

May 8, 2013

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 8, 2013, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Ron Downey, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:30 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM: **Gary Hablutzel, Joint Powers Trust:** Gary is the representative for the county employee health insurance. This year the health insurance premium will increase 4% which is a small increase compared to the average. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the Joint Powers trust insurance for another four years and it carried.

10:10 AM: The commissioners read **the minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting**. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

10:30 AM: **Vic White, EMA:** Vic is asking the commissioners for their support for two grants. The first is the Fire Co-op fund grant which gives an amount to each fire department and the county matches 10%. The commissioners warned that in the next couple of years they may not be able to match, but this year the small match should be okay. The second grant is for flooding to purchase staff gages. This grant is 25% "soft" match which means it can be county workers and no real money. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the support of the grants and it carried.

11:00 AM: **FWP/USFW:** The Fish Wildlife and Parks representatives are here for the monthly update. Mike Hensler and Jim Dunnigan spoke about the water invasive species that are becoming the responsibilities of the Fish and Game. Jim also showed pictures of algae that is new to the Fish and Game in the Kootenai and all over the US. They have looked into it and are trying to determine if it is an invasive species. It is worst next to the dam. June 6th there will be a public meeting about the Selenium in the water. There is a lot of concern about what levels are too much and the mineral is coming off the rocks and into the water on the reservoir. The men do not feel that there is a danger of eating the fish. Commissioner Downey asked Kim Annis about the bear that is roaming around the Revett mine. Kim hadn't heard about that bear yet. There was a discussion about the Grizzly Bears and delisting. There was a discussion about the green box sites.

12:15 PM: The commissioners received a **lease agreement from the Forest Service** for the helipads at the Libby Airport. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the lease and it carried.

12:20 PM: The commissioners have been discussing the budgets with the department heads and among themselves for ideas for cutting back on expenses. They discussed a hiring freeze that would require any hiring to go through the commissioners in order to evaluate whether an employee could be shared or whether hiring is necessary. Commissioner Downey moved to initiate a **hiring freeze in Lincoln County** and it carried.

1:30 PM: The commissioners went to the **Libby Rifle Range** to look at the facility and to **the Libby Airport**.

3:00 PM: **Dan Williams, Weed Department:** Dan has requested to hire three 90 day temporary employees for the summer to work on grant treatments. Rom moved to allow the temps and it carried. There is another grant that Dan presented for signatures. This grant is for Skeleton Weed management. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the grant and it carried.

3:10 PM: The commissioners have been discussing the employee **FLEX program** which puts \$600 per employee toward medical costs not covered by insurance. Commissioner Cole moved to discontinue the FLEX program county contribution and allow employees to continue the program with personal contributions as long as they are willing to pay the \$6.50 administration fee.

3:15 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board