

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
November 18, 2022, 9:30am
NACO Office Conference Room
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89702

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Lucey, President Elect Higbee, Vice President Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Churchill County Commissioner Olsen, Clark County Commissioner Gibson, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Taylor Allison, Jacob Brinkerhoff, and Amanda Berg)

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

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** President Lucey requested flexibility on the hearing of agenda items due to the need for some Board members to call into meetings to complete their county's election canvas. The agenda was approved on a motion by Vice President Giomi with second by President Elect Higbee.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Lucey thanked Storey County for hosting the Annual Conference in September and welcomed Lincoln County Commissioner Reese and Washoe County Commissioner Hill to the Board. He then thanked the counties for the excellent job done by the Clerks and Election Officials during the recent election, despite challenges with new State laws governing elections. President Lucey closed his remarks by stating that he looks forward to the future of counties and the success of the newly elected members of the various Commissions.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson discussed emails he had recently sent regarding the Department of the Treasury's release of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF). Noting that the dollars have begun being distributed and that they will come in two tranches, he also reminded the Board that counties must apply for the dollars to ensure the receipt of the second tranche of funding. Vinson also discussed the National Association of Counties (NACo) work on ensuring that the distribution formula was beneficial to the counties eligible to receive the funds, including the ability for counties to use the dollars for anything other than lobbying activities. Vinson encouraged the Board to register for the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference, noting that Congress will be in session and meetings will be conducted with members of the Delegation. He informed the Board that the Association's Federal Priorities document is being developed and a draft will be presented to the Board in December for approval in January. Vinson concluded his remarks by discussing the Nevada State Dinner held at the conference and the possibility of hosting a reception with the Delegation outside of the formal meetings.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the September 28, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.**
The minutes were approved on a motion by President Elect Higbee with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.

Agenda items six and seven were heard in reverse order.

6. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding NACO's 2022 Strategic Planning Session.**
President Lucey reminded the Board that the draft plan had been presented to the Board in September. Vinson informed the Board that the plan included in the agenda packet incorporated the comments from the Board at the initial presentation. He then gave an overview of the changes incorporated into the final plan and discussed the Action Plan for 2023-2025. Commissioner Carson inquired if it was possible to give presentations to the Commissions in the individual counties. Vinson informed the group that those presentations had been occurring and that White Pine was being scheduled following the seating of their newly elected Commissioners. It was also announced that President Elect Higbee has plans to attend a meeting of all Commissions to expand on the need for unified representation provided by the Association. Vice President Giomi suggested the inclusion of the various appointments the Board is responsible for to further expand how NACO provides representation throughout the state. Commissioner Hall expressed the need for getting the Commissions to truly listen and understand the importance of NACO and suggested tailoring the individual presentations to include information important to the various counties. Vice President Giomi inquired as to if meetings were being held with staff during the county visits, and Vinson stated that they are as time allows. President Elect Higbee discussed the development of a one-page flyer on information about NACO and President Lucey suggested making a calendar of the various appointments NACO is responsible for, to inform not only staff but new Commissioners on the importance of NACO. Past President Kirkpatrick discussed the need to express the importance of being active with NACO, noting that every county is important, and that Nevada has a strong voice on national policy issues because of the state's diversity. Commissioner Hall suggested giving the names of key players outside of the counties, to further expand the voice the Association provides, specifically noting the reappointment of Ms. Eastley to NRHA and her being known throughout the state for the work she has accomplished on behalf of counties. Commissioner Carson also suggested that Board members bring key staff and department heads to meetings where specific agenda items are slated for discussion. The Strategic Plan was approved on a motion by Vice President Giomi with second by Commissioner Carson.
7. **Discussion and Possible Approval of the Re-Appointment of Joni Eastley and Zetkha Fountas the Board of Directors for the Nevada Rural Housing Authority (NRHA).**
Vinson gave an overview of the appointments, noting that Ms. Eastley has been one of the Association's appointees for several years, including an overview of her prior service as a Nye County Commissioner and member of the NACO Board; Ms. Fountas has been the Board's appointee as the member receiving assistance from the Authority. Ms. Eastley thanked the Board for allowing her to participate on the NRHA Board and noted that she was also a recipient NACO's Participatory Democracy award and is a member of the Emeritus Committee which she helped develop. Commissioner Gardner stated that the NRHA is an important program for the rural counties and Commissioner Keller noted that she had served on the Board with Ms. Eastley and that she has a firm grasp on issues that the counties face. Ms. Eastley and Ms. Fountas were reappointed to the NRHA Board on a motion by Commissioner Keller with second by Commissioner Hall.

8. **Approval of NACO's July, August, and September 2022 Financial Statements.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the statements included in the agenda packet, reminding them that the statements are provided to the Board on a quarterly basis. He informed the Board that revenues and expenses continue to remain within the approved budget and that non-dues revenues for participation in NACo programs and Associate Memberships had exceeded estimates. Vinson stated that the line item for salaries shows as having exceeded estimates, but that is due to the reimbursement timeline for Taylor's grant funded position. He concluded his remarks by noting that the Association remains in a strong financial position. The quarterly financial statements were approved on a motion by Vice President Giomi with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.
9. **Approval of NACO's August, September, and October 2022 Investment Reports.** Vinson again directed the Boards attention to the reports included in the agenda packet. He noted that revenues are coming back and that investments continue to be made within the approved Financial Policy. He concluded his remarks by reminding the Board that they had received their annual update from the Financial Advisor at the September meeting. The quarterly investment reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Steninger with second by Vice President Giomi.
10. **Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the NACO Annual Budget for 2023.** Vinson provided the Board an overview of the budget process, noting that the day's review is to allow feedback from the Board and that the final budget will be brought forth in December for approval. He discussed the draft budget, Fiscal Officer Kalt's comparison, the dues schedule and the budget descriptions included in the agenda packet. He informed the Board that the Association will remain in a solid financial position. Vinson then explained the dues schedule is based on a formula included in the Association By-Laws which contains assessments based on audited financial reports for the previous year, audited population counts from the State Demographer and an assessment based on the latest Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) distributions. He then reminded the Board that each county pays the same percentage of their PILT dollars, and those funds are used to support public lands and natural resources activities. Vinson noted that most counties dues had reminded stable but that he had reached out directly to counties who had received an increase in their assessments. Vinson then discussed the descriptions for items that included increases. He informed the Board that an estimated increase of 10-14% had been received for health insurance costs, and that options had been requested from the insurance broker. He also discussed increases in the budgets for legislative costs, staff travel, and a 5% increase in staff salaries which will remain within standard ranges. Vinson concluded his presentation by noting that the proposed budget supports the Association's advocacy efforts and invests in staff. Commissioner Andreozzi inquired as to the increase percentage for health insurance costs, noting that the document states 12% and Vinson clarified that was an error and would be adjusted prior to the presentation of the final budget for approval.
11. **Final update on 2022 NACO Annual Conference.** Amanda informed the Board that the Conference had record attendance with more than 200 people registering for the event. She also noted that there were a record number of sponsors in attendance and that revenues had exceeded projections. She requested that the Board make note of the 2023 Conference to be held in Elko County September 26-28. The Board congratulated staff on a well-run event, including the value received in the ability of networking with other elected officials and county staff, and making note of the creative solutions utilized for the conduction of educational sessions.

12. **Approval of NACO Resolution 22-03 Thanking Storey County for Hosting the 2022 NACO Annual Conference.** The resolution included in the agenda packet was approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Hall.

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.** Jacob informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed draft priorities to include in the Associations official federal priorities document, grazing regulation updates and other standing items. He also informed the Board that the group had decided to return to Thursday afternoon meetings to allow for more discussion time on items of importance. Chairman Higbee further discussed the proposed grazing regulation updates and noted that Cooperating Agency counties had submitted comments to slow the process for better review due to issues related to canceled meeting due to the pandemic. Commissioner Andreozzi encouraged that wildfire be included in those grazing discussions and Chair Higbee stated that the issue is a part of the larger discussion.
- b. **Presentation and Possible Approval of the National Association of Counties (NACo), Western Interstate Region (WIR) Creation of National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center).** Commissioner Steninger discussed the LATCF funds that are being distributed to counties and informed the Board that during the October meeting of WIR the Board had discussed and approved the creation of The Center to provide a research arm at NACo to enable the collection and development of resources to aid with efforts to support public lands and natural resources. He informed the Board that The Center would be funded by requesting 1% of LATCF funds which would provide approximately \$15 million to be held in a trust fund to support The Center in perpetuity. Vinson informed the Board that the intent of The Center is to provide both urban and rural perspectives and that the funding would be a one-time assessment specific to the LATCF funding. He noted that NACO would invoice for and collect the dollars but that no income would be derived from the assessments at the state association level. Vinson then discussed a letter to be sent to the counties that will outline the governance and benefits of proposed Center. Commissioner Andreozzi noted that it is a brilliant idea with the caveat that a report is provided on an annual basis as to the activities conducted and monetary status of the trust. Vinson informed the Board that The Center is modeled after activities at the Western Governors Association but would be focused on putting counties at the forefront of discussions with strong communications at the federal level. Jacob also informed the group that the plan includes an oversight board. President Elect Higbee noted that a prime example of The Center's usefulness would be within the currently proposed legislation regarding RS2477 roads. Vinson concluded the item by stating that he would provide an outline for discussion for individual county approval of the assessments if the item would be taken to the individual Commissions for approval. NACO participation was approved on motion by Commissioner Steninger with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.

14. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Past President Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she is participating on the newly formed Housing Committee to provide long term solutions for affordable and workforce housing issues. She also informed the group that she had been asked to participate on the new Social Justice Committee, based on concerns she had previously expressed regarding the direction of the Committee. Past President Kirkpatrick also informed the Board that she continues to work on Opioid issues

including development of models for use by smaller counties and issues surrounding water, including participating with 27 partners to address the Colorado River distributions. President Elect Higbee informed the Board that he has been asked to potentially provide input on the draft of the Agriculture Bill which must be reauthorized in 2023. Members of the Board concluded the item by providing updates on activities within their counties.

15. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.