

**2019 WIR Board of Directors Meeting
NACo Legislative Conference
Washington, DC**

[Meeting opened at 1 PM]

March 3, 2019 WIR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A Conversation with the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

Vicki Christiansen was sworn in as the 19th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service on October 11th. Chief Christiansen spoke to the WIR Board of Directors about ways her agency is using new authorities granted in the 2018 omnibus and Farm bills to engage with county governments to improve landscape health, reduce wildfire risk to communities and create new opportunities for economic growth in national forest counties.

- **Hon. Vicki Christiansen**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
- [County News Article on Chief Christiansen's Presentation](#)

Updates to the Federal Disaster Relief Policy (slideshow attached)

On October 5, the President signed into law H.R. 302, which contains the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018 (DRRA). The DRRA modifies several Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) programs to better assist state and local disaster mitigation, preparedness and recovery efforts. Kayed Lakhia, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Recovery at FEMA, discussed these updates and how counties can tap into new federal resources for disaster assistance.

- **Mr. Kayed Lakhia**, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Recovery, FEMA

White House Intergovernmental Affairs

Since January 2017, the Trump Administration has emphasized the need to target resources to expanding opportunities in rural America and improving the nation's infrastructure. Mr. William Crozer from The White House spoke about the Administration's efforts to improve the quality of life in rural areas and rebuild our infrastructure across the country.

- **Mr. William Crozer**, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. The White House

Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

On June 7, 2017, the Secretary of the Interior signed Secretarial Order 3353, which is aimed at strengthening collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and its state and local partners, with the shared goal of conserving and protecting the Greater Sage-Grouse without impeding economic opportunities. Last year, the BLM released its proposed revisions to the conservation plans for individual states with Greater Sage-Grouse populations. U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Solicitor Cally Younger discussed the new EISs as well as opportunities for state and local involvement in sage grouse conservation.

- **Ms. Cally Younger**, Deputy Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor

Update from the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition

WIR's Public Lands Trust contributes to the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC). NESARC is a broad group focused on improving and modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NESARC Executive Director Jordan Smith discussed recent actions related to the ESA, including potential ESA reform legislation and updated regulations from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

- **Mr. Jordan Smith**, Executive Director, NESARC

Wildfire Preparedness

WIR's Public Lands Trust contributes to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) so that counties are represented. The WFLC Executive Manager Mike Zupko updated the WIR Board on recent activities and opportunities for future engagement on issues surrounding wildland fire and public lands management. Mike also held a separate discussion with the WIR Executive Committee to discuss WIR's priorities for WFLC in 2019.

- **Mr. Mike Zupko**, Executive Manager, Wildland Fire Leadership Council

Legislative and WIR Finance Update (slideshow attached)

An update on the legislative priorities and finances of the Western Interstate Region.

- **Mr. Jonathan Shuffield**, NACo Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands and WIR Liaison

BOARD ACTION: Review, Discussion and Approval of 2020 and 2021 WIR Conference Site Proposals

- **Presentation by Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, California for the 2020 WIR Conference Bid**
- **Presentation by Betty Svenson, Deputy Director, Alaska Municipal League for the 2020 and 2021 WIR Conference Bids**
- The WIR Board of Directors adopted the following dates and locations for the next two conferences:
 - Mariposa County, California, May 13-15, 2020
 - Anchorage, Alaska, May 19-21, 2021

Update on WIR Conference

The WIR Conference will be held May 15-17 in Spokane County, Washington. Jared Webley from our host county gave a brief update on conference planning and what to expect at this year's WIR Conference.

- **Mr. Jared Webley**, Public Policy and Communications Manager, Spokane County, Washington

[Meeting Concluded at 3:30 p.m.]