



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
COUNCIL CHAIR
DISTRICT 2
TELEPHONE: (808)768-5002
FAX: (808) 768-1222
EMAIL: emartin@honolulu.gov

August 5, 2011

TO: Mr. Clayton Wong, Fiscal Officer

FROM: Kimberly Ribellia, Executive Assistant *Kim* / Chief of Staff
Council Chair Ernest Y. Martin

RE: 2011 NACo Annual Conference Trip Report

Attached is the report and findings of the NACo Annual Conference in Portland, OR, July 17-19, 2011

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

Attachment

Sunday, July 17, 2011

Register for Conference

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 am Opening General Session

- ❖ President Glen Whitley welcomed NACo members and provided opening remarks
- ❖ Guest Speakers:
 - **Mr. Bob Woodruff, ABC Correspondent and Founder The Bob Woodruff Family Foundation for Traumatic Brain Injury**
 - Mr. Woodruff spoke about his experience as a reporter and his journey from a local TV anchor, a Foreign Correspondent for ABC to finally co-anchor of ABC World News.
 - Mr. Woodruff also spoke about the day his convoy was attacked by rebel forces in Iraq and his experiences as a traumatic brain injury survivor.
 - **Under Secretary Francisco J. Sanchez, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade**
 - Mr. Sanchez spoke about President Obama's efforts to strengthen U.S. commerce and its competitiveness in worldwide trade market.
 - Mr. Sanchez also spoke the Federal government's plan to promote trade and investment that will in turn help create jobs, specifically in the U.S. export market.

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Educational Session Block I

- ❖ *Counties Saving Money in the Cloud*
 - Guest Speakers:
 - Mr. Scott McIntyre, State and Local Government Director, Google, Mountain View, CA
 - Honorable Lew Gaiter, Commissioner, Larimer County, CO
 - Ms. Sherry Swackhamer, Chief Information Officer, Multnomah County, OR
 - Mr. Jeff White, IT Director, Amador County, CA
 - Speakers discussed upgrading their email technology by using Google Apps for Government, which in turn saved money for their counties. For example, Multnomah County saved over \$100,000 annually in licensing costs and up to \$500,000 in staff time and staff costs.
 - Speakers explained to attendees that by using Google Apps, counties showed an increase in workers productivity for less money, deployment of system was easier than their older system and accessibility for employees to city documents improved.

NACo Annual Conference – Portland, OR

Page 2

August 5, 2011

- Speakers also explained that Google Apps provided a good back up system for all of their data.
- Google Apps also allowed the counties to increase services to constituents without increasing costs

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Educational Session Block II

❖ Public-Private Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Renewables

- Guest Speakers:
 - Honorable Greg Fox, Council Member, District 5, Howard County, MD
 - Mr. Fritz Feiten, Manager, Business Development, Ameresco, Boston, MA
 - Mr. John Hobbes, Group Director, NORESCO, Westborough, MA
 - Ms. Paula Brooks, Vice-Chair, NACo Green Government Committee, Franklin County, OH
- Speakers discussed how public-private partnerships for energy could help counties leverage outside resources to make energy improvements and save counties money in the long run.
- Session covered three types of Public-Private Partnerships that can be used to save counties money with regards to energy:
 - Energy Savings Performance Contracts
 - Used to implement energy and water conservation measures in public facilities
 - Provides guaranteed savings (often used to finance the project)
 - Design, Build, Own, Operate & Maintain
 - Used for renewable energy projects, central plant replacements
 - Benefits from favorable tax treatments (tax credits and depreciation)
 - Includes a Power Purchase Agreements
 - Automated Meter Infrastructure
 - Used to install automated water meter infrastructure
 - Reduces meter reading costs
- Benefits of Public-Private Partnership:
 - Experience
 - Lower Risk – private company assumes the a large share of the financial, technical and operational risk
 - Predictable Costs & Savings
 - Favorable Tax Treatment
 - Accelerated Project Development – on-time and within budget

NACo Annual Conference – Portland, OR

Page 3

August 5, 2011

- Capital – private company can finance and pay for capital improvements and upgrades of existing facilities
- Franklin County implemented a \$25 million energy retrofitting plan
 - The retrofit will save \$2.4 million a year over 20 years, for a net savings to the county of \$23 million of the life of the project.
 - Franklin County was able to receive two grants: \$3.05 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and \$144,000 in Renewable Energy Grant to help finance the project. The County also used \$22.755 million in ARRA monies as well to help pay for the project.

Monday, July 18, 2011

9:00 am – 10:15 am Educational Session Block III

❖ *Funding Infrastructure and Economic Development*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Mr. Mark O'Connell, Executive Director, Wisconsin Counties Association
 - Ms. Liz Stephens, Public Finance Authority,
 - Ms. Carol Samuels, Senior Vice President, Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation, Portland, OR
 - Mr. Alex Wallace, Managing Director, Head of Public Finance, US Bancorp Municipal Securities Corporation, Charlotte, NC
- ❖ Speakers reviewed the different types of bonds that are can be used to help finance municipal capital improvement projects. For example:
 - Tax-Exempt Bonds – this is one of the most popular ways municipal governments issue bonds. Bondholders receive repayment of principal and interest (Interest is not subject to federal and state income taxes)
 - Taxable Bonds – These bonds are similar to above but the interest is taxable. These bonds are usually issued for to fund municipal pension liabilities, non-public purpose projects and operating shortfalls.
 - UTGO Bonds – Secured by the “full faith and credit” of the issuer. Most secure form of debt, obtaining the low interest rate. Generally subject to voter approval

NACo Annual Conference – Portland, OR

Page 4

August 5, 2011

- LTGO Bonds – Voter approval not generally required. Based upon an unconditional promise to repay debt. Can be used where GO authority is unavailable. Interest rates usually higher than UTGOs.
- Revenue Bonds – Payable only from specified resources, such as sales taxes, water and sewer fees. May not be subject to voter approval.
- Relies on the philosophy of “user pays” rather than on “ability to pay.” Higher interest rates than GO bond.
- Local Improvement Districts (LID) – Specific to a geographical area which real property is assessed to finance all or part of the costs of a public improvement. Most LIDs involve improving streets, building sidewalks and installing a storm water management system.
- Urban Renewal and Tax Increment Financing – Financing tool to improve blighted areas. Relies on the notion of “incremental value” in which area value is ‘frozen’; any property tax revenue generated through incremental growth in value goes to urban renewal agency to repay debt.
- ❖ Ms. Stephens discussed the Public Finance Authority (PFA), established by the Wisconsin Legislature, to issue tax-exempt conduit bonds for public and private entities in all 50 states.
- ❖ PFA’s mission is to provide local governments and eligible private entities access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing for projects that provide a public benefit, contribute to social and economic growth and improve the overall quality of life in communities throughout the country.

10:45 am – 12:00 pm **Attended Educational Session Block III**

❖ *From East to West, Counties Develop Innovative Solutions for Cost Savings*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Honorable Helen Purcell, Recorder, Maricopa County, AZ, Chair, NACo Information Technology Committee
 - Mr. Micah Applewhite, Solution Architect, Motorola Solutions, Schaumburg, IL
 - Mr. Terry Beldsoe, Chief Information Officer, Catawba County, NC
- Speakers discussed the success story of Catawba County in North Carolina that implemented a unique program to save money for their county.

NACo Annual Conference – Portland, OR

Page 5

August 5, 2011

- Catawba County development an EcoComplex that manages their waste recovery system.
 - This complex consists of:
 - Landfill
 - Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility
 - Biosolids Processing Facility
 - Wood Gasification Energy Facility
 - Proposed Research Turf Farm (using grey water, biosolids, boiler ash and compost)
 - Proposed Brick Specialist (using gray water and biosolids)
 - Proposed Soil Composting Facility (using gray water, biosolids, boiler ash, heat electricity, wood feedstock and vegetation)
 - Proposed Greenhouse Facility (using wood feedstock, carbon dioxide, heat electricity, biosolids, and boiler ash)
 - Proposed Biodiesel facility in partnership with Appalachian State University

2:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Attend General Session

❖ President Glen Whitley welcomed NACo members and provided closing remarks

❖ Guest Speakers:

- ***Mr. Aron Ralston, Mountain Climber and Inspiration for the Film 127 Hours***

- Mr. Ralston spoke about his experience as a mountain climber and his experience
- After being pinned by a half-ton boulder for nearly a week in a remote three-foot-wide canyon crevasse, Mr. Aron Ralston escaped death by severing his right forearm with a dull pocketknife.
- After applying a tourniquet, he hiked and rappelled for five hours through Blue John Canyon in southern Utah before searchers in a helicopter miraculously rescued him.
- His life-altering experience was chronicled in the New York Times bestselling book, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*.
- Ralston's story was adapted into a movie by Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle, entitled *127 Hours*.

NACo Annual Conference – Portland, OR

Page 6

August 5, 2011

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

9:00 am – 10:15 am Educational Session Block V

❖ *Think Globally, Act Locally: The National Export Initiative and Your County*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Honorable Valerie Brown, Immediate NACo Past President
 - Mr. Mark Calhoon, Department of Commerce
 - Ms. Courtney Gregoire, National Export Initiative

- Speakers identified resources that can help counties engage in international trade development, partner with state trade agencies, and implement locally-driven export strategies.

- Mr. Calhoon described several export initiatives that the State of Washington is pursuing.
 - Partner with US Dept. of Commerce, Small Business Association and Small Business Development Centers to expand exports
 - \$3 million new state funding to help those businesses with export training
 - Help the agricultural industry to increase competitiveness – “Farm-to-Market Initiative”
 - Attract foreign students and encourage Washington students to study abroad
 - Strengthen and expand international partnership relationship – Trade mission, etc.
 - Seek fully-funded federal transportation reauthorization act that includes national freight program

- Washington’s State Department of Commerce is focusing on increasing the number of WA companies exporting to 10,500 firms or 30%. The department is also provides assistance through the Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce, trying to achieve \$600 million in export sales by 2015. They also want to increase general statewide exports by approximately 35%, to over \$100 billion per year by 2015.

- The department also participates in a business matchmaking program where they teach firms; 1) how to export; 2) conduct market research; 3) provide credit and financing; and 4) how to move goods. The State coordinates Trade Events and provides Marketing to help provide exposure for local firms to the international market.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: July 28, 2011

Traveler: Kimberly Ribellia, Executive Assistant, Council Chair Martin
 Event: NACo 2011 Annual Conference
 Location: Portland, Oregon
 Dates: From July 15, 2011 To July 19, 2011

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	490.00	NACo Conference Registration
2. Airfare	640.80	
3. Hotel	-0-	
4. Meals	3.50	
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other	31.00	Parking fee at Oregon Convention Center
Other	83.45	Gas charge for transportation to and from NACo Conf.
Other		& other NACo activites such as the conf. wide event
8. Adjustment	-25.01	Reduced amount to reflect same airfare as Council Chair
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	1223.74	

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:

Kimberly Ribellia
Signature of Traveler

July 28, 2011
Date