

Western Interstate Region Board of Directors Business Meeting

Saturday, July 10, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Woodrow Wilson BCD | Ballroom Level

WIR Board of Directors Executive Committee:

President: Hon. Mark Whitney, Commissioner, Beaver County, Utah
First Vice President: Hon. Dan Joyce, Judge, Malheur County, Ore.
Second Vice President: Hon. John Espy, Commissioner, Carbon County, Wyo.
Immediate Past President: Hon. Greg Chilcott, Commissioner, Ravalli County, Mont.

Meeting Notes

Meeting Video link: <https://vimeo.com/575222998/be95807866>

1:00—1:05 PM Call to Order, Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

- **The Hon. Mark Whitney**, Commissioner, Beaver County, Utah

1:05—1:15 PM WIR Board of Directors Introductions (Around the Room)

- **All WIR Board members**

1:15—2:00 PM Engaging with Federal Lands Agencies

Federal land agencies are required to coordinate management plans with local governments and provide counties the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process as cooperating agencies. U.S. Forest Service Chief of External Relations Brian Ferebee and BLM Deputy State Director for Eastern States Leah Baker highlighted important resources to review, including the [NACo-Forest Service Guidebook](#), and discuss how the new administration plans to engage with counties in the planning and environmental review processes.

- **Brian Ferebee**, Chief of External Relations, U.S. Forest Service, brian.ferebee@usda.gov
- **Leah Baker**, Deputy State Director for Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, lbaker@blm.gov

2:00-2:25 PM Ransomware Preparedness

The recent spike in ransomware attacks leaves businesses and governments vulnerable. Outside actors have seized control of pipelines and other critical infrastructure, impacting gasoline and food supplies. NACo Chief Information Officer Rita Reynolds discussed how counties can be prepared for these kinds of attacks.

- **Rita Reynolds**, Chief Information Officer, NACo, rreynolds@naco.org

2:25-2:50 PM Infrastructure

President Biden announced in January that a bipartisan infrastructure package was a top priority for his administration. Congressional negotiators from both parties have worked with the administration for several months on a possible \$1 trillion package for physical infrastructure. Charles Small, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation updated the WIR Board on the status of negotiations and details of possible deal.

- **Charles Small**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation, Charles.small@dot.gov

2:50—3:15 PM Wildfire Playbook

In 2018, NACo and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) teamed up to unveil the [County Wildfire Playbook](#) to give county governments more information and tools to use for wildfire prevention and preparedness. Katie Lighthall, West Region Coordinator for WFLC, discussed the recent efforts and ideas for updating the Playbook to add more information and resources for counties.

- **Katie Lighthall**, West Region Coordinator, Wildland Fire Leadership Council, westerncohesivestrategy@gmail.com

3:15—3:30 PM WIR Financial and Legislative Priorities Update

NACo WIR Liaison Jonathan Shuffield gave an update on WIR's Finances and Legislative Priorities

- **Jonathan Shuffield**, Liaison to WIR and NACo Associate Legislative Director, jshuffield@naco.org

3:30 PM Meeting Concluded

NACo staff contact: Jonathan Shuffield, Associate Legislative Director, jshuffield@naco.org or 512.965.7268.