

**WIR Board of Directors Meeting  
2020 NACo Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC**

**[Meeting began at 1 PM]**

**WIR President Kevin Cann led the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the meeting.**

**1:15 PM: A Conversation with the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service**

*Vicki Christiansen was sworn in as the 19<sup>th</sup> Chief of the U.S. Forest Service on October 11, 2018. Chief Christiansen spoke to the WIR Board of Directors about ways her agency is engaging with county governments to achieve mutual goals of good stewardship of our natural resources, ensuring access to public lands and the creation of good-paying jobs. She discussed efforts to reduce fuel loads on public lands through new authorities such as expanded Good Neighbor Agreements and expediting the appointments to Resource Advisory Committees.*

- **The Hon. Vicki Christiansen**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service;

**Contact:** Randy Phillips, NACo Forest Service Liaison, [rphilips@naco.org](mailto:rphilips@naco.org); 703-887-3239

**1:40 PM: Signing Ceremony for U.S. Forest Service-NACo Memorandum of Understanding**

*NACo and the U.S. Forest Service renewed a longstanding memorandum of understanding guiding the priorities of and relationship between the two organizations,*

- **The Hon. Vicki Christiansen**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
- **Matthew Chase**, CEO/Executive Director, NACo

**1:40 PM: Update from the Bureau of Land Management**

*The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages approximately one-tenth of the acreage of the United States and 30 percent of its minerals. Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley discussed the BLM's initiatives and priorities for 2020, as well as efforts to improve the relationship between federal land management agencies and local governments. In FY 2019, the Bureau of Land Management reduced fuel loads on more than 1.4 million acres of federal lands and successfully placed 750 million board feet of timber up for sale (25% more than the agency's initial target). Acting Director Pendley also discussed how expedited permitting processes for oil and gas leases on federal lands have helped to generate more than \$1 billion in revenues. Director Pendley also fielded questions on Resource Advisory Committee appointments and filling the BLM County Liaison staff position.*

**Presenter:**

- **The Hon. William Perry Pendley**, Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, acting with the authority of the Director, [wpendley@blm.gov](mailto:wpendley@blm.gov)

**Contact:** Timothy Williams, DOI Intergovernmental Affairs Director, [timothy\\_williams@ios.doi.gov](mailto:timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov); 202-706-4982

**2:05 PM: Inmate Exclusion Policy**

*Nationally, local jails admit nearly 11 million individuals each year. Today, our local jails are being used increasingly to house those individuals with mental health, substance abuse and/or chronic health conditions. Restoring access to federal health benefits for pre-trial detainees is a key legislative priority for the Health Care and Jails Task Force between NACo and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). Over the past several months, Task Force members have worked closely with congressional offices to develop*

these proposals into legislation: [S. 2626, the Restoring Health Benefits for Justice-Involved Individuals Act](#) (Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.) and [S. 2628, Equity in Pretrial Medicaid Coverage Act](#) (Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass.). Commissioner Nancy Sharpe from Arapahoe County, Colorado discussed the Task Force's work and [recently released report](#). Commissioner Sharpe also recommended that WIR Board Members reach out to their elected officials to cosponsor and support these bills.

**Presenter:**

- **Hon. Nancy Sharpe**, Commissioner, Arapahoe County, Colo., [nsharpe@arapahoegov.com](mailto:nsharpe@arapahoegov.com); 303-795-4630

2:20 PM: White House Intergovernmental Affairs

*Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs William Crozer provided an introduction to the White House Intergovernmental Affairs team to discuss important updates and priorities for the Trump administration.*

- **William Crozer**, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House, [William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov](mailto:William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov)

2:25 PM: Waters of the United States Regulations

*NACo Associate Legislative Director Adam Pugh spoke to the WIR Board about the new WOTUS regulation and discussed its implications for counties. On January 23, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unveiled the [new Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\) regulation](#). In 2017, in response to conflicting court rulings and regulatory decisions from previous administrations, the Trump administration began the process of reworking the WOTUS rule, which culminated in the repeal of the 2015 WOTUS rule on September 12 and the January 23 announcement.*

*The new definition creates four categories of regulated waters and includes 12 exemptions. The four categories of WOTUS include:*

- *Territorial seas and traditional navigable waters*
- *Tributaries*
- *Lakes, ponds and impoundments of jurisdictional waters*
- *Adjacent wetlands*

*The rule specifies that if water does not meet one of the four listed categories, it will not be considered a WOTUS and clarifies that certain other waters will also no longer be considered a WOTUS. These exemptions include:*

- *Waterbodies that are not included in the four WOTUS categories*
- *Groundwater*
- *Ephemeral features*
- *Diffuse stormwater run-off and directional sheet flow over upland*
- *Certain ditches*
- *Prior converted cropland*
- *Artificially irrigated areas*
- *Artificial lakes and ponds*
- *Water-filled depressions*
- *Stormwater control features*

- *Groundwater recharge, water reuse and water recycling structures*
- *Waste treatment systems*

**Presenter:**

- **Adam Pugh**, Associate Legislative Director, NACo, [apugh@naco.org](mailto:apugh@naco.org); 202-942-4269

2:50 PM: U.S. Forest Service Guidebook

*NACo has teamed up with the U.S. Forest Service to draft a guidebook for county officials and federal employees to better understand their own roles and the requirements of their governing counterparts. U.S. Forest Service Liaison to NACo Randy Phillips, Sublette County Commissioner Joel Bousman and National Association of Forest Service Retirees Board Member Rich Stem briefed the WIR Board on the guidebook's final contents. The final version will be released at the 2020 WIR Conference in Mariposa County, California.*

- **Hon. Joel Bousman**, Commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo., [joel.bousman@sublettewyo.com](mailto:joel.bousman@sublettewyo.com)
- **Randy Phillips**, U.S. Forest Service, Liaison to NACo, [rphilips@naco.org](mailto:rphilips@naco.org)
- **Rich Stem**, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, [wrkrich@aol.com](mailto:wrkrich@aol.com)

3:05 PM: Broadband Access Report

*In 2019, NACo launched the TestIT app, which allows individuals to immediately test their broadband speed and capabilities through a mobile phone app. Arthur Scott, NACo Associate Legislative Director, discussed this tool and a [new NACo report](#) on the data and its findings.*

- **Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director, NACo, [ascott@naco.org](mailto:ascott@naco.org); 202-942-4230

2:35 PM: 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 regulatory, legislative and judicial actions related to the ESA and how NESARC is helping to support efforts to modernize the ESA.*

- **Jordan Smith**, Executive Director, NESARC, [jas@vnf.com](mailto:jas@vnf.com)

3:15 PM: Legislative and WIR Finance Update

*Jonathan Shuffield provided an update on the legislative priorities and finances of the Western Interstate Region.*

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

**[Meeting concluded at 3:30 PM]**