



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

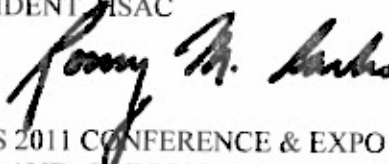
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August 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNCIL CHAIR ERNEST MARTIN
CLAYTON WONG, CITY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CC: COUNCILMEMBER MEL RAPOZO, PRESIDENT, HISAC

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER ROMY M. CACHOLA 

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 2011 CONFERENCE & EXPO
OREGON CONVENTION CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON
JULY 15 – 19, 2011

I attended the 2011 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition, which was held in Portland, Oregon, July 15-19, 2011. I was among some 3,000 elected and appointed county officials from across the nation who attended the event.

The conference provided county officials with opportunities to learn and gather information to help improve the effectiveness of counties. Attendees heard from top officials, elected new NACo officers, adopted new legislative policies and participated in a variety of educational workshops. The major themes of the conference included how counties can serve residents with shrinking federal, state and local revenues, while streamlining county government programs and services in these austere times.

Friday, July 15, 2011

I attended several subcommittee meetings hosted by the NACo Transportation Steering Committee, of which I had been a member. I attended the Highway-Highway Safety Subcommittee and Mass Transit-Rail Subcommittee Joint Meeting. I also attended the Airport Subcommittee and Ports Subcommittee Joint Meeting. In the various meetings, we received an update on the discussions involving current federal transportation funds.

Saturday, July 16, 2011

I attended the Transportation Steering Committee meeting, during which we looked at existing and proposed transportation resolutions for consideration by the Transportation Steering Committee. One proposed resolution on maintaining metropolitan planning organization (MPO) designation. NACo opposes

legislation or regulation directing the MPO population threshold to be raised from its current level of 50,000.

I also attended the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee Meeting since our own county is facing the issue of public infrastructure and sustainability.

The Exhibit Hall Reception provided an opportunity for conference attendees to look at vendors who have products and services that may be of great benefit for the counties.

Sunday, July 17, 2011

I attended the opening general session. The featured speaker of the conference's opening general session was Aron Ralston, who had his arm pinned by a half-ton boulder for nearly a week in a remote three-foot-wide canyon in Utah. To free himself from the boulder, he severed his right forearm with a dull pocketknife, applied a tourniquet, and hiked and rappelled for five hours before being rescued. Ralston compared his experience to the dire fiscal picture the assembled county officials had been facing. From this crisis, he said, they could emerge with a new perspective.

He recounted the details of his five days in the canyon, how his will to live sustained him, and his feelings when he finally emerged from that small crack between two rock walls where he had prematurely carved his epigraph.

Outgoing HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims and Bob Woodruff, ABC correspondent and founder, Bob Woodruff Family Foundation for Traumatic Brain Injury, presented speeches about America's promise and individual triumph over great odds.

Ron Sims spoke about the stalemate in Washington over the debt-ceiling talks and urged NACo to continue to lobby Washington and set an example of what can be accomplished in spite of differences. He spoke of the hard work and sacrifices his father and grandfather made to in pursuit of a better life, and that Americans today need to make sacrifices.

Woodruff, who suffered massive head injuries from a roadside bomb while on assignment in Iraq in December 2006, talked about his path from attorney to journalist to war correspondent to network evening news anchor.

He talked about how the American military has made progress in treating its most severely wounded and about his own struggles to heal from traumatic brain injuries. He had to regain memory of his five children's names and other details of his life. Woodruff and his family created the nonprofit Bob Woodruff Foundation to provide resources and support to injured service members, veterans and their families, especially those with "invisible injury."

I attended the workshop, "The Path to Zero Waste," was on a topic that is of grave importance to our county as we look at innovative ways to manage our waste as we face the increasing cost of waste management. On Oahu, we face the impending closure of Waimanalo Gulch Landfill. We learned about strategies on how to improve waste management and create new sources of revenue in the process, including conversion technologies, new recycling strategies, waste diversion and organic composting.

Another workshop I attended was "Public-Private Partnerships for Energy Efficiency and Renewables," which tackled the counties' need to make capital improvements and investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in these difficult economic times. The workshop talked about public-private partnerships that would help counties leverage outside resources and get important work done correctly.

Monday, July 18, 2011

The day included morning workshops and mobile tours.

On July 18, I attended two workshops. One is “Funding Infrastructure and Economic Development” with an interest on improvement of public infrastructure. While good infrastructure contributes to the quality of life, such projects can be expensive. During this workshop, panelists talked about debt financing and alternative methods of financing that are designed to promote economic development.

I also attended the workshop, “From East to West, Counties Develop Solutions for Cost Savings.” The workshop focused on the example of Catawba County, North Carolina, recipient of one of the two NACo-Motorola County Government Wireless Broadband Awards. Catawba County was recognized for its use of wireless broadband technology for communications within its county government and how it benefits its local economy. Catawba is known for its waste recovery processes and its EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility, including a landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility. Staff is able to remotely access and adjust engine readings, saving time and resources and enabling staff to be more efficient. We had a demonstration of a live connection to the EcoComplex during this workshop. Attached is a brochure about Catawba County’s EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility.

Our afternoon general session featured Commerce Under Secretary Francisco Sanchez. Sanchez leads Commerce’s efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promote trade and investment and ensure compliance with trade laws and agreements.

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

The July 19th workshop block that I attended was “State Partnerships for Sharing Federal Transportation Funds with Local Governments.” Oregon Transportation Commission Chairwoman Gail Achterman discussed how constituents just want to be able to get from place to place. She suggested transferring ownership of different road properties among different government entities that can take better care of it. For instance, the needs of large bridges can be better addressed by the state rather than counties. We learned how a partnership between jurisdictions can be developed and how local governments can be a part of the Federal Aide project selection.

During NACo’s Annual Business Meeting, NACo members voted for the following:

- President: Athens County Ohio Commissioner Lenny Eliason
- Second Vice President: Linn County, Iowa Supervisor Linda Langston
- First Vice President: Douglas County, Nebraska. Commissioner Chris Rodgers
- Immediate Past President: Tarrant County, Texas Judge Judge Glen Whitley

Eliason’s initiative will focus on encouraging America’s counties in promoting healthy living and healthy lifestyles.

* * *

Catawba County's EcoComplex components continue to evolve and develop in order to meet the goal of developing a system that will recover all useable products and by-products from a group of private and public partners that will work together to use each other's waste products either as a source of energy or as a raw material for the production of their own product. The EcoComplex is focused on making and using "green" energy and on the economic development of Catawba County.

The Eco-Complex won the national 2007 Thomas H. Muehlenbeck Award for Excellence in Local Government and was named best in its category in the 2008 National Association of Counties Achievement Award Program.

The EcoComplex is centered in and around the Blackburn Landfill (Resource Recovery Facility) which receives approximately 522 tons of municipal and construction waste daily.

The Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility which currently operates three engine/generator sets that have the capacity to generate approximately 3 megawatts of renewable electricity per hour. The engines burn the methane that is produced naturally in the landfill, generating enough electricity to power approximately 1,400 average sized homes.

Gregory Wood Products is a high tech dimensional lumber facility employing 115 people. Its byproducts are used by another business located at the EcoComplex, Pallet One Inc. Gregory Wood Products is the largest producer of sawdust, shavings, bark and chips for use in the future Wood Gasification Energy Facility.

Pallet One Inc is the largest new pallet manufacturer in the United States. Pallet One began recycling used pallets in 2008. Employing 29 people at the Catawba County location, Pallet One is currently operating solely as a pallet recycling facility.

Biodiesel Research and Production Facility Catawba County has partnered with Appalachian State University (ASU) to create a center for biodiesel research and production. ASU's research will include the testing of biodiesel fuel being produced by several companies in the region and the growing of crops around the landfill to test which ones grow best in our climate while producing the best oils for biodiesel. Currently, canola and sunflowers are being grown and tested.

Crop Processing Facility will process the crops grown on idle landfill property and buffer areas. It will receive, clean, dry, store and crush the harvested crops. Harvested crops will be processed into two products (oil and seed meal) that have a higher value than the seed alone. The oil will be cleaned and stored for future processing into biodiesel fuel. The seed meal has many potential uses such as a livestock feed additive, anaerobic digester feedstock, and a greenhouse soil amendment.

Wood Gasification Energy Facility will use sawdust, shavings, bark and chips from Gregory Wood Products, Pallet One, and the Blackburn Landfill to generate electricity, heat and steam energy. The Wood Gasification Energy Facility will house a newly constructed wood fueled gasification system and steam production plant that is expected to produce 2.5 megawatt hours of electricity and 9,600 lbs of steam per hour. Being developed through partnerships with GE Energy and Nexterra.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the University of British Columbia will both have research activities centered on this facility and the synthesis gas generated by the technology will be utilized by this facility.

Wood Ethanol Facility UNCC will study wood and cellulosic ethanol with raw material supplied by EcoComplex partners. UNCC will be researching naturally occurring fungi to convert wood into a form more easily usable for ethanol production.

Multi-Feedstock Anaerobic Digester will process multiple waste products into biogas to produce renewable electricity and heat through an internal combustion engine/generator set. The multiple waste products that comprise the feedstocks include: agricultural and food wastes, algae, animal wastes including cow and chicken manure, glycerin from the Biodiesel Production Facility, grease waste, mixed paper, and wastewater sludge. The residual solids will be used as soil amendment. This facility is expected to generate 1/2 megawatt per hour of green energy.

A Biosolids Processing Facility will replace the existing Regional Sludge Management Facility. The new facility will have the capacity to serve the wastewater sludge management needs of Catawba County and the Unifour region for approximately twenty years. Universities will study uses for the gray water from the BioSolids Facility such as; use in bioreactor landfill application, anaerobic digester feedstock and algae growth medium. It is planned to use the dried biosolids as a soil amendment.

Greenhouse & Algae Research Lab UNCC will research different strains of algae to determine the best way to optimize the energy stored within the algae. Algae research will include: mitigating/sequestering carbon dioxide (CO₂), wastewater remediation, biofuel feedstock, livestock feed amendment, soil amendment, and anaerobic digester feedstock.

Proposed Composting/Soils Amendment Facility will be a privatized Organic Waste Management Facility that will process leaves, yard waste and other EcoComplex products, by-products, and residuals into a compost or soil amendment. This EcoComplex component is waiting on the needed shared relationships of the EcoComplex before it can be realized.

Proposed Greenhouse Facility will be a privatized Greenhouse Facility that is comprised of 25 to 100 acres of greenhouse space for growing vegetables and/or ornamental plants. This EcoComplex component is waiting on the needed shared relationships of the EcoComplex before it can be realized.

Hmong Demonstration Site The County leased 1-acre of land to the Hmong Association for use as a horticultural demonstration site which includes a high tunnel structure that extends the growing season up to 6 weeks. This project recently completed a "Growers School" providing a series of educational workshops for more than 20 Hmong farmers.

Wireless Broadband Internet Motorola, in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo), has provided, through a grant to Catawba County, wireless broadband equipment to enhance Catawba County's internet connectivity at the EcoComplex. This equipment, installed by Double Radius, provides a wireless internet mesh over the EcoComplex to provide increased connectivity and faster internet speeds. Having this wireless connectivity will improve Catawba County's greenhouse gas emissions monitoring and allow its research partners, such as Appalachian State University at the Biodiesel Research, Development, and Production Facility, enhanced data collection and transmission. Now, no matter where you may be at the EcoComplex you will have the ability to collect and send data wirelessly thanks to Motorola and NACo.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 8/22/11

Traveler: Romy M. Cachola

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 Registration
2. Airfare	517.30	Roundtrip, Honolulu - Portland, Hawaiian Airlines
3. Hotel	1275.78	Hilton Portland & Executive Tower 7/14-7/19
4. Meals	136.10	
5. Ground Transportation	28.00	
6. Tips	20.00	
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2467.18	

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

AUG 25 2011
Date