NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
July 31, 2026, 9:30am
NACO Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Gardner, President Elect Andriola, Vice President Keller, Past President Andreozzi, Carson City Supervisor Giomi, Churchill County Commissioner Getto, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Carson, 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**. President Gardner requested the introductions from members of the audience. Molly Rose Lewis, Grants Manager and Beth Morrissey Rural Regional Representative from Senator Rosen's Office; Patty Antonucci, Rural Communications Specialist and Joe Harrington, Communications Director from the Nevada Department of Transportation; and Holly Gatske from UNR, Cooperative Extension were all in attendance. Commissioner Reese noted that he was grateful that Ms. Antonucci's position had been created and that productive meetings had already been held with her in Lincoln County.

2. **Approval of Agenda**. The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Vice President Keller.

3. **Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2026, NACO Board of Directors Meeting**. The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Vice President Keller.

4. **NACO President's Report**. President Gardner reminded the Board of the process utilized during the recent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) search including the creation of the Search and Selection Committee's; updates and modernization of the documents related to the position were facilitated by President Elect Andriola with support from Washoe County and POOL/Pact; and mentioned the fact that 10 of Nevada's 17 counties **were able to participate** in the process. He also informed the Board that 42 applications **were** received and with the recommendation from the Search Committee, 8 **were invited** for interviews, **he also noted** that all interviewees received the same 11 questions. He then announced that Amy Hyne-Sutherland, the current NACO Interim CEO and Health & Human Services Manager had been offered the position, informing the Board that a short special meeting of the Board would be required for ratification of her appointment following the completion of the offer and acceptance process. President Gardner then discussed the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in New Orleans, explaining the election process for the 2nd Vice President of NACo and announced that Sara Benetar, Treasurer of Coconino County, AZ won the election.

5. **NACO Interim Chief Executive Officer's Report**. Amy began her report by thanking the Board for their faith in her, noting that she is both honored and humbled to lead NACO and looks forward to working with the Board to advance advocacy efforts on behalf of counties, as well as expand existing programs and develop new tools to best support Nevada's counties. Amy directed the Board to the flyer included in the agenda packet for the Virtual Energy Forum that NACO will host on August 14th, giving a brief overview of the speakers and topics of discussion. She also informed the Board of an August 10th meeting with NACo Government Affairs Director, Eryn Hurley, regarding the proposed changes proposed by the OMB regarding federal grants. Amy noted that if the proposed rule moves forward the changes will go into effect on October 1. She discussed the NACO comment letter submitted on the issue, also included in the agenda packet, informing the Board that the deadline was prior to the Board meeting. Amy discussed the support received by county government affairs staff in the development of the comment letter, thanking the Board for their support. She next informed the Board that a meeting had been held the previous day with the Governor's senior policy staff, including herself, Jennifer, and Jeremy Drew. She explained that it was a very thorough and effective meeting with discussions held on a broad range of policy issues affecting counties. She noted that future meetings are planned and the increase in communications will be beneficial heading into the Legislative Session. Amy informed the Board that the grant NACO submitted had not been selected for funding under the second round of the Rural Health Transformation Grant Program. She congratulated President Elect Andriola, Vice President Keller, and Lyon County Commissioner Tammy Hendrix on their appointments to leadership roles on the Rural Action Caucus, Mid-Size County Caucus, and Public Lands Policy Steering Committees at the NACo Annual Conference. Next, Amy informed the Board that she had received summary documents noting important aspects of the recently passed 21st Century Road To Housing Act, provided by Commissioner Kirkpatrick and that they would be distributed to the Board. President Garnder concluded the item as he noted that he appreciates the expanded forums and workshops being held by NACO and encouraged the Board and county staff to participate in them.

6. **NACO President Mark Gardner appointment of Vice President Scott Keller as Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2027 NACO Officers per the Association by-laws and call for Vice President nominations from interested NACO Board Members**. President Gardner gave the Board an overview of the adopted NACO By-Laws governing the election of the Vice President during the Annual Conference and then appointed Commissioner's Kirkpatrick and Andreozzi to the Committee as they both recently served as President of the Association. He closed the item by encouraging members of the Board interested in serving to submit letters of interest to Amy by August 14th to accommodate a meeting of the Committee prior to the 30-day posting requirement prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

7. **Presentation, Review, and Acceptance of NACO's 2025 Financial Audit, NACO Fiscal Officer Alan Kalt**. Fiscal Officer Kalt drew the Board's attention to the audit documents included in the agenda packet and gave them a presentation and overview of the complete Audit. He informed the Board that NACO remains in a strong financial position and looks forward to continuing long-term stability. He discussed the large adjustment associated with accumulated sick leave, reminding the Board that it is required to be carried as a liability under GASB even though it is not paid out upon employee separation. Mr. Kalt concluded his presentation by noting that NACO had received a clean unmodified opinion with no significant findings for the audit period. Past President Andreozzi inquired as to the increase in revenue between 2024 and 2025 and Amy reminded the Board of the short-term grant award that supported public health and immunization campaigns and facilitated

the creation of the editable tool kits available to counties. The Board again requested the breakdown of affiliate revenues vs. other membership and program revenue. Mr. Kalt informed the Board that he had brought that request to the auditor whose preference is to combine revenues, but that he would address the request again. Amy also informed the Board that the line item labeled Associate Memberships and National Programs had included less income because of the revision of the former Associate Membership program to the new Community Partnership Program, which is still under development. President Elect Andriola stated that she is thrilled that President Gardner had accepted her recommendation to create a finance committee that will be able to ensure further confidence among the Board members that there is firm understanding of the various GL's that make up the NACO budget. She also acknowledged the work that is done by such a small team to ensure that the audit findings were so minimal. Fiscal Officer Kalt informed the Board that 87% of the Association's transaction had been tested, and the fact that there were only a few missing initials to be noted was exceptional. President Gardner inquired as to if the Board should expect to see reduced revenues for the current year, and Amy acknowledged that they will because NACO had not received any grants in 2026. Mr. Kalt also confirmed to the Board that the audit is traditionally presented this late in the year due to the requirement for PERS reporting to be completed and published and reiterated that he is extremely proud that the only findings were a couple of missed initials. The Audit was accepted on a motion by President Elect Andriola with second by Commissioner Perez.

8. **Update from NACO's Government Affairs Manager**. Jennifer informed the Board that over the past month she had participated in the NACo workshop on the OMB proposed changes to federal grant rules, and she had been able to share valuable information with the counties. She attended the Interim Joint Government Affairs Committee meeting where the Public Records Task Force gave an update on their work and intention to produce a report to the Legislature to inform future changes to the State's public records laws. Jennifer also **hosted** the workshop on Secure Rural Schools (SRS) intended to help counties navigate the changes to the program and their individual elections for the receipt of the funding . She concluded her update by informing the Board that she had also attended the NACo Annual Conference and would be distributing updates from the conference soon.

9. U**pdate on NACO Annual Conference Planning, Agenda, and Registration**. Amanda informed the Board that as of early that morning there were approximately 120 registrants and 30 registered sponsors totaling just under $75,000 and that she was in communication with a few additional prospective sponsors. Amy then gave the Board an overview of the conference agenda, noting that a robust lineup of speakers had been developed and educational sessions would include panels on good governance, funding streams available to counties and a full range of programing to support county concerns. President Gardner noted that although Douglas County is hosting it, it is a statewide event and that if other counties wanted to include something in the welcome bags they are welcome to do so. President Elect Andriola inquired as to if registration was on pace with prior years and it was acknowledged that it appears to be. Amanda also reminded the Board that the Early Bird registration rate would expire that day and encouraged the Board to invite any Commissioner Elects from their counties to attend as well.

Updates from Standing Committees:

10. **NACO Legislative Committee**
    a. **Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of NACO's Bill Draft Requests (BDR) for the 2027 Nevada Legislative Session**. President Elect Andriola thanked the committee members for their participation and acknowledged Jennifer and Amy for

their hard work in developing and working through the BDR selection process. She informed the Board that there was robust discussion on the eight proposals submitted for the ranking process and that staff had continued to work through the details to determine the five that had the best chance for successfully moving through the legislative process. Jennifer thanked the Committee and President Elect Andriola for her leadership, noting that the more formal process developed this year was beneficial. She then gave the Board an overview of the process and reminded them that just because the Association receives five BDRs does not guarantee that they will receive a committee hearing for each. Jennifer then directed the Board's attention to the memo's included in the agenda packet and gave a summary of each proposal:

1. Emergency Management Base Funding - This proposal would establish a dedicated Emergency Management Infrastructure Account to provide ongoing state funding to strengthen Nevada's emergency management capabilities and supports emergency management programs at all levels.
2. Sales Tax/Open Space Initiative - NRS 376A.040 authorizes counties with populations under 700,000 to seek voter approval for a dedicated sales and use tax of up to 0.25% to support open-space preservation efforts. The proposed BDR would remove the sunset provision, preserving the authority for eligible counties to pursue voter-approved open-space funding initiatives beyond 2029.
3. Medicaid Pharmacy Rebates - This proposal addresses rising costs in the County Medicaid Match program. It includes three provisions: (1) The proposal requires Nevada Medicaid to set aside a portion of federal Medicaid pharmacy rebate revenue generated from County Medicaid Match spend and distribute it to counties based on each county's share of Medicaid costs from the previous year. (2) In fiscal years when there is a surplus in pharmacy rebates collected by the state, this proposal would require Nevada Medicaid to allocate a portion of the surplus to offset county Medicaid Match costs; (3) A one-time state general fund infusion to offset County Medicaid Match costs for the next biennium with the goal to collaborate with Nevada Medicaid over the biennium on innovations that can contain costs while improving outcomes.
4. Rural Nevada Continuum of Care - This proposal would make the Nevada Housing Division (NHD) the permanent lead agency for the Nevada Balance of State Continuum of Care, transferring key responsibilities from the Nevada Department of Public & Behavioral Health while allowing NHD to continue contracting with experts for specialized work like the HUD application and Point-in-Time count. It would fund one full-time staff position and maintain current state funding to support coordination with rural communities, local governments, tribes, housing providers, and service organizations. The proposal also includes additional funding to expand the statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
5. Erroneous Billing Reimbursement - This proposal would require a local government that submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer to reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file, thereby aligning fiscal responsibility with the entity that generated the incorrect information.

Following her overview of each proposal, Jennifer informed the Board that staff had worked in consultation with stakeholders and agencies that would be affected by the proposals. She then reminded the Board that they now have a month for deliberation of the proposals and to submit questions to staff regarding the proposals which will be brought back to the Board for action at the August meeting, ensuring that the submission of the approved BDRs is completed by the September 1st deadline. President Elect Andriola reminded the Board that county staff are welcome to participate on the Committee and informed them that the meeting frequency of the Committee will increase as the Legislative Session approaches. President Gardner stated that the number of proposals submitted for consideration by the Committee is a compliment to the hard work, outreach, and involvement of the Committee and staff. He concluded the item by reminding the Board that the two urban counties receive two BDRs and the remaining 15 rural counties each receive one and encouraged them to utilize them.

11. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus**. Past President Andreozzi informed the Board that he did not have a report as the Committee meeting had to be canceled due to his being called for Jury Duty.

12. **NACO Committee on Housing**. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that their meeting had also been canceled due to the NACo Annual Conference. However, she informed the Board that she requested the BLM to do a presentation on the $100/acre program for affordable housing available to all counties. She has also reached out to the Nevada Division on Housing for information on how the $9 million allocation for the rural counties is being spent.

13. **NACO Committee on Cooperative Extension**. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that the Committee had a good meeting, and Director DeDecker had presented to the Committee. She noted that only 1,200 people had responded to the survey being conducted by Extension for the needs assessment for each county. The Committee is recommending year end reports from each county on programming and Commissioner Kirkpatrick stressed the need for participation to ensure proper needs assessments are conducted. She also discussed the possibility of creating hybrid clubs to increase participation. Commissioner Kirkpatrick also stressed the need for enhanced communication between county's and their local Extension offices to form effective partnerships. President Elect Andriola stated that it had been a great meeting and also noted the opportunity for individual meetings between county representatives and local Extension staff. She informed the Board that the deadline for the needs assessments had been extended to October and issued a challenge to the Board for robust participation. Jennifer concluded the item by thanking Commissioner Kirkpatrick for her leadership and reminding the Board that the next meeting of the Committee would be August 21st.

14. **Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
    a. **Final Comment Letter submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding revisions to Regulations for Grazing Administration.** Amy directed the Board's attention to the final submitted comment letter included in the agenda packet noting that only one minor change had been made prior to submission which was authorized under the action the Board took on the matter at their June meeting.
    b. **Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee**. Amy discussed the SLUPAC meeting taking place August 5th in Battle Mountain, informing the Board that she would be attending the meeting, also reminding them that Jake Tibbitts from Eureka County is the current Chair. She informed the Board that the agenda would largely center on discussion of duties of the advisory committee and that the housing bill would be discussed. Amy also informed the

Board that Commissioner Hendrix had presented a Policy Resolution to the NACo Public Lands Policy Steering Committee at the NACo Annual Conference proposing extending existing revenue sharing agreements on public lands to other sectors of business. Commissioner Hendrix's Resolution was unanimously accepted by the Committee and adopted by NACo as part of their Federal Advocacy Platform. Amy also discussed conversations with the Governor's Office of Energy to shape future policy around abatements with county concerns being included. Carl Erquiaga from Resource Concepts, Inc. (RCI) informed the Board he was standing in for Jeremy Drew and reminded them that he is a former Churchill County Commissioner. He informed the Board that movement is being seen on renewable energy project in the NEPA process, although it is going slowly. Mr. Erquiaga also informed the Board that the Greenlink North project SEIS is out and in no large surprise they are trying to limit comments to the Greater Sage Grouse, and that comments are due on August 24th.

15. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, including the Rural Action Caucus and the Midsize County Caucus**. President Garnder informed the Board that the Board of Directors had met in New Orleans where they considered 158 resolutions submitted by the various NACo Policy Steering Committees and recommended all for approval. He then informed the Board that during the General Membership Meeting all 158 Resolutions were adopted as were five platform changes. President Gardner then reiterated the leadership appointments discussed under agenda item four and again congratulated the Commissioners on their appointments. Vice President Keller informed the Board that he had a discussion with Tammy Tincher, the Director of Member Engagement for NACo about how membership is evaluated for Presidential appointments and stated that he would share the information when it is received, he also noted that she will be in attendance at the NACO Annual Conference in September. Vice President Keller also discussed the Policy Resolutions presented by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee. President Elect Andriola informed the Board that the first meeting of the Midsize County Caucus is scheduled for September and that she had a conversation with NACo CEO Matt Chase about expectations for the Caucus and the need for strategic planning as it is a newly formed group with the organization.

16. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region Board**. No representatives to the Board were present. President Gardner reminded the Board that Douglas County will be hosting the 2027 WIR conference in May and requested assistance in securing sponsors for the event. He concluded the item by giving a brief overview of the planning efforts for tours during the conference.

17. **Updates from Individual Member Counties**. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.

18. **Public Comment**. Holly Gatske from Cooperative Extension stated that she attends to learn about the issues the counties are facing and to provide updates to the Board where appropriate. Commissioner Hendrix informed the Board that she would miss the NACO Annual Conference because she will be speaking at a NACo Energy Symposium in Texas. Commissioner Reese congratulated Amy on her appointment as the NACO CEO. Patti Antonucci from NDOT informed the Board that there are a number of projects being conducted in the rural counties and that she enjoys traveling to the rural communities to discuss their needs and concerns. Senator Rosen's staff noted that they were excited to be in attendance to learn about the needs of the counties and where they can offer assistance at the federal level. President Gardner discussed the pushback he receives from citizens of

Douglas County on the acceptance of federal grant funding, as there is a belief that the dollars come with string attached, but noted that if the dollars do not come to Nevada they go elsewhere. On behalf of herself and Amanda Jennifer thanked Amy for taking on the responsibility of leading the Association during the recruitment process and that staff is looking forward to the future with Amy as the official CEO.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 A.M.