

JULY 8, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met on July 8, 2015, in the Commissioner's office in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Pec, Administrative assistant, Bill Bischoff and Assistant Election Administrator Leigh Riggleman.

9:00 AM – **Meeting was opened** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:04 AM - **Eric Klepfer and Glen Dobbs, from Montanore** for update on where they are at this time and to share perspective about timelines. In mid-2005 they started the re-permitting process and time-lines. Regulatory climate has changed significantly and non-environmental forces have come into play that has slowed permitting. He gave examples of these forces and gave examples of litigation claims that have slowed forward progress, are still ongoing and have resulted in over a million dollars of legal costs. They are waiting for the Forest Service impact study, but expect it to be done soon, but there is no definitive time frame, but estimate that it will be released in September of 2015 and said that the Montana Congressmen are watching this closely. Discussion turned to grizzly bear mitigation and purchase of land for this purpose as required. Commissioner Cole expressed the board's support of working through the mitigation. They will be required to give over approximately 6700 acres to the Federal Government or other approved entities for mitigation and are working from an approved list from the Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife. The board expressed its dissatisfaction about giving the Federal Government more land and called the list 'cherry picking' of pieces of land and felt it was a form of extortion. Healthy Grizzly Bear Initiative and presented it to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal was that Montanore would develop and manage grizzly bear habitat with a facility called The Grizzly Bear Institute that they would build and manage it. It would be located in Libby with large grants to sustain it by Montanore and they would like it to be a collaborative effort between many agencies. Proposal for management and public education was presented, but they felt it was ignored, but would like to be able to revisit sometime in the future.

9:47 AM – **PUBLIC COMMENT** - NONE

9:50 AM – **Tom Magone – Maintenance Department** updated the board concerning the courthouse cooling system update. PVC piping rather than copper tubing that causes problems – if a leak occurs, the entire 2000 gallon system drains and causes massive problems. The cooling tower is having problems and a new motor will be installed today. He did get an estimate for the Annex for new heat pumps and was \$24,000. The current venting for the courthouse is for fresh air. The best alternative would probably be the individual Mitsubishi units. Commissioner Peck would like to see additional information on the best way to save money and be more efficient. Replacement of all the PVC piping to copper would be at least \$100,000 and for that amount, it would be in the best interests to look at alternatives and recommendations and get estimates for several options.

10:10 AM – **Road Abandonment** – of a portion of Waterfront Road, Kootenai Vista Subdivision, Troy, MT. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to abandon this portion of road, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

10:30 AM – **Libby Folf (disc golf) course Proclamation** – Carolyn and Randy Hardy in attendance. Commissioner Cole read proclamation naming the disc golf course in J. Niels Park as Zachary William Haines Disc Golf Course – this young man lost his life to cancer and loved to play Folf. Carolyn and Randy were the founders of this course. It's been redone so that tournaments can be held. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the new name of Zachary William Haines Disc Golf course, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

11:00 AM – **Fish Wildlife and Parks and the US Forest Service** – Wayne Kasworm, Kim Annis, Tonya Chilton, Mike Hensler, and Ryan Sylvester in attendance. Ryan Sylvester on Creel survey, total caught was 20,000 fish with a predominance of rainbow trout. Over 28" fish was approximately 50. Mike Hensler says that there are a lot of kokanee that have come through the dam and are in the river. Streams are lower for this time of year and they have been able to get in and do surveys on population levels of fish about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. They are going to stock muskies – which is a non-native species in Horseshoe Lake to biological change the population of the lake. The fish are sterile and the suckers and pike can be eaten by the larger predator fish. They are about 10 years old and are about 40 inches. The numbers are declining and so a new stock is being put back in. Tonya

Chilton reported on black bear management and estimates of black bear populations with new methods that consider habitats, harvesting numbers. Changes of criteria – habitat and the amount of, harvest levels and focus primarily on female bear. Good black bear habitat contains moisture, brush, trees. Big Horn Sheep Rams around the areas are starting to separate from the larger herds – which is normal. One group is being sighted along Highway 37 by the Ponderosa Heights area. Commissioner Larson mentioned that signage is going to be installed along Highway 2 from Kootenai Falls to the Strawberry Patch acreage. Kim talked about foods like chokecherries, huckleberries and commented that they are coming on early and are spotty and that the likelihood of bears having to range further for food sources. She has a grant for additional bear proof garbage containers to be loaned out to the public as well as electric fencing program. Wayne Kasworm – Commissioner Larson asked about the Montanore proposed Grizzly Bear Institute and why there had been little or no response on this. Wayne commented that the idea wasn't a very good one and that there were several other agencies that weren't keen with the idea and part of that plan involved supplemental feeding of the grizzly bear. They felt that the funds could be spent in other ways that would make a bigger impact on the community. Commissioner Peck wants to find a long term management, education and cooperative effort between all concerned groups. Outreach and education is important. Wayne updates on trapping programs to collar bears, death of a female grizzly bear by natural means, berry crops are still up in the air, as well as more trapping in the Cabinets, Yaak and Selkirks.

1:30 PM – **Lisa Oedewaldt and Deb Blystone from Lincoln County Planning** – Subdivision Review on Echo Flats – 2 lots off of Chase Cutoff in the Lake Creek area. 2 approaches and utilities are already in, but needed a couple of slash piles burned. Tom Martin, a neighboring property owner provided additional information and wanted to know if access to property south of these 2 lots. Lisa responded that, as it is private land, the owner has the right to grant access/easement. Besides standard conditions, driveways need to meet county standards and 2 small areas that are too steep be considered NO BUILD zones. Recommendation is to approve the subdivision with Conditions of Approval. **Motion** from Commissioner Peck to approve the Echo Flats Subdivision, Commissioner Larson seconded, and so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

Final Plat on Fewks – Final Plat Approval that is adjacent to Dorr Skeels. **Motion** from Commissioner Peck to approve final plat, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

It's a View II – Final Plat approval – **Motion** from Commissioner Larson to approve final plan, Commissioner Peck seconded and so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

Easement holder, Plat 1706 versus homeowners Steed and Sanguine. Discussion concerning the dock on Glen Lake – isn't permitted because it was floating and removable but the dock shifted. The permit is for the stairs, but not the dock. It is a civil matter, not a county matter and the Board will take this under advisement.

Discussion followed on conditions of parts Chase Cutoff Road.

2:30 PM – **Legal Advertising Bid Award** – bid award was tabled from July 1, 2015. **Motion** made by Commissioner Larson to award the advertising bid to low bidder, which was The Kootenai Valley Record, seconded by Commissioner Cole and so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

3:00 PM – **Upper Yaak Fire Service Area and a request for rate increase** – Commissioner Cole read Resolution 939 to amend and increase the fee schedule for the Upper Yaak Fire Service Area and to conduct a Public Hearing on July 29, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to conduct a Public Hearing on July 29, 2015 and seconded by Commissioner Cole. Discussion followed about clarification on the fee wording and the fact that fees have not increased since the Fire Service Area was formed. Jim Johnson asked that the Public Hearing be conducted in the Fire Service Area, rather than the Commissioner's Office. Commissioners are willing to take it into consideration. And so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

3:15 – **Continued Succession Planning** – Present are Lisa Oedewaldt, Deb Blystone, Roby Bowe, Brent Faulkner, Vic White, and Robin Benson

Lisa Oedewaldt discussed her continuation as the County Planner and working within Emergency Management. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the Sheriff's Department to replace staff vacancy, seconded by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

Administrative

Commissioner Peck read a letter thanking the Public for their due diligence during the 4th of July and the fireworks ban and it was agreed to send it to Lincoln County papers.

\$ 1,882.99 requested by the CanAM Search and Rescue for expenses from Title III funds. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve paying this claim, Commissioner Peck seconded and so ordered by unanimous consent of the Board.

June 8, 2015 – Closed Meeting Minutes – **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve as written, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

July 1, 2015 Commissioner Minutes – **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve as written, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

July 7, 2015 Commissioner Minutes - **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve as written, Commissioner Larson seconded and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

Commission signed the annual City of Libby/Lincoln County EMA lease agreement through June 30, 2016. The agreement reflects no increase from the previous year.

4:00 PM **Meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Leigh A. Riggleman, Clerk of the Board