

April 3, 2018
Regular Meeting
Item # 2a

Finance

**Resolution recognizing
Stacey Westerlund**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RECOGNIZING STACEY WESTERLUND**

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1997, Stacey began her career with Mono County working first as a temporary, part-time Account Clerk I in the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, and in April 1998, she became full-time as an Account Clerk II. Just one year later, she was promoted to Senior Account Clerk, a position which became the Fiscal and Technical Specialist series. Soon after, Stacey transferred to the Auditor-Controller's office where one year later she was promoted to the Payroll Manager position. In July 2005, the position was upgraded to the Payroll & Benefits Manager, a title she has held for almost 13 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 as the payroll manager, she was one of only a few in the Auditor-Controller's Office to utilize an actual PC and not a 'dummy' terminal. Throughout the years, payroll functions expanded as the number of employees, retirees, and especially the rules and regulations grew. In 1999, payroll consisted of processing paychecks and benefits for 225 employees. Today, 309 employees are expecting a paycheck every other Friday (for those of you who are math-challenged, that is a 38% increase). Over her career, Stacey survived a total of three payroll system implementations. By our count, Stacey's career includes 193 monthly and 19 biweekly payroll cycles, as well as numerous supplemental payroll runs (again, for those of you who are math-challenged, we estimate that's a lifetime of nearly 60,000 paychecks for Mono County employees); and

WHEREAS Stacey is passionate about assisting our retirees, always going above and beyond to help them complete their retirement paperwork and explain their benefits. Stacey is a consistent source of information Mono County retirees depend on when they have questions, even many, many years after their retirement. The County had approximately 111 retirees when Stacey started in 1999 and 175 today as she starts her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Stacey has shown great dedication in her position, putting in many long nights and weekends making sure payroll system failures did not prevent employees from getting their paycheck. We appreciate the support of her family for the many vacations she scheduled around "payroll processing time." And, in an area where deadlines are everything, Stacey ensured everyone got paid on time, taxes were deposited, and reports filed, even if it meant sacrificing her personal time. Stacey still found time to attend training to stay on top of the latest payroll laws, rigorously researching issues as they arose to ensure compliance; and

WHEREAS throughout her years with our County, Stacey raised her sons, started a successful business with her husband Mark, and even managed to squeeze in time for higher education to obtain a degree. We will miss those puppy parties which brought much needed stress relief in our department; and

WHEREAS, Stacey looks forward to spending time with her family which includes her parents, her two sons and their families, and her, so far, one grandson, as well as focusing on their business; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Stacey will have completed twenty, dedicated years of service with the County of Mono on April 6, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mono County Board of Supervisors recognize and thank Stacey Westerlund for her steadfast and committed service to the employees, people and visitors of Mono County, and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of April 2018 by the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

Bob Gardner, Chair
Supervisor, District Three

John Peters
Supervisor, District Four

Fred Stump
Supervisor, District Two

Stacy Corless
Supervisor, District Five

Vacant
Supervisor, District One

April 3, 2018
Regular Meeting
Item # 7h

BOS

NACo Report

NACO Legislative Conference Report
Washington, DC
March 3-6, 2018

Public Lands Issues

Public Lands Steering Committee Resolutions: There were three interim Public Lands resolutions considered at the Conference meeting. All were approved with very little discussion or opposition. The three were:

- Proposed Resolution to Require Private Entities That Sell or Donate Property to the Federal Government to Pay a Fee in Lieu of Taxes.
- Proposed Resolution Opposing Federal Regulations and Policies Requiring Landscape-Scale Mitigation, Net Conservation Gain and Compensatory Mitigation on Federal Lands, and Supporting a Federal Lands Mitigation Policy that Respects the Mitigation Hierarchy of Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate.
- Proposed Resolution Supporting a Coordinated Effort Between Federal, State and County Officials to Eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an Invasive Species Plaguing the Mid-Atlantic States.

Presentation by James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, US Dept. of Interior on the proposed DOI Reorganization: Mr. Cason stated that the proposed reorganization was based on an overall goal of government reform and improving relationships with state and local governments and others. He added they initially looked at merging the US Forest Service into DOI or at least some co-locations. He also stated they had considered including EPA in the reorganization but had decided against that at this point. It does not appear any change in USFS is proposed at this time.

The proposal includes 13 regions for DOI based primarily on state boundaries. Initially used a watershed basis but changed based on input from state and local entities. Primary goal is to get DOI agencies (NPS, BLM, FWS, Reclamation, Indian Affairs) to work together better. Proposal creates a Regional Manager in each region that is supposed to work with various agencies to encourage coordination, cooperation, and less duplication, especially for permitting activities. Suggested doing an overall land use plan for an area rather than each agency doing their own. Might include doing combined law enforcement as well. They are also looking at consolidation of administrative services across the Department. No decisions have been made at this point. The Secretary approved the regional map, but nothing is final. Cason said there would be no office moves, just different working relationships. The proposal is included in the President's 2019 Budget. Cason encouraged county officials to send him any comments on the proposal.

Brief Discussion about Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program: There was a brief discussion about the PILT program and whether it needed to be reviewed as to the level of payments for

each county. Some counties believe the current allocation process needs to be updated based on new data.

Presentation by Brian Steed, BLM Deputy Director for Programs and Policy, on the BLM Streamlining Proposal: Steed started by saying Secretary Zinke wanted to leave a “stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt” and wanted also to modernize the infrastructure. He said that DOI has been saying “no” rather than saying “how.” He added that Zinke noted we still need to meet our legal and resource stewardship responsibilities. He then focused on the NEPA process, saying it was broken. The length of document reviews need be only 150-300 pages, work in the field should be expedited, and Washington review should be limited. There was no mention of the Antiquities Act activity, and not much more detail on this proposal. Steed provided several narrative slides as a part of his presentation, but NACO has not been able to obtain them.

Presentation from Marcia Argust about Public Lands Deferred Maintenance: The link to the study this presentation is based on is: <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/compass-points/2017/12/01/job-creation-potential-if-we-restore-our-parks>
Her presentation is also attached.

Presentation from Randy Phillips, USFS Liaison Officer, on USFS Desk Guide: This winter, WIR President Joel Bousman and NACo staff began work with the U.S. Forest Service on a desk guide for agency employees and county governments to ensure better implementation of policy and improve working relationships. No document is available yet for review.

Presentation from USFS Chief Tony Tooke: Tooke (who resigned a few days after this presentation) stated he wanted to work with counties. He added we “need to increase results and outcomes on the ground” and that “every action we take has to be grounded in science.” He listed 5 priorities for the USFS:

1. Safe and respectful work environment. This includes increasing abilities to be productive.
2. Be a good neighbor. He encouraged us to use the Good Neighbor Authority in the 2014 Farm Bill.
3. Shared Stewardship. He wants to get more done by strengthening volunteer and partnership programs, and by speeding up processes, including NEPA.
4. Improve condition of Forest Plans. We need better forest management. Need to protect habitat, watershed, environmental concerns and use best science to do that. Need better fire management and increase timber sales.
5. Enhance recreation opportunities, access, and infrastructure. USFS can only maintain half of its facilities to current standards, worse for trails. Need to set priorities and maybe close some facilities. Not sure where any infrastructure initiative stands at this point.

Presentation from Cynthia Moses-Nedd, DOI Liaison to NACO: Cynthia noted DOI Sec. Zinke's priorities were:

- Energy independence
- Sovereignty issues
- Recognition of multiple uses on public lands

She said the Sage Grouse scoping report was under way but did not say when it would be completed. She talked about the NEPA streamlining process, including better coordination across agencies, and contracting. She briefly addressed the DOI reorganization, saying the goal was to put a DOI person in the region who could resolve issues in conflict within DOI. They want all DOI staff in the regions to report to a regional manager there, not to Washington.

NACO Resorts/Tourism/Gateway County Caucus Meeting: We held another meeting of this new caucus we have organized to keep focus on issues of concern to Counties like Mono that are dependent on recreation and tourism for our economy. There were 6-7 participants and several others who indicated support for the caucus but had other meetings at the same time. After introductions and a review of our purpose, we noted some good websites that provide recreation economic impact data. These included:

- <https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/>
- <https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/industry/orsa/2018/pdf/orsa0218.pdf>
- <https://www.rei.com/blog/snowsports/climate-change-threatens-11-3-billion-snowsports-industry-protect-our-winters-report-says>
- <https://www.rei.com/blog/cycle/bike-parks-and-the-evolving-ski-resort-economy>

We then turned to identifying issues of common concern that we could track and provide information useful for advocacy and implementation opportunities. The list is long and includes the following:

- Fees at national Parks and other public lands, both amounts and usage.
- Workforce housing for US and other public lands employees.
- Workforce recruitment for public lands agencies and the private or non-profit organizations that support them.
- Infrastructure funding for public lands agencies.
- Wildfire funding reform (partially addressed, see below).
- Increased or at least stable general operating funds for public lands agencies.
- Improving public lands agency permit processes.
- Sage Grouse status.
- Antiquities Act modifications, downsizing monument proposals.
- Endangered Species Act concerns.
- Invasive Species issues.
- Improving partnership and cooperative projects with public lands agencies.

- Improving emergency response and search and rescue operations.
- Law enforcement and public safety issues.
- Concessionaire roles and tax impacts.
- Increased regional recreation analysis and coordination.
- Broadband coverage in public lands.
- Rural health care for public lands areas.
- Transportation funds for public lands.
- Cell phone coverage for public lands areas.

Our goal is to create a matrix of these issues and try to keep updated on the status of any action at the federal level, plus note activities in selected counties which may be useful to others.

We discussed both the upcoming NACO Western Interstate Regional Conference in Sun Valley in May, and the NACo Annual Conference in Nashville in July. If possible, we may try to have some recreation-related presentations at these meetings.

Jonathan Shuffield from NACo then reviewed the status of federal public lands legislative activity (see below).

Presentation from David Wetmore from the Western States Tourism Policy Council: Mr. Wetmore emphasized the importance of the recreation economy in the US West, and explained his organization comprises 15 states connected with the Western Governors Association. He noted the creation and important activities of state recreation offices in some western states. His office provides economic recreation impact data and other information. Their website is <https://jwalker3dotcom.wordpress.com/> but it is not very current. Mr. Wetmore addressed the NPS deferred maintenance problem, stating there was \$12 billion needed for projects, of which half was for transportation and half for other facilities. He encouraged support for the Legacy Act and added that the Omnibus Appropriations Act moving through the Congress should include some infrastructure funds as well. The President's Infrastructure proposal also includes some funds for Public lands projects, according to Wetmore.

Presentation from Jordan Smith, Executive Director, National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition: Mr. Smith stated there are many efforts under way to reform the ESA. He believes there may be some possibility for legislation to be approved this year. More information on this organization is on their website at <http://www.nesarc.org/>.

Presentation on Wildfire Management by Mike Zupko from the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, and Katie Lighthall from the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy: These two leaders in wildfire management stated that both DOI and USFS were on board with much more active fire management. They emphasized mitigation for post-fire impacts as well as better smoke management and air quality. Fires are now a year-round issue, according to them, and

more must be done to manage and prevent fires better. They noted the Community Wildfire Playbook as a good resource for Counties. This is available at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409937019793-e22ea047bb7d748194b5e1cf96f31d9a/prepareathon_playbook_wildfire_final_090414_508.pdf

Presentation by Jonathan Shuffield on the status of Public Lands legislation: Jonathan covered several issues pending in Congress, most of which were resolved in the recent omnibus appropriations bill. These included public lands infrastructure funding, the overall federal budget caps, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, Secure Rural Schools, and Wildfire Funding reform. A summary of the impact of these and other budget issues affecting Counties is available at <http://www.naco.org/featured-resources/highlights-fy-2018-omnibus-federal-spending-package-counties>. Other issues mentioned by Jonathan that might see action this year include the Waters of the US Rule in EPA, the Water Resources Development Act (dams), and federal land acquisition policy.

Rural Development and Other Issues

Presentation by Gina Sheets, Chief innovation Officer, USDA: Gina said the goals of the USDA for rural counties were to improve the quality of life and to ensure economic prosperity. They have three priorities:

- Infrastructure
- Partnerships
- Innovation

She asked for feedback from counties on how they could best pursue these priorities. They want to know whether counties believe there are barriers to better collaboration, and how these barriers can be reduced. She referenced a recent Task Force Report and encouraged county officials to review it. The report is available at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf>.

Presentation by Jack Morgan, NACO Program Manager for Community and Economic Development: Mr. Morgan discussed NACO efforts to support rural economic and community development programs. He encouraged counties to review the recent NACO report on this subject at <http://www.naco.org/resources/cultivating-competitive-advantage-how-rural-counties-are-growing-economies-local-assets>.

Workshop Discussion about Combatting Poverty: Several County leaders provided information about their efforts to address poverty in their counties. A recording of the workshop is available at <http://www.naco.org/resources/counties-care-how-effectively-serve-families-need>. Some of the key points made in the workshop were the following:

- Collaboration with community leaders is critical in addressing poverty. We have no choice; scarcity of resources requires that we collaborate effectively. Takes time and patience.
- We must measure outcomes both for children and parents.
- Key outcomes are development of social networks and self-determination for the family.
- Goals are to deliver services but aim towards self-determination, which consists of building feelings of dignity and love, equity, and resiliency.

Presentation on Opioid Crisis: An Assistant to USDA Secretary Perdue provide some comments about the Opioid crisis. Key points were the following:

- Rural opioid deaths are higher than in urban areas.
- 74 percent of famers are affected in some way by opioid abuse.
- Need to provide education and medical assistance.
- Can do more, need to focus more and draw attention to the economic impact, who is affected, labor impacts, housing, and community development.
- Need more discussion about what strategies are working and what is not. How are resources being effective.
- Need prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

Cannabis Workshops and Discussions (various presenters): There were two separate discussions about cannabis at the conference. The issues and topics covered were the following:

- Current Federal law limiting enforcement of cannabis laws relating to medical use has been continued in omnibus appropriations bill.
- Other legislation regarding extending the limits to recreational cannabis, addressing banking and tax issues, and enabling Veterans Affairs medical use are pending.
- The House Rules Committee has been blocking any legislation on cannabis from advancing.
- Veterans groups have become involved in advancing legislation as well.
- Growing support in the House for cannabis legislation, estimated at 250-300 members.
- Eight states have legalized both medical and recreational cannabis, while 29 states have legalized medical cannabis. 40-45 states involved in some way.
- Several states are planning ballot initiatives in the next few years.
- Recent polls show 80-90 percent public support for medical cannabis, and 50-60 percent support for recreational use.
- 73 percent of those polled support primacy of state vs. federal policy regarding cannabis. Some stated this is a state's rights issue.
- Cole memo from Obama Administration has been rescinded, making each US Attorney responsible for determining federal policy in their district.

- Nationally, the current legal cannabis market is estimated at \$7 billion while the illegal market is estimated at \$55-60 billion.
- Some county officials expressed both support and concern with their experience with legalized cannabis to date. The experience ranges significantly across the states.
- A cannabis trade association leader emphasized the fears of cannabis use are not and cannot be addressed by the illegal market.
- One Oregon county leader expressed concerns about outside buyers who have come into their county and bought land with little regard for the community, including noise, lights, and traffic impacts.
- Much more research about cannabis use and impact is needed. DEA and others need to be more cooperative on this.
- There is some evidence that opioid abuse has been reduced through use of cannabis.

Infrastructure Support

Presentation by Transportation Secretary Chao on the President's Infrastructure Proposal:

Secretary Chao outlined the President's infrastructure proposal. She stated 12 different Federal departments were involved in the proposal. It is based on four principles:

- Use Federal resources as seed money for infrastructure projects.
- Provide for the needs of rural communities.
- Speed up the project approval process.
- Remove burdensome regulations.
- Empower local decision-making.

Chao added that projects should be pursued so as "not to compromise the environment". She noted \$4 billion is needed for US infrastructure projects, but the Federal government can't do that. The plan allows and anticipates private sector involvement in these projects. She identified pension funds as an example of funding sources that might be available for these projects.

Presentation by NACO staff Kevin Stone on the President's Infrastructure Proposal: Kevin provided more details on the President's proposal. This included the following:

- The Administration is open to changes in the proposal.
- It includes regulatory and other process reforms.
- While the package indicates \$1.5 trillion in total spending, it only includes \$200 billion in new Federal spending.
- There is \$100 Billion in incentive grants available. These are open to all levels of governments, but collaboration and state/local matching funds are emphasized. The Federal funds can only support 20 percent of the cost of a project, but state tax funds can be used for some of the match (such as SB 1 revenues, private or non-profit funds).

- \$50 billion is earmarked for rural projects, defined as 50,000 population or less. These funds can only be accessed by Governors, however. Counties could not apply for them directly but would work through states. No state can get more than 10 percent of the total, and 80 percent of the total would go to discretionary grants, and 20 percent to formula grants.
- Goal is to streamline review processes, so a project can be approved in less than two years.

Presentation by NACo Staff on the Status of Federal Legislation: Various NACo staff provided updates on the status of Federal legislation in several areas. Some of this has already been noted above but the entire briefing can be accessed at <http://www.naco.org/resources/outlook-federal-legislative-and-policy-issues-impacting>. Some of the highlights of the presentation included:

- Farm Bill: There are rural components in this bill that contain 30 grant and other assistance programs aimed at local governments. These cover business, housing, and utilities programs. The best approach will be a multi-jurisdictional proposal. Current authorization must be extended this year but could be held up and pursued through short-term bill.
- Human Services and Education: Some increased funds may be available for child care as part of early childhood development program support. While Speaker Ryan said welfare and entitlement reform would be a priority in 2018, this is not expected to move much this year. There may be some incremental steps made in the SNAP (9 food stamps) program.
- Health Care: No repeal of ACA expected this year. Omnibus appropriations bill last chance for this. The Administration can make some administrative changes in some areas. Medicaid waivers could be a major issue for some states. 60 percent of those on Medicaid are working. Both the Children's Health Insurance program and Community Health Centers were funded. The Cadillac Tax will be delayed another two years. Some prevention funds were cut in the budget agreement. More funds for opioid programs but not clear where the money is going.
- Online Sales Taxes: The pending court case is headed to the Supreme Court. States will need to decide how to handle this outcome. There might be Congressional action as well.

Other Conference Sessions

Building Citizen Buy-In: This inspiring and informative panel presentation and discussion featured Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh; Dekalb County, GA CEO Michael Thurmond; Lane County, OR Commissioner Pat Farr; Mecklenburg County, NC Administrator Dena Diorio. They described successful

efforts to engage constituents on everything from building trust in law enforcement after Freddie Gray's death to getting supermajority support on sales tax measures.

A video and summary of this session and a link to a NACo Counties Futures Lab report and my notes are below. This is worth watching for anyone concerned with civic engagement, and this session provided many implementable ideas. <http://www.naco.org/resources/building-citizen-buy>

- DeKalb County bridged political, racial divide with sales tax increase campaign around infrastructure
- Earn trust through implementation; do what you say
- Do baseline assessment of communication w citizens. If you have low credibility/trust - be honest. Obligated to communicate in that case "one press release isn't going to get it done." Day by day, hour by hour effort to fight negative perceptions. Accept the obligation
- Translate, have interpreters, no jargon, bureaucratic language
- It's our responsibility [to reach out to people] - we took the job
- Assess, know weak points (in Baltimore - neighborhood engagement was not 9-5), create shifts in local government to meet needs
- Better interdepartmental communication, improve efficiency
- Subject matter experts are dead; integrate service delivery
- Lane Co OR: need to also talk about what voters want to talk about, on their terms, times. Present what you need to talk about, in ways they can understand
- Learn how to say I'm sorry. If you own up, don't take it personally, public will give it another chance
- Show respect
- Use surrogates to help with messages, tough issues
- Taxpayers are the investors in the job you are doing
- Create accountability: Lane County's office of performance auditor - citizens participate in performance evaluation, also equity and access citizen advisory board, example of women's commission in Baltimore
- Involve citizens at the decision-making level
- Ballot language: have kids read to gauge understanding

Legislative Meetings:

Office of Sen. Kamala Harris: met with Ike Irby, legislative fellow, who was not familiar with Mono County/Eastern Sierra. Reviewed key points in legislative platform, including public lands issues.

Rep. Paul Cook: met with Rep. Cook, Legislative Director Tim Itnyre and Chief of Staff John Sobel, discussed public lands issues, budget, Rep. Cook's work on the foreign affairs committee.

NACo organized a press conference on Capitol Hill supporting PILT and SRS funding:
<http://www.naco.org/articles/public-lands-counties-members-congress-rally-pilt-srs>