

Meeting Minutes
NDACo Board of Directors
April 25, 2024
NDACo County Office Building

President Tenneson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. After the pledge of allegiance, the President asked Genny to take roll call and a quorum was declared.

Members Present:	Jayme Tenneson	Steve Lee
Trudy Ruland	Chad Kaiser	Nick Moser
Becky Hagel	Jamee Folk	Robert Wilson
Wanda Knutson	Kelly Palm	Shirley Murray
Erica Johnsrud	Kim Jacobson	Dana Larsen
Lori Hanson	Joan Hollekim	Steve Forde

Members Absent:	Beau Anderson	Tony Grindberg
Scott Ouradnik	Perry Turner	

Also Present:

- Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director
- Genny Dienstmann, NDACo Staff
- Michelle Tabbert, NDACo Staff
- Dr. Rick Becker
- Brent Bogar, AE2S
- Mike Wolf, NDACo Staff
- Linda Svihovec, NDACo Staff
- Jason Horning, NDACo Staff
- Teanna Hintz, NDACo Staff
- Jeff Eslinger, NDACo Staff
- Alisha Adolf, NDACo Staff
- Donnell Preskey, NDACo Staff
- Mary Korsmo, NDACo Staff
- Patrick Engelhart, NDACo Staff
- Lonny Bosch, NRG Technology Services President
- Dwight Driscoll, NRG Account Manager
- Don Flaherty, Dickey County Tax Director - Guest

The President asked Lori Hanson to introduce her guest, Dickey County Tax Director Don Flaherty. Hanson explained that she plans to retire at the end of the year and Flaherty would be the Tax Director's new representative. Tenneson welcomed Flaherty. He next asked if there were any requests for changes to the agenda. There were no suggested changes. Kaiser moved to approve the agenda as printed. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President next asked for consideration of the Consent Agenda. Jacobsen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, including the NDACo minutes from the December 14, 2023, meeting, NDACo General Fund checks #38125 through #38197 and DJS Account checks #7890 through #7903 and ACH payments from November 2023 through February 2024. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Rick Becker joined the meeting and presented on the Proposed Petition to Eliminate Property Taxes. After a brief question and answer period, Dr. Becker was thanked for joining the board and presenting.

The Governance Report began with Governance Committee Chair Kaiser summarizing the results of the 2023 Board of Directors Governance Appraisal and the New NDACo Board Member Appraisal. President Tenneson finished the Governance Report with a discussion of our state's second representative on the NACo Board of Directors. Motion made by Lee to ratify the appointment of Robert Wilson as North Dakota's second representative on the National Association of Counties' Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Aaron next provided a Strategic Planning Update. He explained the contracts with AE2S and Moore Engineering to look for grant funding opportunities for county governments. Brent Bogar, AE2S, joined the meeting to give an update on what AE2S has been working on in this area.

Trudy and Aaron were called upon to begin the Dues Discussion. Aaron gave a brief overview of the dues process and how dues relate to core services. Trudy reviewed the materials prepared by staff, including a table showing four overall dues amount options for 2025. Kaiser moved to approve a 3% dues increase, unless the 2025 budget warrants a lower percentage increase based on proposed revenue and expenses. Jacobsen posed a question in how Human Service Zones can fund a dedicated NDACo staffer like other MAMA's, similar to the support that was provided by Terry Traynor in the past. Their entities are state funded so seems inappropriate to request state funds to pay for this service. Aaron agreed his vision would be to include a dedicated staff member to Social Services and other county groups. Aaron indicated NDACo runs on limited staff that isn't dedicated to existing programs and such additional duties would have to be considered in the budget. Aaron will continue to think of these desires during the upcoming budget process. The motion on the proposed dues increase was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Trudy introduced the investment report and requested Genny to explain that NDACo is exploring options for its long-term investments. She explained that NDACo has worked closely with the State Investment Board (SIB) in the past but feels there could be greater options if allowed to transition investment funds to other entities. The Board requested NDACo staff continue to review investment options and bring forward recommendations at the August Board meeting.

The last item under Financial Services was a request to close the VOIP Account. Motion by Hagel to close the VOIP Account at Kirkwood Bank and Trust. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Under Personnel Services, Aaron gave an update on the attorney that has been hired for the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor position and Mike Wolf gave an update on his transition to part-time work with the CEG and the efforts to find his replacement in the coming year. Genny concluded the Personnel Services Report by explaining the proposed revisions to the Technology, Internet and Email Policy that were suggested by the auditors. After a review of the revisions, Moser made a motion to approve the Technology, Internet

and Email Policy with recommended revisions as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Aaron next presented on the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund, outlining the process of how it is operating with the vacancy of the CEO and the process to find a replacement for the CEO position. He continued with an update on the Indirect Cost Reimbursement Services program that is under contract with Abacus Cost Services. He noted that NDACo is reviewing its options and has been in contact with Abacus outlining its concerns, with Abacus committing to improve their services. A request was made that an official communication be sent by Aaron to the Auditors and Human Zone Directors stating the transition plan of these services. Lee made a motion to authorize the NDACo Executive Committee to explore options to provide services for the Indirect Cost program whether through another entity or an additional FTE of the Association. The motion was seconded, and after discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote. Jason concluded by giving an update on the new collection and distribution of 911 Fee JPA, noting the project has been very successful.

Jeff was asked to give the 2024 Conference Planning Status Report. He noted the dates, theme and keynote speaker and Monday evening entertainment. He explained that we have contracted with Funatix for a second year to assist with planning and some conference onsite assistance. The website for exhibitors and sponsors will be up soon. Board members were encouraged to turn in their Conference Room Request Form before leaving the meeting.

Alisha followed with a report on the County Commissioners Summit held in March. She highlighted attendance numbers, evaluation comments and summarized the financials.

Michelle was asked to explain the County Tours planned for 2024. She highlighted the dates for the first three and noted that the fourth Tour would be conducted in November after the annual conference.

The President then moved the NRG report up on the agenda. Lonny Bosch, NRG President, started by giving a review of NRG Technology Services (NRG) sharing the services it provides and that NRG is the counties' IT provider. Dwight Driscoll continued by sharing its customer base and highlighting the various contracts they currently hold.

Under the Legislative Services Report, Donnell explained the efforts undertaken to refute the Proposed Property Tax Elimination Measure. She continued with an update on the various interim committees.

President Tenneson reminded the Board of the next meeting date of August 29, 2024. Having reached the end of the approved agenda, the President reminded everyone of their board meeting evaluation and declared the meeting adjourned.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____