

WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017 NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, DC

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order [1:05 PM]

Introductory remarks were offered by WIR President **Joel Bousman** and board members and Federal officials in the audience proceeded with self-introductions.

**Jordan Smith** with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC), of which WIR is a dues paying member, provided an update to the board on the recent activities of NESARC. He shared information on the volume of regulatory comments NEWSARC had offered in 2016 and shared a sense of optimism in accomplishing NECARC priorities in the new administration.

**John Vecchione**, Acting President and CEO of the Cause of Action Institute presented on the Institute's recent activities impacting the western United States, especially with respect to the Antiquities Act.

**Craig Fleener**, Director of State and Federal Relations with the Office of Alaska Governor Bill Walker shared how the global political climate and U.S. policy in the Arctic impacts the western United States. Commercial sea transportation, energy exploration, fisheries, the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental issues all figure prominently into international conversations occurring right now in Arctic Council.

The Hon. **Tammy Baney**, Commissioner, Deschutes County, Ore., provided words of welcome in advance of NACo's 2017 WIR Conference.

NACo Conference and Meetings Manager **Lauren Miller** presented information on bids submitted by counties wishing to host the 2018 and 2019 WIR Conferences. Representatives of the bidding counties made short presentations in support of their applications. The WIR Board of Directors moved to accept Blaine County, Idaho's bid to host NACo's 2018 WIR Conference and to accept Spokane County, Wash.'s bid to host NACo's 2019 WIR Conference.

Immediate Past President **Gordon Cruickshank** presented on the work of the WIR Bylaws Review Committee. The WIR Board moved to accept the work of the Committee and put the amended bylaws, as presented to the WIR Board on February 26, 2017 to a vote of the WIR Membership at the NACo's May 2017 WIR Conference.

NACo Associate Legislative Director **Chris Marklund** provided an update on WIR's legislative priorities and an update on WIR's financial position.

Meeting Concluded [3:40 PM]