

June 11, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 11, 2014, 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.

9:00 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 AM: **Greg Jackson, MACO:** Greg is here with Brad Solenon, Workers Compensation Agent and Colleen Wood of Tom Wood Insurance. This annual meeting is for the county property and liability insurance and the Workers compensation insurance. Greg explained the way the company figures the costs of insurance. The group discussed the claims in the past couple of years. The county insurance will increase 7% this year. Greg talked about the jail issues that Montana is facing. MACO has created a jail advisory panel to oversee a program to establish a mechanism to help counties to develop effective jail procedures. Workers Compensation insurance claims were increased this year. The rates will increase by 7% as well however the modifier is lower for Lincoln County so the increases may be smaller.

10:00 AM: **EPA Update:** Rebecca Thomas, Christina Proggess, Liz Fagen and Jennifer Lane and here today from the EPA and Dania Zinner is on the phone. This year the EPA is planning on doing their annual update by holding 2 meetings, one in Troy and one in Libby that will be open to the public. This evening there will be a combined TAG/CAG meeting. This will address the 2014 Removal approach and the risk assessment. The schedule is this fall for the toxicity numbers and the feasibility study will also be ready by then. The O&M Transition meeting is set for July 15, 2014, with Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The TAG group has hired two advisors to comment on the 2014 removal program, wildfires and firewood harvesting and burning. The EPA Senior Officials are set to visit the week of September 8, 2014. Commissioner Cole told the EPA people that he really appreciated the meetings in Denver. Liz spoke about the commercial logging ABS study and that they haven't found a contractor for that yet. Also, she spoke about a Tailings Dam Improvement study that is being planned. Commissioner Berget asked Rebecca if the mine site would ever be available for public use. Rebecca said has no answer to that yet. Rebecca talked about the 2014 removal approach. Anything above "trace" must be removed. She gave a handout called "EPA's Asbestos Removals in Libby-Changes for 2014" which outlined the criteria for removal. The property projections show that there are still between 1400 and 2300 properties that still are in need of investigation. The EPA will be taking 30 properties that were previously studied and do a more extensive study to be sure that the outcome does not change. So according to the projections, the studies could feasibly be done within 2 years. There will be about 70 removals this summer. Rebecca reminded the commissioners that there are still many properties out there where the owners have chosen not to participate in the program or study. EPA would like to forgo the July meeting and meet again in August. The commissioners agreed.

11:00 AM: **FWP/USFW monthly meeting:** Mike Hensler, Jim Dunnigan and Ryan Sylvester are here today to update the commissioners on fish and waterways. The group discussed the invasive species checkpoints locally. They also talked about the Bull Trout in the creeks in the area. Mike talked about Libby Creek and the Swamp Creek construction area. Commissioner Downey visited with Mike about the Milnor Lake project. Jim reminded the commissioners that the Troy Fish Pond is having a fishing day on Saturday for kids.

12:00 PM: **Gary Hablutzal, EBMS Insurance:** Gary is the representative for the county health insurance. Gary told the commissioners about the impact of the changes in the health insurance costs due to Obamacare and the regular changes due to usage. The county regular increase would be 4% and the increase due to other changes is 4.9% for a total of 8.9% increase in health insurance for the next fiscal year. The commissioners will take this under advisement and will let Gary know by the close of the fiscal year for insurance which is August.

1:00 PM: The commissioners will spend the afternoon from 1 to 5 in a **training session on Subdivisions presented by Susan B Swimley and Tara DePuy, attorneys for MACO and Alan F McCormick of Garlington, Lohn and Robinson of Missoula.** Fifteen people attended the training.

5:00 PM: The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget

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