NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2025, 9:30am
NACO Offices
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

ADOPTED MINTUES

Attendance: President Andreozzi, President Elect Gardner, Vice President Andriola, Past President Giomi, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Tolbert, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Hendrix, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland 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 on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Tolbert.

3. **NACO President's Report**. President Andreozzi wished the Board a happy Thanksgiving holiday and safe travels to those that would be making long trips.

4. **NACO Executive Director's Report**. Vinson remarked on the eight-day special legislative session which had adjourned that Wednesday; he also informed the Board that any additional information he had would be covered under the items on the agenda.

5. **Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting**. The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

6. **Final Update Regarding the 2025 NACO Annual Conference**. Amanda thanked Clark County for hosting the event and for all the work that county staff contributed during the planning process, as well as the support provided during the conference. She also thanked Commissioner Kirkpatrick for all her efforts on the silent auction and the one-of-a-kind President's Reception in honor of President Andreozzi. Commissioners and staff were thanked for their attendance, especially due to limited county travel budgets. Amanda then directed the Board's attention to the budget summary included in the agenda packet and highlighted increased sponsorship and attendance revenue compared to 2024. She also highlighted record setting revenues from the silent auction. Amanda discussed the success of the conference, meeting budget projections, and providing attendees with important networking and educational opportunities. She concluded the presentation by reminding the Board that the 2026 Annual Conference will be hosted by Douglas County at Lake Tahoe September 22-24. Vice President Andriola thanked staff for their hard work on the conference and noted that Douglas County had their work cut out to reach the 'high bar' that

Clark County had set. Vinson also thanked the County and Commissioner Kirkpatrick for their support and efforts and noted that the true goal of the Conference is for Commissioners and county staff to learn from each other. He also discussed the attendance of State and Federal dignitaries and staff and noted that staff were pleased with the event's outcome. President Andreozzi concluded the item by thanking Commissioner Kirkpatrick for the fantastic President's Reception, the spectacular venue, and the remarkable food, also noting that he always comes away from the conference with a renewed fire and is thankful for the powerful opportunity to share time and information with fellow Commissioners.

7. **Approval of NACO Resolution 25-03, Thanking Clark County for Hosting the 2025 NACO Annual Conference**. President Andreozzi read the Resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with a second by President Elect Gardner.

Items 8 and 9 were heard out of order due to a delay in Mr. Handy's arrival at the meeting.

8. **Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Fiscal Relief Program, Including the State Reimbursement Process, from the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS), Peter P. Handy, Executive Director**. Director Handy began his presentation by reminding the Board of the creation of the Department and informing them that the Legislature had approved funding of DIDS for the Biennium which now included an allocation for weekend and holiday hearings, as well as cleaned up language within the statutes to address previous issues with administrative staff time which is now also included in the reimbursement model. He informed the Board that county fiscal staff were great to work with and clarified that the reimbursement funds are PERS compensable, but only if they fit within the $450 stipend. Director Handy also discussed the fact that actual costs to the counties (support staff, building and utility costs etc.) are not being covered and that DIDS is working to capture that information in a new form which includes a box for actual costs to take back to the Legislature for additional funding to make counties whole, noting that he worked with LCB on companion language to ensure that statutes address all necessary components of the requirements for 48-hour bail hearings. Commissioner Helming asked if the County had to pay the judges and attorneys regularly or only when court is held outside of regular hours. Director Handy clarified that the stipend is available only when hearings are required on weekends and holidays. President Elect Gardner inquired as to if the stipend program is different from the regular process for maximum contribution requirements and it was clarified that DIDS program is separate from the quarterly maximum contribution reporting process. President Andreozzi and Vinson both remarked that the DIDS process is working well because of the diligence and efforts of Director Handy. Vinson concluded the item by remarking that the legislation creating the 48-hour rule had the largest fiscal impact to rural counties when enacted and that it is much appreciated that Director Handy is attempting to capture the actual costs associated with the requirements.

9. **Creation of the NACO Subcommittee Regarding University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension**. Vinson discussed the Symposium held with Extension during the final day of the conference, noting that Extension's mission is consistent with the theme of the conference "Navigating Today, for Tomorrow's Excellence" with the programs they create at the community level and then leverage throughout the State. He informed the Board that the full breadth of the scope and makeup of the subcommittee was still under development, but that the mission would be to focus on Extension and its successes. Vinson reminded the Board that there is an existing Extension Advisory Council that many county representatives sit on, but it is housed at the University level, and the proposed

subcommittee would be focused at the county level and the needs of the counties. Vinson concluded his remarks by reminding the Board that the action requested was simply to approve formation of the subcommittee and that details including goals and membership would be forthcoming. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that she sits on the Advisory Council noting that it was her intent that the subcommittee be able to discover what is being done well that can be shared, and to better bring information to determine the true needs of Nevada's communities. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that he was in support of the creation of the subcommittee, noting that the symposium was eye-opening as to the number of programs available that are not being taken full advantage of. Commissioner Tolbert inquired as to whether directives from the individual Commissions would be required, and Vinson clarified that it would be a NACO committee with a standing agenda item for the Board to be kept up to date with the activities of the committee. Past President Giomi noted that increased advocacy of elected officials would be helpful to Extension and Commissioner Tolbert noted that he would be happy to participate, as he is a current 4-H club leader. President Andreozzi concluded the discussion on the item by reiterating that shared information is valuable to all counties. The creation of the Subcommittee was approved on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Vice President Andriola.

10. **Creation of the NACO Subcommittee on Housing to Discuss and Implement Provisions Related to the Passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 540, from the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature, with a Focus on Nevada's Rural Counties**. Vinson reminded the Board that the Bill had been enacted during the regular legislative session and that Commissioner Kirkpatrick had advocated for focus on rural communities in great need of workforce housing. He noted that the agenda item is for the creation of the subcommittee with staff taking the lead on the details of its formation. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that both she and Vice President Andriola sit on the Governor's Committee and that $18 million was set aside for the 15 rural counties. She also informed the Board that State Committee staff had been touring the state and creating a list of qualified contractors to help streamline the processes and avoid future issues. Vice President Andriola also reiterated that the problem is not just within the two larger counties, but that they have tools and resources to share, and she is excited to participate. President Elect Gardner inquired as to if only Board members would be able to serve on the subcommittee, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that the membership should only be comprised of people who can bring solutions and want to do the work, whether that is Commissioners or staff members. The creation of the subcommittee was approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by President Elect Gardner.

11. **Discussion and Possible Approval to Direct NACO Staff to Explore a Statewide Audit of the C-Tax Distributions from the Nevada Department of Taxation**. **Vinson** reminded the Board that the Department of Taxation transition to a new computer system had several complications, especially with the C-Tax distributions and that staff is aware that the true-up model is not solving the problems that the counties are experiencing with receiving their distributions, noting that blame was not being placed on the Department, but that a solution is being looked at to solve the cash flow and revenue projection in preparation for the budget cycle issues the counties are experiencing as a result. Vinson stated that NACO is the right place to find a statewide solution to the problem, for information gathering in one location for communication to the Department of Taxation, if not a full audit process. Past President Giomi inquired as to how NACO would determine successful insertion into the issue and Vinson stated that is the first of the necessary conversations, noting that he would first convene a meeting of the county managers for a full understanding of the issues regardless of the size. He also noted that conversations had occurred with the Governor's

office on the true-up payments, specifically regarding the accuracy of the dollars and the timing. Vinson also stated that engagement with the Department Director would be necessary and noted that county fiscal staff were also great to work with, providing valuable information on the impacts. Past President Giomi noted that the approach was good and that time is of the essence from the county perspective. Carson City CFO Sheri Russell informed the Board that there is a vehicle for specific audit functions, called agreed upon procedures, and Commissioner Tipton encouraged communication with Humboldt County's CFO as he had recently had conversations with him regarding the issue. President Elect Gardner noted that it was his understanding that some counties may have received overpayments. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that Clark County had recently received a quarterly payment that had consistent numbers for the first time in 18 months, noting that the State is trying to explain the changes, but looking at the larger picture would be more beneficial than taking on the issue one by one. Past President Giomi stated that it would also be good for someone other than the State to confirm the numbers. He also noted that it would be important for the counties to provided latitude for staff to engage with technical assistance and President Andreozzi concluded the discussion by also noting that communication would be key to solving the problem. The item was unanimously approved on a motion by Past President Giomi.

Items 12 and 13 were combined for discussion purposes.

12. **Approval of NACO's May, June, July, August, and September 2025 Financial Statements**. Vinson reminded the Board that both financial statements and investment reports are brought to the Board regularly to ensure that due diligence regarding transparency of the Association's financial health is ensured. He then noted that while the expenses are overall under budget and NACO remains in a healthy position, some line items exceeded the approved budget. Vinson then explained that those categories were over due to Board approved items and inflationary issues, and that there were no alarming overages. He then informed the Board that the investment reports remain within the Board approved investment policy and that the broker would be presenting to the Board at the December meeting for a full review of the account and policy and to offer suggestions for any necessary changes or updates for the Boards consideration. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.

13. **Approval of NACO's March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October 2025 Investment Reports**. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Tipton.

14. **Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the NACO Annual Budget for 2026**. Vinson reminded the Board that the budget would return to the agenda for action in December and that this was the first presentation to provide the Board with an opportunity to address any questions or concerns with him. He then directed their attention to the budget packet included in the agenda backup, noting that the first item was a memo from Fiscal Officer Kalt who was unable to attend the meeting due to a strategic planning session at POOL/PACT. Vinson then gave the Board an overview of the budget descriptions, budget, the comparison document instituted at the request of President Andreozzi and dues schedule, noting that dues had remained steady from the previous year. He reminded the Board that the Health and Human Services Manager position approved by the Board in 2024 would now be fully funded based on a a percentage of the long-term care match refunds approved by the Board for the Fund for Accident Care to Indigent Persons (IAF). He also drew the Boards' attention to some increased line items and some that were reduced, such as the capital projects line item as many projects had been completed. Vinson also noted the

reduction in the legislative expenses line item as 2026 is an interim year, however he informed the Board that he had successfully worked with a contract lobbyist during the recent session to facilitate conversations with committee chairs and leadership and that he would be exploring the possibility of making that permanent during session years if the Board so chose, clarifying that the relationship would be solely conversation and information gathering and that testimony and advocacy would remain solely NACO staff responsibilities. Vinson informed the Board that Commissioner Carmona had reached out regarding the cost of internet services, and he noted that he would explore options. President Elect Gardner inquired about the RCI contract costs for Natural Resources services and Vinson informed him that because it is a staff position those costs are still included in the Salary line item. President Andreozzi remarked on previous discussions on how to link the State into Public Lands issues and the lack of activity within SLUPAC, suggesting the potential for future legislation to provide continuity and linkage between the State on counties on issues. Vinson concluded the item by informing the Board that he would approach Director Settelmeyer on the situation and a potential legislative fix and requested the Board bring any additional feedback on the budget directly to him prior to the December meeting.

15. **Update Regarding the 36th Special Session, Including a Summary of Outcomes from the Nevada Legislature**. Jennifer reminded the Board that the Governor's Proclamation calling the Legislature into the special session was issued on November 13th, she also outlined the extensive list of topics that could be covered under the Proclamation, including public safety, healthcare, and workforce. She informed the Board that 27 pieces of legislation were filed and spoke to advocacy efforts by NACO staff on AB6 which addressed local authority in the development of school traffic zones. SB5, which addressed healthcare provider shortages and needs assessments, SB7, which included presumptive eligibility for first responders with lung disease which was opposed by staff, and it also included a request for fiscal notes from counties. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that it had passed, but the Governor had yet to sign the bill into law. She also discussed the monumental fiscal impact that the provision on retroactivity would create and stated that multiple stakeholders had requested a veto. Jennifer then noted that the bill's presentation specified pending cases, but the language of the bill did not match what was presented to the Legislature. She then informed the Board that the Legislature called themselves into session by a 2/3 majority vote to introduce SB10 which would place limits on corporate home ownership, noting that a similar piece of legislation had failed in the Assembly during the regular session. A measure that would enshrine mail-in-ballots in the Nevada constitution was also presented and will be considered in the 2027 legislative session. The Board was informed that five bills had been signed, and eleven remained in enrollment waiting for action from the Governor. Ms. Russell inquired as to whether the cybersecurity measure had been signed, and it was clarified that it had, but that its language provided for counties to opt-in. President Elect Gardner thanked Jennifer and Vinson for their hard work during the short special session.

16. **Update from NACO Health and Human Services Manager**. Amy discussed the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and statewide child welfare challenges. She outlined six stakeholder groups developed by Assemblymember Brown May to determine solutions to child welfare issues across the state, with one focusing on the block grant and budgeting process for Clark and Washoe Counties, as well as a parallel effort for the 15 rural counties. The rural-focused NACO-led effort with DCFS will determine what services are being provided under the five assessments the counties pay for the Division and an inventory of successes, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. Amy gave an overview of the meetings that would occur monthly beginning in February and what specific topics would

be covered in each. She then discussed the Rural Health Transformation Grant provided for within HR1, noting that it could potentially be $200 million per year for 5 years funneled through the State if awarded and encouraged the counties to have discussions about their needs within the scope of the possible funding. Amy noted that it was a topic of discussion at the recent Rural Health Day event, specifically the responsibility to strategically use the funding if received. The funds will be available through a competitive grant process, and the Nevada Health Authority will encourage regional collaboration. Commissioner Reese asked if the funding could be used for building design since it cannot be used for construction, and Amy said she would find out. She next discussed the State's two managed care programs for Medicaid recipients and reminded the Board that open enrollment was occurring, noting that both Silver Summit and Care Source have a lot of value-added benefits beyond just healthcare and encouraged the maximum use of all available tools and benefits before the use of county programs, discussing the need to build a managed care system that is effective.

17. **Update from NACO Committee of the Emeritus**. Past President Giomi who Chairs the Committee informed the Board that they had met earlier in the day and discussed the planning of quarterly workshops during the legislative interim. He told the Board they would take place on the second Friday of the quarter's third month. The Committee also discussed potential topics for the workshops with allowance for leeway based on the current needs of counties, Commissioners, and staff. He reminded the Board that the Committee is comprised of former commissioners from across the state that have a vast history of knowledge and want to continue their service to counties, encouraging the Board to bring forth ideas for workshops for the Committee to explore. Commissioner Perez inquired about who was on the Committee, and the Board was informed that the current members are Laurie Carson, Joni Eastley, Doug Johnson, Jerrie Tipton, Lorinda Wichman, Bob Hastings, Varlin Higbee, Bonnie Weber, and Bob Lucey. President Elect Gardner closed the item by stating that he is happy the Committee is active again to share their extensive institutional knowledge.

18. **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 RCI noted that it was good to see so many Commissioners at the conference, and that he had many good discussions during the event. He informed the Board of the National Association of Counties Public Lands office hours being held every Friday and noted that it is a good opportunity for communication and to be in contact on issues that are nationwide. Jeremy informed the Board that a letter had been sent on the potential recission of the Conservation Landscape Health plan and that the expected Record of Decision on the proposed Resource Management lan on the Sage Grouse had not yet been signed, thanking both Andi Reber and Jake Tibbits for their input and Jake's service on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council as the local government Liaison. The Subcommittee also discussed renewable energy projects, including the fact that solar and wind projects are currently on hold pending review by the Secretary of the Department of Interior, but that there are transmission projects that are continuing to go through. Jeremy informed the Board that a new definition of Waters of the US (WOTUS) had been announced during the week and that the comment period is open. He also informed the Board that not a lot of movement on ESA or wild horse issues had occurred post shutdown of the federal government but that a meeting would be held on December 9th in Fallon to address the Department of Defense struggling with approved payment to surrounding ranchers after the recent withdrawals, as well as fencing and access issues. Chair

Tipton thanked Jeremy for his work and the Board for allowing the contract with RCI. He then informed the Board that discussion at the recent WIR meeting included encouragement of NACo Steering Committee membership, PILT & SRS funding, and proposed revision of NEPA, noting that Humboldt County disagrees with pieces of the proposal. He also discussed the possible new nominee for head of the BLM and informed the Board that he had participated in a tour of the Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center during the meeting which was hosted by Mono County. Jeremy then discussed the SPEED Act which would maintain cooperating agency status for counties and that speculative impacts should not be included in decision-making processes. Commissioner Tolbert inquired as to if Grey Wolves were a large issue and it was clarified that while they are not currently an issue in Nevada, they are having large impacts in neighboring states and counties and that it is not a matter of if, but when they will migrate into Nevada and being causing issues with livestock and wildlife. No action was taken.

19. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties**. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that the next meeting of the NACo Board would be in Wise County, TX December 4-6, but he would be unable to attend in person due to Douglas County's commission meeting schedule. He also informed the Board that he would be attending the President and Executives Fly-in in January and encouraged attendance at the NACo Legislative Conference. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he had covered WIR under the previous agenda item. Members of the Board also gave updates on activities within their counties.

20. **Public Comment**. Jeremy Drew announced the RCI Christmas Party would take place on December 5th and invited the Board to attend. Holly Gatske thanked the Board for their support of Extension and that she was excited for the formation of the Subcommittee approved earlier in the day. She also informed the Board that Extension was moving into the survey portion of their community needs assessment process and encouraged participation and that they had hired a new Community Economic Development Lead due to the retirement of Buddy Borden. Julia Hubbard, Nevada Program Director for Solar United Neighbors informed the Board that they were learning about the large scale solar plans and that they have the potential for strong community benefit under the provision of HR1 that would return 25% of the leasing capacity fee to counties, and wanted to ensure the counties were aware of the provision.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.