-making.

2. Budgeting & Financial Planning

- Review the Annual Budget developed by the Chief Executive Officer; provide recommendations and guidance, as needed.
- Monitor the organization's financial plan and long-term sustainability, including revenue diversification, major expenditures, and capital needs.
- Review significant proposed financial commitments or changes that may materially affect the organization.

3. Internal Controls & Risk Management

- Oversee the adequacy of financial policies, procedures, internal controls, segregation of duties, and authorization practices.
- Oversee the monitoring of financial risks, including fraud, cybersecurity, cash management, and compliance obligations.
- Review and recommend updates to financial policies when needed.

4. Audit, Tax & Compliance

- Review audited financial statements, management letters, and recommendations, and monitor corrective actions.
- Ensure required tax filings, charitable registrations, grant requirements, and other financial compliance obligations are addressed.

5. Investments & Reserves

- Annually review NACO Investment Policy and make recommendations for updates as needed.
- Monitor performance of investments and compliance with Board-approved policies.

6. Committee Governance

- Conduct quarterly meetings, or additional meetings as needed, to accomplish duties.
- Maintain appropriate records of Committee meetings, decisions, and recommendations.
- Coordinate with Chief Executive Officer, Fiscal Officer, auditors, investment professionals, and other advisors as appropriate.

Key Governance Principle: The Finance Committee provides oversight, expertise, and recommendations. The full Board retains ultimate fiduciary responsibility, while management is responsible for developing Board-approved budgets, policies, and financial controls.

The Role of Nevada's Conservation Districts And Why County Support and Appointments Matter

Presented by:

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

NACO Annual Meeting

September 22, 2026





What Are Conservation Districts?

- Nevada has 28 Conservation Districts (CDs) established under NRS 548.
 - CDs are local political subdivisions focused on voluntary, non-regulatory conservation.
 - Mission: coordinate technical, financial, and educational resources to meet local natural resource needs.
 - CDs operate at the county level, serving as the bridge between landowners, communities, and agencies.
- 



Why Conservation Districts Matter to Counties

- CDs work directly on county – level natural resource priorities.
- Provide local leadership where state and federal agencies rely on community-based implementation.
- Support county resilience in:
 - Post-fire recovery
 - Watershed and flood management
 - Rangeland health
 - Invasive species control
 - Agricultural and rural community support
- CDs help counties access federal and state conservation funding.



County Role Under NRS 548

- Each Conservation District is governed by six (or seven) supervisors:
 - Five elected
 - One appointed by the county and one appointed to represent incorporated cities, where applicable.
- County appointments ensure:
 - County priorities are represented
 - Balanced leadership
 - Accountability and continuity
- Without county-appointed supervisors, CDs cannot fully function or meet statutory requirements.



How CDs Operate

- CDs collaborate with:
 - County governments
 - USDA NRCS
 - State Conservation Commission
 - BLM, USFS, Tribes, NGOs, private landowners
- CDs coordinate conservation projects tailored to local conditions and county needs.
- Supported administratively by the Nevada Conservation Districts Program
- Within DCNR.

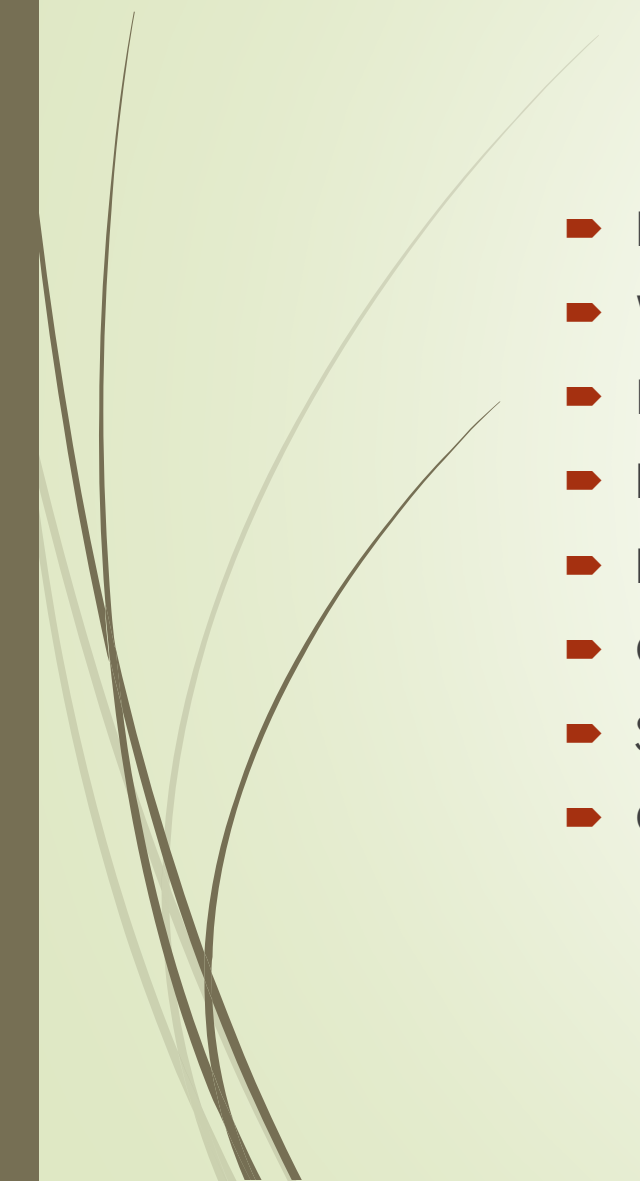


Partnerships That Benefit Counties

- NRCS Partnership
 - CDs convene Local Work Groups to set county-level resource priorities.
 - CDs assist producers with conservation planning and technical assistance.
 - NRCS relies on CDs for local delivery of Farm Bill programs.
- State Conservation Commission
 - Provides policy guidance and regulatory oversight for CDs.
 - Ensures statewide coordination and support.
- NvACD (State Association)
 - Advocates for CDs at the state level.
 - Provides training, communication, and statewide coordination.

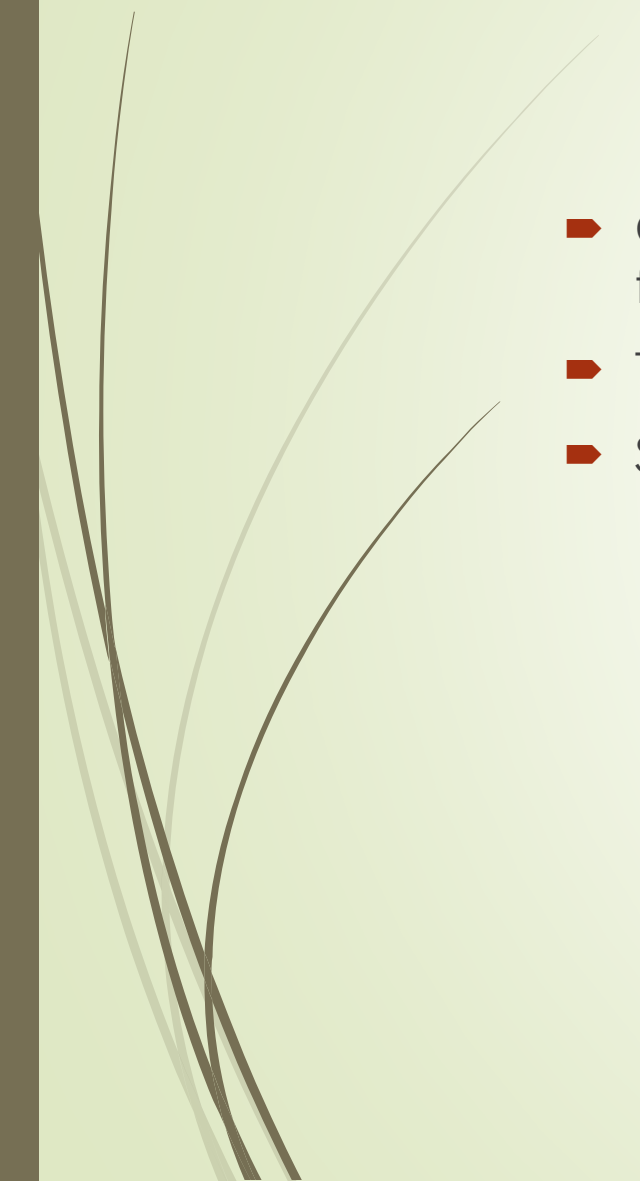


Examples of CD-Led Projects

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- Post-fire restoration and reseedling
 - Watershed and riparian restoration
 - Rangeland monitoring and grazing management
 - Irrigation efficiency improvements
 - Invasive weed management
 - Community wildfire protection and fuels reduction
 - Soil health demonstration projects
 - Conservation education and youth and communities

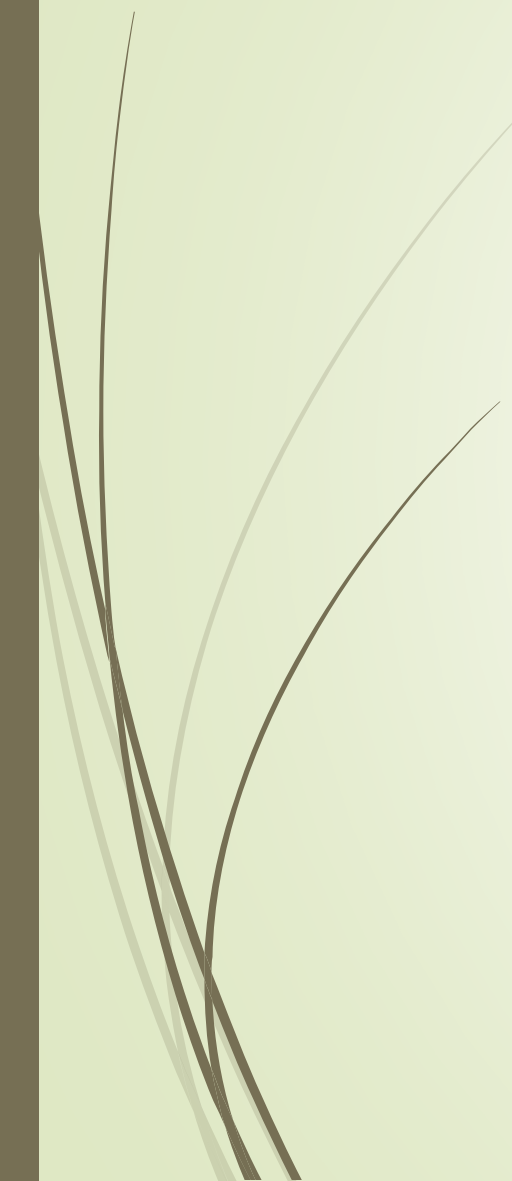


Funding Leverage: Why Counties Benefit

- CDs routinely leverage small amounts of state or county support into major federal investments.
 - Typical leverage ratio: \$1 local = \$5 to \$10 external funding.
 - Strong county-appointed boards increase competitiveness for:
 - NRCS cooperative agreements
 - BLM/USFS project funding
 - Private and nonprofit grants
 - County-level conservation partnerships
- 



Current Challenges

- Many CDs lack full boards due to missing county appointments.
 - Limited staffing capacity in rural districts.
 - Increasing demand for conservation assistance statewide.
 - Post-fire recovery needs continue to grow.
 - Consolidating other local conservation efforts into CDs provides better leverage of funds and accountability in-turn reducing duplication of efforts.
 - Counties lose opportunities when CDs cannot participate fully in state and federal programs.
- 



County Appointments and Support Are Critical

- When counties appoint supervisors and support CDs, CDs can:
 - Apply for and administer grants.
 - Represent county priorities in statewide conservation planning.
 - Provide local leadership during emergencies (fire, flood, drought).
 - Strengthen partnerships with NRCS, DCNR, and federal agencies.
 - Ensure continuity and accountability.
- When counties do NOT appoint supervisors:
 - CDs may lose quorum.
 - Projects stall
 - Funding opportunities are missed.
 - County voices are absent in statewide conservation decisions.



Call to Action for NACO

- The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts respectfully requests NACO's support to:
 - Encourage all counties to appoint their one representative to each Conservation District.
 - Promote county participation in CD meetings and Local Work Groups.
 - Support increased coordination between counties and CDs.
 - Consider supporting CDs with funding and administrative support.
 - Recognize CDs as essential partners in county-level natural resource management.



Closing

- **Nevada's Conservation Districts:**
 - **Locally Led.**
 - **County Connected.**
 - **Statewide Impact.**
- **Thank you for your time and leadership!**
- www.nvacd.org

EXPLORE, LEARN, SEE AND DO AT NEVADA FIELD DAY & AG EXPO

Friday, Sept. 25 | 2 - 6 p.m.
1000 Valley Road, Reno

Food, giveaways and demonstrations from University experts. Learn how the work of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources impacts your every day life. Open to all ages; admission is free. To learn more, go to unr.edu/cabnr or scan the QR code.

No pets allowed.



University of Nevada, Reno

**College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources**

ACADEMICS | EXPERIMENT STATION | EXTENDED STUDIES | EXTENSION

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should contact Paul Lessick, civil rights and compliance coordinator, at plessick@unr.edu or (702) 257-5577 at least five days prior to the scheduled event with their needs or for more information.