

December 16, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on December 16, 2015, in the Eureka Annex of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck via Vision Net and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

Commissioner Cole **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

10:00 AM **Lois Sciligo/Fair Update:** Present is Krista Nemeroff

The 2016 fair dates are August 25 – 28. The theme is: *Montana Treasures, Handmade and Homegrown*.

The Fair Foundation Board has applied for 501 c (3) status. The foundation board will be actively looking towards grants and fundraising to help support the Lincoln County Fair.

The Fair Board will be recruiting youth, 7th grade or higher to join the fair board. The board would like youth input on fair development and planning as well as recruiting for future board members.

Lois provided a report on preliminary needs assessment for the Lincoln County fairgrounds. The needs assessment will help to identify priorities and cost estimates. A new septic system is one of the higher cost items. There are 9 septic systems at the fairground property and all have failed and have needed maintenance. Some electrical issues will need to be addressed as well. Some of the other priorities are building maintenance, bathrooms, landscaping, and irrigation needs.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission read the minutes for December 9, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- The Commission read the minutes for December 9, 2015 CVFSA Public Hearing. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **Closure of the courthouse December 24, 2015:** The Honorable Judge Wheelis ordered the courthouse to be closed at noon on December 24, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to give half day off to employees with pay on December 24, Christmas Eve, due to the District Court Judge order of courthouse closure. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. The history is employees decided to either stay and work the entire day or use vacation time. Commissioner Peck commented that since the county has been unable to provide pay raises and COLA for several years it would be a good gesture and it does not affect the budget. Commissioner Peck will communicate the decision to the department supervisors. Employees that are required to work during the closure will receive four hours of paid straight comp time.
- **Lloyd Miller Petition to block easement:** Based on MCA statutes the only way to legally abandon the easement would be to have everyone affected sign a petition to approve it and to go through the public hearing process. Commissioner Peck read from the plat map indicating the road in question is actually a county easement, deeded county property to the public forever as part of the subdivision. The commission decided to deny request to block easement/thoroughfare and recommends Mr. Miller to secure his own property line. Commissioner Peck will draft letter to Mr. Miller.
- The commission clarified that Resolution No. 953 regarding the county emergency declaration due to the recent emergency flood situation that was signed on December 9, 2015 will be in effect for 30 days.

11:00 Am **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

11:30 AM **Lisa Oedewaldt/Planning Department:**

Final Approval/White Pine Subdivision: Located in T30N R31W Section 8. Land owners are Dave Kneller, Phillip & Barbara Soucy, and Scott & Patricia Lennard. Surveyor is KSI, Libby. The proposed single-family residence subdivision is southwest of Libby, MT adjacent to Panoramic Views Subdivision. The developers intend to create 6 lots from the 121.13 acre parcel(s). The Planning Board recommends the commission to grant final approval to White Pine Subdivision, subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to approve White Pine Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the planning staff report. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1:00 M **District Board Appointments:** Present were Ron Carter, Pam Pluid, Barb Morgan, Wendy Eaton, Gail Butchart, Leigh Erickson, Nikki Meyer, and Karen Doble.

- Trego, Fortine, Stryker FSA Board: One application received from Dale Baldwin. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Dale Baldwin to serve on the Trego, Fortine, Stryker FSA Board. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Eureka Cemetery Board: Two applications were received; Pam Pluid and Jennifer Schermerhorn. Barbara Morgan, Chairman of the Eureka Cemetery Board is requesting Pam Pluid be appointed to replace her. Pam is currently the Ex Officio Member. Barbara said the board would like Jennifer Schermerhorn to replace Pam as the Ex Officio member. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Pam Pluid to serve on the Eureka Cemetery Board. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Lincoln County Weed Board: Two board positions are vacant. Applications were received from Terry Comstock, Peter Kitts, and Gary Neff. A letter was submitted by the Lincoln County Weed Board recommending Terry Comstock and Peter Kitts. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Terry Comstock and Peter Kitts to serve on the Lincoln County Weed Board. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Wilderness Plateau W/S District: Two board positions are vacant. Applications were received from Bill Lingel, Brady Selle, and Gary Neff. A letter was submitted by the Wilderness Plateau W/S District Board recommending

Brady Selle and Bill Lingel. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Brady Selle and Bill Lingel to serve on the Wilderness Plateau W/S District. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

- Lincoln County Port Authority Board: Two board positions are vacant. Applications were received from Robert (Bob) Zaccheo, Gary Neff, Ron Carter, and Clint Oster. A letter was submitted by the Lincoln County Port Authority Board recommending Robert Zaccheo and Clint Oster. Ron Carter asked if we knew the addresses of some of the applicants. Commissioner Cole said that Mr. Carter was welcome to look at all the applications for any information he may want. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Robert Zaccheo and Clint Oster to serve on the Lincoln County Port Authority Board. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Robin Benson received a letter from Irene Loveless, Fisher River FSA Secretary that Marlene Herreid has retired and the board would like the commission to appoint Cheryl Roediger to fill the remainder of Ms. Herreid's term. The term will expire June, 2017. Cheryl will have to apply at that time to remain on the board. A letter of interest was received from Cheryl Roediger. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Cheryl Roediger to fill vacancy and serve on the Fisher River FSA Board. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1:30 PM **Petition for Miller Lake Road/East Fisher River:** Present were Neil Bauer, Marc McCully, James D. Williams, Jack M. Williams, Ron Carter, and Nikki Meyer.

Road Supervisor Marc McCully received a petition with more than 10 signatures to move a portion of East Fisher Road to the existing roadbed and have the road declared a county road. The road was first deeded to the FS in 1938 and the county received an easement in 1994. Marc explained 23-2-312 MCA to the commission and how it applies to this issue. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to relocate a portion of East Fisher Road No. 228. Motion recinded. Marc will visit with Peter Dayton, lawyer out of Missioulia who specializes in road laws for correct terminology and process for this petition to move forward. Tabled until December 30. Neil Bauer complimented how helpful & diligent Marc has worked on this issue.

2:00 PM **Tracy McIntyre Project Update:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Bryan Donner. Also present is Deborah Gwynn representing Glacier Peak Holistics.

Tracy said the building cost for Glacier Peak Holistics is estimated at \$971,000. The Economic Development grant application is moving forward; will know more in approximately 30 days. Tracy will keep the commission apprised of any new developments. One of the next steps is to ask the commission for support to apply for a Big Sky Trust Fund application to help continue to grow Glacier Peak Holistics.

Archer Manufacturing has been looking at other buildings. Design work has been completed by Jackola on the new building to be located in the industrial district. This project has been put on hold until there are further developments.

Tracy has met with a group of individuals including the forest service to discuss a stream restoration project on Ksanka Creek. Commissioner Cole said the weakness of the stream and the issue is the stream is running through Creekside Trailer Court; it is detrimental and runs over the top of the well. Tracy has received a letter of support from the forest service to move the stream. The project will be completed in two phases. Tracy will apply for a DNRC Watershed grant for up to \$50,000. Procurement on an engineer is required for the planning grant application. Commissioner Cole commented that the city sewer project needs to get the water out of the Creekside Trailer Court. This is a need in the area and also affects private property wells. Rexford/Fortine District Ranger, Mr. Donner expressed support in moving forward with this project.

2:30 PM **Bryan Donner/Rexford/Fortine Ranger District Update:**

Bryan discussed some of the planning projects for the Rexford/Fortine District. The decision for the Harvey Creek blowdown salvage project has been signed and will be offered soon. There are small fire salvage project decisions this spring and sale soon after (Tween, Sunday, and Pinto Point). Plan for Galton Vegetation and Fuels Management project and the Ten Lakes Travel Management will be going out for comment. A bigger project in the planning stage is the Pinkham-Meadows Vegetation and Fuels Management project.

The concept of a residential YCC program at Murphy Lake is not likely, but they are investigating seasonal housing/conference center options.

Bryan said he would like to set up a meeting with the Commission and road managers in January or February to discuss several roads across the county and forest.

The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear process for delisting will require forest service plan revisions and grizzly bear amendments to coincide with conservation strategy. Commissioner Larson asked if the revisions could mean opening up more restrictions and asked if there is potential for the delisting to open up more logging and economic development projects. Donner said that since 2004 studies show a 3% grizzly bear growth per year.

Timber Sales Update:

- Four log deck sales created during the fire suppression efforts at Sunday and Marston were sold to 3 different purchasers totaling about 3 MMBF. All four sales are now either active or completed.
- Seven sales over 5 MMBF each are under contract and are either still logging or are about to begin harvest operations. Four other large sales are finished logging but still need to complete final contractual activities before the contract is closed.
- Eighteen small sales are still open, ranging from the large deck sales described above to a couple of truckloads of roadside blowdown salvage.

3:00 PM **Indian Springs Ranch Letter of Support:** Present were Steve Curtiss, Mikel Siemen, Troy Truman, and Abigail St. Lawrence via speakerphone.

Mikel is requesting a letter of support from the commission. Currently there are applications to DNRC for provisional wells groundwater for domestic drinking water located south of Indian Creek for residential benefit. Purpose of the applications is to complete the buildout of remaining phases of the subdivision.

Commissioner Cole said the board's stance is the county does not mind giving support for the process, but we are careful about giving rights for one group over another. Abby said the application is to communicate to DNRC that there is community support for the project. Commissioner Larson expressed concern about if there are difficulties down the road , what kind of liability falls to the county if there was county support.

Steve Curtiss said he is well apprised of the whole process, supports project with no concerns. Science provides the facts that there are no issues at all of concern. Abby said the application does not short circuit DNRC review.

Abby will be happy to work with commission to draft the wording on the support letter. Mikel would like to be back on the agenda in January for further discussion. Commissioner Larson said he felt the county would be ok with a general letter of support. **MOTION** by Commissioner Larson to approve a general letter of support indicating the economic development benefits by the project moving forward. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

3:00 PM The **meeting was adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board