

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 26, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

NACO Office

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Waits, President Elect French, Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee, Elko County Commissioner Dahl, Carson City Mayor Crowell, Lander County Commissioner Allan, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Lyon County Commissioner Hunewill, Storey County Commissioner Gilman, Washoe County Commissioner Lucey, Nye County Commissioner Wichman and NACO Staff (Dagny Stapleton, Vinson Guthreau and Amanda Evans)

Remote Attendance: Vice President Kirkpatrick, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, and Lincoln County Commissioner Lister.

Other Attendance: Ivory Lyles, University Nevada Cooperative Extension; Lee Bonner, NDOT; Holly Gatsky, University Nevada Cooperative Extension; Kim Burgess, US Census; Jeff Hardcastle, Nevada State Demographer; and Jeff Page, Lyon County Manager.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Mayor Crowell with second by Commissioner Allan.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Waits informed the Board that she had attended a meeting in Elko where she met the new GOED Director, Kristopher Sanchez and indicated that it was a good meeting. She said Mr. Sanchez expressed support for rural communities and continuing to support economic development projects through the department. President Waits concluded her remarks with the acknowledgment of those members of the Board with birthdays in April.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Dagny informed the Board of the dates for the workshops for those counties applying for CDBG funds in the 2019 grant cycle. She also reminded the Board that registration for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference being hosted by Clark County is open and encouraged the Board to share the information with their colleagues and express importance of attending the event while it is within Nevada. Dagny also informed the Board that NACO, with sponsorship assistance from NV Energy will be hosting a dinner for all Nevada County Commissioners on the Sunday of the Conference and encouraged the Board to share that information as well. Dagny concluded her remarks by sharing a request from Clark County to provide items that showcase Nevada's counties to be included in gift baskets that will be distributed to the members of the NACo Board of Directors.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the February 22, 2019 NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with second by Commissioner Dahl.
6. **Approval of NACO's December 2018 and January 2019 Financial Statements and January 2019 Investment Reports.** The statements and reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Allan.
7. **Approval of a NACO Resolution in Support of National County Government Month.** The Resolution was approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Shank.

8. **Approval of 2019 NACO Associate Members.** The Associate Members were approved on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Allan.
9. **Approval of Nominees for Consideration by the Governor for Appointment to the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (NRS 428.195).** Dagny gave an overview of the Fund and noted that a portion of each county's property tax goes to support the fund. She informed the Board that the four seats dedicated to County Commissioners on the Board are currently held by Commissioners Wichman (Nye), French (Humboldt), Sharkozy (Eureka), and Weekly (Clark), and are due to expire in June. Six names need to be submitted to the Governor for consideration. Dagny informed the Board that Commissioners Sharkozy, French and Wichman would like to continue to serve on the Board and that Commissioner Jones from Clark County had indicated that he would be interested in appointment to the Board. Commissioners Shank and Allan volunteered to also submit their names for consideration to round out the required list of names. The Board approved Commissioners Wichman (Nye), French (Humboldt), Jones (Clark), Sharkozy (Eureka), Shank (Pershing) and Allan (Lander) to be submitted to the Governor for consideration on a motion by Commissioner Dahl with second by Commissioner Wichman.
10. **Approval of Three Nominees for Consideration by the Governor for Appointment to the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects (NRS 459.0091).** Dagny gave an overview of the Commission and informed the Board that the seat reserved for a county commissioner is currently held by Clark County Commissioner Brown whose term expires in June. She informed the Board that three names must be submitted to the Governor for consideration for appointment. Clark County Commissioner Naft has expressed interest in appointment to the Board. Lincoln County Commissioner Higbee expressed interest in serving and Nye County Commissioner Wichman nominated her colleague Commissioner Blundo for consideration. The Board put forth Commissioners Naft (Clark), Higbee (Lincoln), and Blundo (Nye) for consideration by the Governor for appointment to the Commission on a motion by President Elect French with second by Commissioner Lucey.
11. **Possible Selection of one NACO Sponsored Applicant to Attend the National Association of Counties 2019 County Leadership Training Institute in Washington D.C.** Staff's recommendation for Lincoln County Commissioner Lister to attend the Institute was ratified on a motion by Commissioner Allan with second by Mayor Crowell.
12. **Discussion Regarding the NACO Seat on Nevada's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.** Dagny gave an overview of the Governor's creation of the Committee and the Executive Committee's recommendation that she fill the seat on the Committee. Dagny's appointment to the Committee was ratified on a motion by Commissioner Hartung with concurrent second by Commissioners Shank and Allan.
13. **Update on Activities related to the 2020 U.S. Census Including an Update from the Nevada State Demographer, Jeff Hardcastle.** Mr. Hardcastle gave the Board an overview of his office's efforts to support the Census noting the importance of an accurate count for not only the receipt of federal funding and community development efforts, but for redistricting as well. He informed the Board that there is staff throughout the State working in the field, including Kim Burgess who is working on the Census efforts in every area of the State except Clark County. Ms. Burgess stressed the need for volunteers for remuneration efforts and door knocking and stressed the need for accurate counts for those residents in non-traditional housing situations. President Elect French suggested utilizing the school districts' records in the efforts for identifying non-traditional housing situations. Commissioner Shank expressed concern with prison populations distorting demographics and Commissioner Keyes inquired as to how future mining projects and the potential for vast population increases within a county would be addressed. Mr. Hardcastle noted that the Demographer's office would be participating in forecasting population increases.
14. **Update from the NACO Legislative Committee and Staff on Proposed Legislative Measures, Budget Requests, and NACO Priorities for the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.** Commissioner Lucey thanked those that participated on the Committee and noted the efforts of staff to keep the Committee and the Board apprised of the often-daily changes to bills at the Legislature. He noted that the Economic Forum would occur on the 1st of May and that budgets would be worked on following that report. Vinson informed the Board that all the NACO bills passed the deadline for first house passage and will be

scheduled for hearings in the respective committees of the second houses. He informed the Board that NACO's bill that would make changes to the primary system was superseded by a committee bill (AB259) which passed out of the Assembly unanimously. He also informed the Board that the bill that would make changes to public administrators also passed out of the Assembly. Dagny informed the Board that communication with the Governor's staff on the Association's bills and priorities is ongoing. She also informed the Board that there was an amendment to SB48, that would enable counties to enact a diesel tax, at the request of the DMV, that will require the counties to receive the taxes from the DMV and require them to submit the portion of the taxes dedicated to truck parking directly to NDOT. Dagny discussed SJR14, which would remove depreciation upon sale of real property. She reminded the Board that it was previously discussed in January and that the impact study had been completed and was included in the Board packet. She discussed the projected impacts to both counties and residents and informed the Board that there is a companion bill that will allow the Legislature to enact the SJR should it be approved by the voters. She also noted that there is an amendment that includes language that depreciation returns on year two after sale at the current assessed value. Discussion among the Board included potential changes in the occurrence of assessment reviews and the property tax caps. Dagny informed the Board that Senator Ratti has requested that NACO participate in the presentation of the Bill, specifically regarding the impacts to counties, should the measure go through. She also informed the Board that there is discussion regarding the potential to divert some of the funds to schools, above a certain revenue threshold. President Elect French noted that the counties need to be able to recover from the recession before there are any talks of diversion of funds. Vice President Kirkpatrick expressed reservations with the proposal, especially regarding the possibility of no growth. The Board noted that, though they support property tax reform in general, it would be important to them to be a part of the conversation regarding the diversion. There was discussion and a recap of progress on the indigent defense bill (AB81) - it is currently in the Ways and Means Committee and there are still concerns regarding funding, standards, responsibility and liability. The item concluded with a discussion on AB398, which would allow for the removal of a public official for sexual harassment or discrimination by the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC).

15. Update and Possible Action Regarding Natural Resources and Public Lands and Issues Affecting Counties Including:

- a. **NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee Update.** The Board was informed that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has a proposal to expand the California Condor range for captive breeding and introduction into new areas of Nevada. It was noted that the next agenda will include an item for discussion and action on engaging on the issue.
- b. **The BLM and USFS Greater Sage Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendments.** The Board was reminded that the Fish and Wildlife Service is required to revisit their decision to not list the Bi-State Sage Grouse and the Board voted to continue working on the issue. They approved contracting with Resource Concepts to develop comments as necessary on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Dahl. The Board was also informed that the USFS version of the Greater Sage Grouse Plan is in review and a Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in June. Items of concern in the Plan include the use only of native vegetation as fire breaks, a ten-decibel noise impact cap and the 3% disturbance cap. It was also noted that the proposed Naval and Air Force withdrawals are outside of the potential land closures included within the plan. Commissioner Goicoechea noted that the 3% cap is not included in the State plan and it is the practice of the BLM to defer to the State plan, which is a key part of the adoption of the temporary regulations by the Sage-Brush Ecosystem Council regarding mitigation. The Board was also informed that BLM ROD was released and that the Center for Biological Diversity is suing. It was also noted that Jeremy from Resource Concepts is continuing work on comments for the Administrative Draft of the SEIS.
- c. **Proposed Federal Legislation Regarding the Funding Formula for PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).** Dagny referenced the federal legislative language included in the Board packet that would give smaller population counties more funding while not taking away from the larger counties. The Board voted to support the legislation on a motion by Commissioner Wichman with second by Commissioner Allan.
- d. **Update on the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition's 2019 Summit in Nevada.** President Elect French encouraged the Board to register for the Summit and noted that the purpose for the event is to have a thoughtful and inclusionary discussion on the issue.

16. **National Association of Counties and Western Interstate Region Board Member Updates.**

Commissioner's Dahl and Higbee noted that both groups would be meeting at the upcoming Western Interstate Region meeting in Spokane County Washington in May.

17. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Updates were given by members of the Board on activities within their counties.

18. **Public Comment.** None was given.