NACA

The National Association *of* County Administrators

Idea Exchange

NACo Legislative Conference

Washington, D.C.

Sunday, February 26, 2017

2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Marriott Wardman Park, Washington 2

List of Attendees:

Jurisdiction/Organization	Name	Jurisdiction/Organization	Name
County of Adams, Colorado	Todd Leopold	County of McHenry, Illinois	Jack D. Franks
County of Adams, Pennsylvania	Albert Penksa	County of Monterey, California	Nick Chiulos
County of Alachua, Florida	Lee Niblock	County of Navajo, Arizona	James Jayne
County of Alachua, Florida	Gina Peebles	County of Navajo, Arizona	Glenn Kephart
County of Alameda, California	Susan Muranishi	County of Ottawa, Michigan	Al Vanderberg
County of Anoka, Minnesota	Jerry Soma	County of Pender, North Carolina	Randell Woodruff
County of Cass, North Dakota	Chad Peterson	County of Peoria, Illinois	Scott Sorrel
County of Contra Costa, California	David Twa	County of Pottawatomie, Kansas	Robert E. Reece
County of Curry, New Mexico	Lance A. Pyle	County of Sonoma, California	Sheryl Bratton
County of El Paso, Colorado	Brian Olson	County of Story, Iowa	Deb Schildroth
County of El Paso, Colorado	Henry Yankowski	County of Washoe, Nevada	Kevin Schiller
County of El Paso, Colorado	Dave Rose	County of Washoe, Nevada	John Slaughter
County of Franklin, Ohio	Kenneth Wilson	County of Yates, New York	Robert Lawton
County of Inyo, California	Kevin Carunchio	ICMA-RC	Gregory Dyson
County of Iron, Michigan	Gene Smith	ICMA-RC	Alex Hannah
County of Johnson, Kansas	Hannes Zacharias	ICMA-RC	David Tanguay
County of Johnson, Kansas	Penny Postoak Ferguson	NACA/ICMA	Robert C. Donnan
County of Lane, Oregon	Steve Mokrohisky	NACA/ICMA	Rita Soler Ossolinski
County of Lauderdale, Mississippi	Chris Lafferty	NACo	Dr. Emilia Istrate
County of Loudoun, Virginia	Tim Hemstreet	Retired CAO	Veronica Ferguson
County of Marion, South Carolina	Tim Harper	The Ferguson Group	Roger Gwinn
County of McHenry, Illinois	Peter Austin	The Ferguson Group	Bill Ferguson

➤ Introduction & Guest Speakers:

- Peter Austin, NACA President, opens the floor and discusses the value of NACA and thanks ICMA-RC for their continued and valued support for NACA
- Friends of NACA are given the floor
  - ICMA-RC
    - Gregory Dyson, ICMA-RC, discussed the history and development of ICMA-RC
  - NACo
    - Dr. Emilia Istrate, NACo, discussed the new Counties Futures Lab and encouraged NACA members to reply to requests for input on future NACo projects. Emilia reminded attendees that NACo is not only for elected officials, but also for appointed officials, and encourage CAOs to join NACo policy committees
  - Peter Austin welcomed representatives of The Ferguson Group to the meeting
- Rita Soler Ossolinski, ICMA/NACA, discussed the gains in NACA membership and reminded attendees about NACA's ICMA EPLI and Tom Lundy scholarships

Topics:

1) Driverless Vehicles

- County A
  - An abandoned naval base in the county is currently being utilized as a testing facility for autonomous vehicles
  - A major local business is purchasing autonomous vehicles to shuttle employees from parking lots to their worksite
- County B
  - Colorado recently held a meeting to discuss disruptive technologies
    - Autonomous vehicles were part of the conversation, along with Uber and other ridesharing developments
      - These, along with energy-alternative vehicles are leading to decreases in fuel tax revenues
- County C
  - County won a Smart City challenge and was awarded grants to support various transportation projects (e.g. smart traffic signals, smart kiosks, bike shares)
    - These projects, which are part of a regional effort, have, among other things, allowed people in lesser-served neighborhoods to better utilize social services
  - Public-private projects have generated a great deal of grants and other revenues
- County D
  - Question: What kind of infrastructure is needed to augment or enhance the functionality of autonomous vehicles?
  - Answer from an elected official: The county is appealing to the state legislature to develop a statewide standard due to the rapidly developing technology. As federal standards and regulations do not seem to be manifesting rapidly, local governments should look to the individual states to address the issues.

- County E
  - Question: What is the legality pertaining to autonomous vehicles on public roadways?
  - Answer from County A: Current regulations allow for the testing of autonomous vehicles on public roadways
- County C
  - Current tax structures are not set up to fund roads without gas tax revenues, which is problematic as autonomous and fuel-alternative vehicles become increasingly prevalent
- County F
  - County government is currently examining how to tax electronic vehicles to compensate for declining gas tax revenues
- County G
  - County government has had to install electronic vehicle charging stations in county facilities to meet demands
- Guest-The Ferguson Group
  - Companies are currently retrofitting existing vehicles to become autonomous
  - Roadways should not need to be entirely retrofitted or rebuilt to accommodate autonomous vehicles as those being currently developed are being designed to function within the existing infrastructure

2) Cybersecurity Training / Risk Reduction

- County A
  - The biggest vulnerability to system security is human error
- County B
  - The conversation to date has been about how systems are hacked from the hackers' end
  - The conversation has been shifting to how human error from the users' end can be prevented
    - County had multiple breaches from employees working through personal email accounts
    - County has since restricted access to personal email through county servers
    - Employees are required to use a county-issued phone or have county security installed on their personal phone
- County C
  - County has a system that that disallows access to all but a limited network when working through the county system
- County B
  - "Spearphishing" has been on the rise – hackers send fraudulent bills or fraudulent requests from cloned or slightly altered emails that mimic employees' superiors in efforts to steal county funds
- Guest-ICMA-RC
  - Company has performed tabletop exercises to train employees to detect and avoid ransomware and various phishing techniques
- County D
  - County still experiences "old-fashioned" attempts to steal information in which people physically intrude county offices impersonating staff or vendors

- Employees still should be trained to perform simple security measures like checking identification for in-person contacts
- County E
  - County utilized a former federal criminal who now works with the federal government to test their employees and the exercises were found to be very helpful and illuminating
- County F
  - Automatic and/or randomly generated and routinely changing passwords are an absolute must to maintain basic system security

3) State and Federal Financing Issues at the Local Level

- County A
  - The new administration is likely to fund the airport infrastructure
- Guest-The Ferguson Group
  - Reductions in domestic discretionary funding is likely to diminish under the new administration and local leaders are encouraged to fight for adequate funding
- County B
  - County is replacing a sewer plant and because they did not have the proper tax status in place, the county budget was impacted by $73 million
- County C

  - The elimination of income tax reductions or exemptions are a likely source of new revenues
  - The new administration is likely to act in the following manner: Affordable Care Act (ACA) replacement, tax restructuring, addressing infrastructure concerns
    - These actions pose a great threat to county finances and leave many questions for counties
    - ACA replacement alone is cause for great concern for counties

- Guest-The Ferguson Group
  - The new administration is discussing many expensive projects (e.g. border wall construction, ACA replacement) and local governments will bear the brunt of the financial impact of these projects
  - Local governments need to push for adequate funding to supply services (particularly mandated services) to their communities
  - Local governments have been in similar situations in the early 80s and late 90s
- County D
  - Pending issues will likely be very polarizing, politically and socially, in communities throughout the country
- Guest-ICMA-RC
  - Proposed tax reforms that will impact retirement investments may discourage retirement investments
- County E
  - Speculation over corporate tax cuts has led to cuts in low-income housing funds
  - County currently has projects on hold that are negatively impacting impoverished communities

- County F
  - The energy sector has been impacted by federal energy policy
    - County has economic ties to four coal plants, one of which is shutting down due to the lower price of natural gas changing the market
      - While the closing plant is not in the county, the coal used by the plant comes from there, and there will be a significant negative impact on county tax revenue and on the Navajo Nation, which operates many of the mines
- County G
  - The development of the Keystone Pipeline will greatly benefit County G, as it currently lacks to ability to provide its natural energy resources to larger markets

4) Immigration Issues: Sanctuary Communities/Labor & Economic Impacts

- County A
  - County recently had two immigrant engineers murdered who were targeted because they were foreigners
    - Such acts are likely to deter foreign human capital, on which the county's industries are heavily reliant
  - Increased tension and fear in immigrant communities due to policy shifts are likely to have an impact on various markets as, for example, there has been reduced economic activity from immigrant communities due to a fear of being out in public
- County B
  - The current situation relating to immigrants is not unique to any one county but is impacting counties all over the country
  - There is a great deal of misinformation available to the public
    - County B is listed on a popular database as a "sanctuary county" even though it is not officially designated as such and is even criticized at times for its cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
  - After the new administration took over, the community noticed a drastic decline in medical clinic visits and school attendance due to fears of deportation
  - The state in which County B is located is designated as a "sanctuary state"
- County C
  - Drastic decreases in the immigrant population would cause a massive negative impact on the local economy across multiple sectors
- County D
  - County is being urged by members of the community to designate itself as a "sanctuary county," though the county is ideologically diverse and others are urging the county to do the opposite
  - Various institutions within the county have designated themselves as "sanctuary institutions" and the state is a *de facto* "sanctuary state"
  - Due to the actual or perceived inaccessibility of federal and state governments, local governments seem to be becoming the focus of community concerns
  - Unlike many cities, counties have ideologically more diverse constituents, so approaching the issue of designating a county as a "sanctuary county" is far more sensitive of an issue

- County E
  - Sanctuary status is truly a law enforcement issue and many counties have various police forces within their jurisdictions
- County F
  - County has set up a board to address immigration issues and provide legal support to immigrants
  - The sheriff utilizes Urban Shield and faces scrutiny for the militarization of the police force
- County G
  - Future events or current examples of relationship-building at county level would be of interest

5) Electronic Voting for Board Members

- County A
  - Had used an electronic voting system until it broke and was irreparable, but found it to be very useful while it was being used
- County B
  - Began using an electronic voting system and found that some board members were voting late and seemingly voting based on the inevitable outcome. While the system was useful in terms of speed and recordkeeping, it became a political tool

6) Drone Programs

- County A
  - County employees realized the applications for public works (e.g. flood tracking, mapping) and the policy-related applications (e.g. discovering property violations and potential threats to public safety)
  - The technology preceded policy and counties are encouraged to push for policy development so that they can use the technology to make many processes more efficient
- County B
  - County has used drones to show traffic congestion issues to heighten awareness regarding infrastructure needs
- County C
  - County uses drones for public safety (e.g. crowd monitoring)
- County D
  - County uses drones to inspect properties that are difficult to access
- County E
  - County has used drones to assess damage from natural disasters in areas that are inaccessible to first responders