

## **NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)**

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 28, 2022

Immediately Following the Annual Business Meeting

Storey County Courthouse Slammer

26 South B Street

Virginia City, NV 89440

### **ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** President Lucey; President Elect Higbee; Vice President Giomi; Past President Kirkpatrick; Douglas County Commissioner Gardner (alternate); Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Elko County Commissioner Steninger; Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea; Lyon County Commissioner Keller; Mineral County Commissioner Hall; Pershing County Commissioner Shank; Storey County Commissioner Carmona; Fiscal Officer Kalt; and NACO staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, and Jacob Brinkerhoff)

The meeting was called to order at 8:21 am.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Higbee with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Elect Lucy thanked those in attendance at the Conference and Storey County for hosting the event, remarking on no matter how small or big, the counties in Nevada are impressive. He also reiterated his remarks from the evening before thanking the Commissioners in attendance and the demanding work that they do, as well as the honor of serving as the NACO President. He concluded his remarks by thanking the group for their participation in the upcoming Strategic Planning discussion and being thoughtful towards the upcoming mission of the Association.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson referred to his remarks during the Annual Business meeting. He again thanked Storey County for hosting and remarked on the record-breaking attendance at the event and outlined the schedule for the remainder of the day.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the August 26, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.
6. **Discussion and Presentation of NACO 2022 Draft Strategic Plan.** President Lucey thanked staff and those at On Strategy for putting the plan together and the work that was entailed to do so. Vinson also acknowledged the work that had gone into the draft and directed the Board's attention to the presentation that he would be going over. He also reiterated that conversations would be continuing through October and a final presentation would be made to the Board prior to the approval of the Plan. Vinson highlighted the number of County and Associate members, the mission and activities that direct the work staff does on behalf of the Association. Goals highlighted within the draft Plan include for veteran Commissioners and newly elected Commissioners to feel supported as they serve their counties; specifically discussing the preparations for a new commissioners training

that would be instituted shortly following the general election. Additional goals include increasing the awareness of NACO and additional awareness and engagement with policy makers; increasing engagement with non-board member Commissioners, specifically that connection to NACO and involvement with the Association isn't limited to those that serve on the Board. He also discussed the need for policy makers to see NACO as a resource and a partner on issues important to counties. Vinson also discussed the continued need for Association staff to be proactive with issues as they arise and the ability for staff to provide information and solutions in real-time for effective advocacy on behalf of counties. He completed the discussion of goals with the plan to increase revenues for the Association to increase advocacy capacity and that with an increase in non-dues revenue, there would be greater ability to create effective advocacy for counties in additional arenas. Vinson next discussed the proposed action plan, including increased education and training for Commissioners and staff as well as increased community engagement, noting that the Association's efforts on both had been hampered by the restrictions of the Pandemic. Past President Kirkpatrick inquired as to how the Association would be working to leverage Nevada's increased voice on national issues due to the State's diversity, specifically how the 17 county voices are listened to in a cohesive manner. Vinson stated that is a party to the goal outlined with engagement and education and discussed the communication being held with the missing county member and the importance of the collective message being given through all levels of advocacy. Past President Kirkpatrick then discussed the need for engagement with a younger constituency be an important part of the Association's future communications and education efforts. Vice President Giomi echoed the comments made by Past President Kirkpatrick and encouraged increased engagement with county managers and department heads, as well as establishing an increased relationship at the Governor's office. President Lucey then discussed the need for not only education and training efforts within the counties and the legislature, but also within the executive branch of state and federal officials who don't always know or acknowledge the role that counties play in the administration of legislation and programming. He also encouraged increased engagement with staff members of Congressional committees and not solely relying on the State Delegation to communicate the Association's messaging. Vice President Giomi then suggested the need to have meeting with the Delegation in Nevada, when they are present, and not simply relying on their staff to relay the messaging and policy issues to the Members. Past President Kirkpatrick agreed with the need to meet with the elected officials but also cautioned on dismissing staff, because staff is often far more engaged with specific issues and have the ability to communicate the nuances of needs more effectively with the official. President Lucey also discussed the need to educate staff on issues, especially when there is a high turnover rate and lack of historical knowledge on state staff and a large amount of Committee staff that have years of experience. President Lucey also commented on the importance of the Western Interstate Region of NACo and the importance of Nevada's advocacy on that Board as the majority of the Members of Congress are from East of the Mississippi. Past President Kirkpatrick acknowledged the assistance of NACo but also cautioned about leaning on their advocacy because of the vast number of their members and their need to advocate on national issues. Vinson concluded the item by thanking the Board for their feedback and reminded them that work would be continuing through October and the final Plan would be presented to the Board in November.

- 7. Annual Update from NACO Investment Advisor, Moreton Asset Management, LLC, Andy Robbins, Chief Operating Officer.** Fiscal Officer Kalt reminded the Board of the requirement in the approved Fiscal and Investment Policy to receive an annual review of the investment accounts and determine if there is a need to make any adjustments to the policy. Mr. Robbins directed the Board's attention to the documents included in the agenda packet and gave an overview of the current fiscal climate and how the Association's current

accounts are performing. Overall, given the current financial and investment situation the accounts are within the approved {Investment} Policy and performing well. President Lucey inquired as to how Moreton manages the Association's funds within the pools that are currently invested in. Mr. Robbins replied that there is a fair amount of dollars accrued in cash that will be invested within the approved Policy and that they are watching the markets and federal interest rate adjustments to maintain their fiduciary duty to the Association. Mr. Robbins also informed the Board that the interest rates are expected to rise at approximately ½ a percentage point until May or June of 2023 which will continue to affect the market. Mr. Robbins also informed the Board that when they feel the rate adjustments have been concluded they anticipate transitioning cash investments into long term fixed rate investments that will continue to have a higher yield for the account. He also discussed the stability of government and treasury bond holdings when a recession is predicted and how Moreton will be not only protecting the current assets but growing them in an unpredictable fiscal climate. Fiscal Officer Kalt discussed the success of Morton's asset management of the Association and how their forward thinking will continue to serve NACO well. Mr. Robbins suggested no changes to the Investment Policy. No Board action was taken.

8. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Past President Kirkpatrick informed the group that she and President Elect Higbee have been attending the meetings and that while there are concerns with the new President and her personal political views, they will continue to work with the Board to ensure that NACO's priorities are heard and advanced. Commissioner Steninger informed the group that there would be a report forthcoming following the WIR meeting in October. Commissioner Hall discussed her recent attendance at NACO's PILT fly-in and meetings held with representatives from non-PILT states and committee staff. President Lucey and President Elect Higbee discussed the importance of PILT dollars for making the counties whole and why the majority of Congress members don't understand the importance of those dollars to counties in the western states.
9. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Keller introduced Lyon Counties new Community Development Director and Commissioner Shank asked the Board to welcome her replacement on the Board, as she had termed out, who was in attendance at the event. President Elect Higbee informed the group that he had intentions of visiting all Boards of County Commissions in the State.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 am.