



Western Interstate Region Board of Directors Business Meeting Notes

Salt Lake County, Utah
Room: Ballroom A, Little America Hotel
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
9:00 am—12:00 pm

Western Interstate Region Board of Directors Executive Committee

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

Meeting Notes ([Video Link Here](#))

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. **Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome**
- **The Hon. Mark Whitney**, Commissioner, Beaver County, Utah opened the meeting
- 9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **U.S. Forest Service**
- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Intermountain Region covers 34 million acres across six states. Regional Forester Mary Farnsworth discussed how USFS works with county governments to better manage the region's 12 national forests and one national grassland.*
- **Mary Farnsworth**, Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region, U.S. Forest Service
- 9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **Western Governors Association**
- The Western Governors Association (WGA) is a longtime partner of NACo and WIR. James Ogsbury, Executive Director of WGA, provided an update on the new Working Lands, Working Communities Initiative spearheaded by Idaho Governor and WGA Chairman Brad Little, as well as other efforts to elevate the western voice in the national dialogue.*
- **James Ogsbury**, Executive Director, Western Governors Association
- 9:50 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **Modernization of IT: Opportunities and Challenges**
- New opportunities for counties, especially those with a heavy agricultural basis, abound when it comes to technological progress. Rita Reynolds, NACo's Chief Information Officer, shared a number of examples and best practices for implementing new technologies, with a particular focus on cyber security and data privacy.*
- **Rita Reynolds**, Chief Information Officer, NACo
- 10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office**
- The Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) leads the state's efforts to coordinate, promote, and implement Utah's public land priorities. PLPCO assisted Utah counties in crafting their unique resource management plans to improve coordination with federal lands agencies. PLPCO staff discussed new agency priorities and efforts to assist counties.*
- **Redge Johnson**, Director, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

- **Jake Garfield**, Deputy Director, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Wildland Fire Leadership Council

WIR's Public Lands Trust contributes to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) so that counties are represented. WFLC Executive Director Mike Zupko updated the WIR Board on recent activities and opportunities for future engagement on issues surrounding wildland fire.

- **Mike Zupko**, Executive Director, Wildland Fire Leadership Council

10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Legislative and Budget Update

An update on WIR's budget and legislative priorities. The WIR Board adopted the proposed budget and legislative priorities unanimously.

- **Jonathan Shuffield**, Associate Legislative Director, NACo

11:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. American Stewards of Liberty

American Stewards of Liberty (ASL) is a non-profit organization working to protect private property rights and the liberties they secure. ASL has publicly opposed the Biden administration's America the Beautiful Initiative (30x30 plan). Margaret Byfield, ASL Executive Director, discussed potential negative outcomes from the Initiative for property owners and public lands counties.

- **Margaret Byfield**, Executive Director, American Stewards of Liberty

11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers approximately 23 million acres in the state of Utah—nearly 42% of the state's total land mass. BLM Associate State Director Anita Bilbao discussed her agency's efforts to better engage with counties in resource planning, improving the implementation of the multiple use mandate and meeting conservation needs without negatively impacting local economies.

- **Anita Bilbao**, Utah Associate State Director, Bureau of Land Management

12:00 p.m.

Good of the Order

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

Meeting Concludes – 12:00 p.m.

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