



**National Association of Counties
2014 Rural Action Caucus Fall Symposium**

November 6 – 8, 2014

The Northern Hotel • 19 North Broadway, Billings, Montana 59101

Emergency Contact Information

Arthur Scott, NACo: (423) 292-9218

LEADERSHIP

Chair	Hon. Michael Victorino , Council Member, Maui County, Hawaii
Vice Chair	Hon. Kenneth Dahlstedt , Commissioner, Skagit County, Wash.
Vice Chair	Hon. Bob Fox , Commissioner, Renville County, Minn.
Vice Chair	Hon. Mandy Metzger , Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.
Vice Chair	Hon. Lynn Padgett , Commissioner, Ouray County, Colo.
Vice Chair	Hon. Craig Pope , Commissioner, Polk County, Ore.
Exec. Liaison	Hon. Sallie Clark , NACo First Vice President, and Commissioner, El Paso County, Colo.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30pm – 8:00pm **Welcome Reception**
Northern Hotel
Bernie's Diner, 1st Floor

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:00am **Networking Breakfast**
Northern Hotel
North Ballroom, 2nd Floor

8:30am **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Hon. Michael Victorino**, Chair, Rural Action Caucus and Council Member, Maui County, Hawaii

- **Hon. Sallie Clark**, NACo First Vice President, and Commissioner, El Paso County, Colo.
- **Hon. Bill Kennedy**, Commissioner, Yellowstone County, Mont.
- **Harold Blattie**, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties

9:00am

White House Rural Council

The White House Rural Council and the National Association of Counties partnered together this year for the “Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative” which included a series of regional forums bringing together rural business and community leaders with federal partners to discuss new opportunities to bolster rural exports and strengthen the local economy. This session will examine the initiative and discuss how counties can continue to engage with the White House Domestic Policy Council.



Doug McKalip, Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council

Doug McKalip serves as Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs at the White House Domestic Policy Council. Mr. McKalip provides advice and counsel to the President on issues involving farm, ranch, and trade policy as well as coordination of the White House

Rural Council.

Mr. McKalip was the Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for USDA’s conservation program area from 2001 to 2009. Doug worked on the development and passage of three Farm Bills from 1996 to 2008, and received the agency’s Civil Rights award for his work in expanding program opportunities to Tribes.

Doug received a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Masters in Public Policy from American University in 1995. A native of rural, Northwest Pennsylvania, Mr. McKalip is married and resides with his wife, Debbie, and two grammar school-age children in Northwest D.C.

9:45am

Peer Networking Break

10:00am

NACo Legislative Update: Key Federal Issues Facing Rural Counties

NACo staff will discuss pressing federal legislative issues impacting counties and our strategy to address these issues. Join this discussion on the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and surface transportation reauthorization, Marketplace Fairness Act, tax-exempt municipal bonds, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs, and the “Waters of the U.S.” proposed rule. This discussion will also focus on how federal elections could impact country priorities.

- **Deborah Cox**, Director of Legislative Affairs, NACo
- **Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director, NACo

10:30am

2014-2015 RAC Legislative Strategy Session

This discussion will examine ways to make NACo's Rural Action Caucus more relevant in the federal legislative and policy arena. Caucus members will take an in-depth look at the annual calendar of events to determine how to most effectively address key county priorities through RAC engagements.

- **Hon. Michael Victorino**, Chair, Rural Action Caucus and Council Member, Maui County, Hawaii
- **Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director, NACo

12:00pm

Networking Lunch

Northern Hotel
Babcock Room, 2nd Floor

1:30pm

Cultivating a Competitive Advantage: How Rural Counties are Growing Economies with Local Assets and Regional Partners

Rural counties are using creative strategies to pursue asset-based economic development initiatives that create jobs and build wealth while preserving rural landscapes, culture and heritage. By focusing on strengths, counties across the U.S. are discovering a host of qualities unique to rural places—including natural resources, cultural heritage, local institutions, human capital and built infrastructure—that are key for retaining residents and attracting new growth. This session will debut NACo's newest publication "Cultivating a Competitive Advantage: How Rural Counties are Growing Economies with Local Assets and Regional Partners" including a panel of peers that are finding innovative ways to leverage their assets to sustain economic growth and productivity.

Panelists



Hon. Bob Fox, Commissioner, Renville County, Minn.

Commissioner Fox lives on a fourth generation farm in Birch Cooley Township. Commissioner Fox assumed office on the Renville County Board of Commissioners in January of 2003. Prior to his service on the Renville County Board, Commissioner Fox served twelve years as a township supervisor, and a member on the Renville County Economic Development Commission in 2000.



Hon. Martha Schrader, Commissioner, Clackamas County, Ore.

Commissioner Schrader was elected to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners in May 2012 and was appointed as vice chair of the Board in 2014. She previously served as Commissioner from 2003 to 2009, and was Commission Chair from 2005 to 2007. Commissioner Schrader also served as a State Senator representing

Oregon's 20th District from 2009 to 2011.



Hon. Joe Briggs, Commissioner, Cascade County, Mont.

Commissioner Briggs has served as Cascade County Commissioner since January of 2005. Born and raised in Great Falls, he has been a Cascade County resident his entire life. Prior to elected office, he was the owner and operator of Briggs Computer Consultants. In addition to his leadership and participation within NACo, Commissioner Briggs also served as President of the Montana Association

of Counties for 2014.



Hon. Bill Kennedy, Commissioner, Yellowstone County, Mont.

Commissioner Bill Kennedy has served as a Yellowstone County Commissioner in Montana since 1993. He is past chair of the Montana Transportation Commission and has been involved with the County's transportation and infrastructure needs. He currently chairs the local metropolitan planning organization for the county.

3:30pm

Peer Networking Break

3:45pm

Update from Montana Delegation

- **Jessica Flint**, Regional Director, US Congressman Steve Daines
- **State staff**, US Senator Jon Tester

4:15pm

Rural Focus Group: Reducing the Numbers of People with Mental Disorders in Jails

Counties across the nation are struggling to address the estimated 2 million jail bookings of people with serious mental disorders (SMDs) that occur each year—resulting in prevalence rates in jails that are three to six times higher than the general population. There are even greater numbers of individuals with mental health problems in jails that do not rise to the level of a SMD, but may still require resource-intensive responses. Adults with mental disorders cycle through jails more often than people without disorders and tend to stay longer. Individuals with mental and substance use disorders are also much more likely to have serious costly physical health needs. NACo and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center are planning a major project next year to reduce the number of people with mental disorders in jails to achieve public health and safety goals. This “focus group” discussion will give RAC members the opportunity to discuss what their counties are doing in this area and to ensure that the unique needs of the rural two-thirds of America’s counties are incorporated into the project design.

- **Maeghan Gilmore**, MPH, Health, Human Services and Justice Program Director, County Solutions and Innovations Department, NACo
- **TBD**, CSG Justice Center

5:15pm

Adjourn

6:30pm – 8:30pm **Networking Dinner**
Billings Petroleum Club
27 N 27th St. #2200
Billings, MT 59101

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00am **Networking Breakfast**
Northern Hotel
North Ballroom, 2nd Floor

8:00am – 2:30pm **Mobile Workshop**

8:00am **Bus Departs for Signal Peak Mine**
Meet in the lobby by 7:50am. Please be sure to bring warm clothes and walking shoes.

9:00am **Arrive at Signal Peak Mine (Tour)**
The Signal Peak Mine is located 17 miles south of Roundup in Montana's Bull Mountains. Half a billion dollars has been invested in the mine since 2009. Unlike any other mine in Montana, Signal Peak is what's called a longwall mine. It utilizes a longwall shearer, which endlessly churns away at the coal seam. The Signal Peak mine is considered one of the most productive in the country and the world. In 2013, Signal Peak produced 12.1 million tons of raw coal.

11:00am **Lunch**

12:00pm **Depart for CHS Refinery**

1:00pm **Arrive at CHS Refinery (Tour)**
CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative and a global energy, grains and foods company, announced it will invest \$406 million in its Laurel, Mont., refinery to boost efficiency and increase diesel production. The investments consist of related projects, some of which will begin this fall, and are expected to be completed in phases through 2019. The investment is aimed at helping CHS provide long-term dependable supplies of quality refined fuels products to help owners and rural customers grow.

2:30pm **Depart for Hotel**

3:00pm **Adjourn**