

Travel Report
National Association of Counties Annual Conference
July 13-17, 2007
Submitted By Councilmember Todd K. Apo, Vice-Chair

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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The 72nd Annual Conference for the National Association of Counties (NACo) was held in Richmond, Virginia, during July 13-17, 2007. This conference provides County government officials an opportunity to discuss issues, exchange ideas and identify solutions for a wide range of topics and problems that similarly face Counties nationwide. The following provides a summary of the meetings and workshops I attended during this conference.

Workshop Highlights

Sunday, July 15 2007

“How to Create Local Housing Trust Funds- A Dedicated Funding Source to House Your County’s Workforce.” This workshop highlighted recent city initiatives to fund housing developments via housing trust funds. Speakers included Gerald E. Connolly of Fairfax, Virginia and Linda Peterzon of King County, Washington. Mr. Connolly reported that in Fairfax home values increased, but housing supply did not. The Board of Supervisors is considering numerous options to address the housing deficiency including tax relief. In contrast, King County has developed a capital program to develop housing. The “Housing Opportunity Fund” is levied on various public segments to generate income. Approximately 16 housing partnerships and developments are either already funded or in line for future appropriation consideration. To capitalize on federal “HOME” funds, a majority of these projects are aimed at special need segments of the population such as the elderly, disabled or homeless.

“Standards and Certifications – How Green is Green” –Environmental building standards and measurement approaches to gauging the “greenest” techniques were explored in this workshop. Panel participants included Shannon Staub, of Sarasota County, Florida; Emily English of the National Association of Home Builders and Jason Hartke of the U.S. Green Building Council. Ms. Staub explained that increased awareness and a desire to be more “sustainable” has resulted in a demand for “greener” housing options as well as a need for “green building certification programs”. In Florida these standards are guided by a non-profit organization (Florida Green Building Coalition) which implements national standards and goals and objectives locally. To date, 50+ green residential developments totaling 20,000 units and at least four large non-residential structures have been initiated by the private sector in Florida. The County has supported green activity by expediting processing, developing green partnerships and clearly defining County goals for sustainability. The U.S. Green Building

Council plays an important role in establishing national policies, guidelines and standards for green buildings. The National Association of Home Builders first released its Model Green Home Building Guidelines publication in 2005 and currently has over 230,000 members.

“Innovative Technologies For Emergency Disaster Management” – This session offered an opportunity to learn about technologies that can assist in preparing and managing a disaster. Randy Johnson of Hennepin County, Mark Greninger of Los Angeles was among the speakers for this session. A key concept revealed during this workshop was HAZUS-MH. This GIS program scientifically estimates possible economic losses and damage during specific disasters. Results are graphically displayed on GIS maps along with a mathematical risk rating. Using this approach enables governments to prioritize disaster management plans more effectively.

“This Mission Is Not Impossible: Counties and Military Bases Can Achieve Compatible Land Use” – This workshop discussed the impact of military bases on surrounding land uses and communities. Representatives from Wake County, North Carolina, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia and Caroline County Virginia presented as speakers. North Carolina and Virginia are already home to several military bases. The recent Base Realignment program (BRAC) has resulted in further development of some military establishments. Having numerous bases in one area generates both benefits and consequences. Federal funding and available spending dollars helps to support the community, however, at the same time many of the surrounding communities are negatively impacted by having the base as a neighbor. This is evident in existing land use patterns and business operations. For instance, near Fort Bragg, there are as many churches as there as night clubs in a very small vicinity. This produces use conflicts and blocks more efficient use of the land. Swansboro has attempted to work with the military to identify use conflicts, land use zones, environmental buffers, infrastructure systems, military facilities as well as compile solutions for compatible land use. This type of collaborative effort is key to achieving compatible land uses within both the County and military realm.

Monday, July 16, 2007

“County Leadership for Regional Collaboration and Intergovernmental Planning” – This session highlighted a variety of programs spanning a wide range of issues. Of particular interest was the discussion of Oregon’s techniques for urban growth management and population forecast. Keith Cubic discussed different aspects of the Counties, Management Agreements, Land Use review process, special district legislations and the overall land use and planning principles that help to guide Oregon’s growth activity.

“Renewable Energy Forecasts: What Will Fuel Cost Your County” – The cost benefit and economic opportunity for City’s was the focus of this block. Producing energy for resale, lowering city overhead costs via sustainable building design and other model energy efficient programs were discussed.

“From Vacant to Usable Apply Technology to Prioritize Redevelopment of Vacant Sites” – This session focused on exploring techniques to identify and develop vacant lands in Cities. A predominately technology based forum; presenters illustrated how lands were redeveloped in New York and Philadelphia after the application of various GIS and geography and mapping tools.

“Purchasing and Procurement: Go Green, Save, See Green” – Presenters focused on how Cities can be both suppliers of green products and services but also doers. A representative of the company Johnson Controls explained that it is possible to apply the economic principle of the “Triple Bottom Line” to going green. That the benefit can be worth the cost or out weigh it. This is particularly true if the impacts and benefits are measured in terms of economic development, healthy communities and environmental conditions. However, traditional procurement and contracting techniques may need to be adjusted to encourage sustainability in government contract operations and programs.

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

“Fueling Your Fleet: The Future of Alternative Fuels” Cities currently using alternative fuel vehicles discussed both the goals and challenges they faced. Having a vehicle replacement programs, working with fleet managers and pilot programs are techniques that effectively assist in the transition.

In addition, I attended Conference General Sessions on July 15th and 16th, a Conference Wide Event on the 15th and the Conference Closing Session on July 17th.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 10/22/07

Traveler: TODD APO

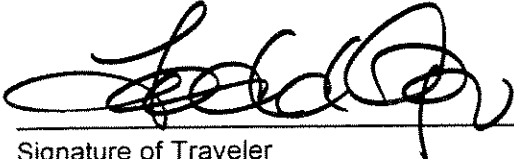
Event: 2007 NACO Annual Conference

Location: Richmond, VA

Dates: From 7/13/07 To 7/17/07

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	440.00	
2. Airfare	965.65	
3. Hotel	923.70	Rate: _____ ; No. of Billable Days: _____
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation	30.00	
6. Tips		
7. Other	221.70	Auto rental
Other	69.90	Gasoline
Other	60.00	Parking
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,710.95	
		TOTAL TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT: \$2,710.95

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



Signature of Traveler

11/18/08

Date