

November 10, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 10, 2015, in the Commissioner's Office of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:15 AM **Columbia River Treaty/Congressional Staff and Local Officials:** Present were House District 2 Rep. Mike Cuffe, Senate District 1 Rep. Chas Vincent, House District 1 Rep. Jerry Bennett, Kyle Schmauch representing Senator Daine's Office, John Fuller, representing Congressman Zinke's Office, Mayor of Rexford Richard Payton, Steve Curtiss and also present via telephone conferencing is Chad Campbell and Eric Nyland from Senator Tester's Office and Spencer Merwyn from Senator Daine's Office.

The purpose of this meeting is to request support letters from Montana legislators for Montana to be included for compensation in the Columbia River Treaty. Letters need to be submitted to Brian Doherty, U.S. Department of State Chief Negotiator for the treaty. Mr. Cuffe met with Brian Doherty on October 5, 2015 to present the full case for Lincoln County. Mr. Doherty told Mr. Cuffe if letters of support were received than chances of Montana being included increased significantly. Mr. Cuffe has also met with Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Ryan Zinke and each arranged for him to discuss it in detail with their staff members focusing on natural resources and energy. During the 2015 Montana Legislature, a resolution was passed in support of compensation, and a state special account was established for it. Mr. Cuffe said support of the concept by Montana's delegates to NorthWest Power planning Conservation Council is noted in a letter dated November 14, 2015 and that letter includes similar support of the governor's office. Since Lincoln County is the only area in the USA that sacrificed to save property, homes, lives and livelihoods of downstream communities, a structure in the legislature has been set up that distributes 20% of the compensation to the Montana General Fund and 80% to Lincoln County for schools, roads, general operations and trust fund for infrastructure projects. Gaining interest in the U.S. Department of State is the fact that water stored behind Libby Dam flows into Idaho, then back into British Columbia where it joins the Columbia River and helps generate electricity before passing into Washington State. Next, that water begins passage through Grand Coulee Dam and on to several more Columbia River dams. Mr. Cuffe said he is seeking support for monetary compensation for taxpayers and citizens in Lincoln County of Northwest Montana by using the same formula to compensate Lincoln County that was used to compensate British Columbia and Columbia Basin Trust.

2:00 PM **Lisa Oedewaldt/Planning:**

Final Plat for Flat Iron Subdivision: Ken Davis explained changes in lot layout which needs to be approved by DEQ. Paperwork has not caught up with today's meeting, so Ken asked to be scheduled at the Commission's earliest convenience. The Commission will meet on November 17 at 11:00 am for further review.

2:15 PM **Assistant Election Administrator Leigh Riggelman/County Canvass:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker and DC Orr.

Leigh presented the Official Canvass for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Elections for City of Libby, City of Troy, Town of Eureka and Town of Rexford. Leigh provided County governing board as county recount board MCA 13-16-101 and Conditions under which recount to be conducted MCA 13-16-201. **Motion** by Larson to approve County Canvass as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

DC has questions about the viewing ballots that have overvotes. Leigh said the only way the sealed ballots can be opened is by a request for a recount or the District Court Judge gives an order for permission for sealed ballots to be opened.

2:30 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- ARP Discussion: The Commission met with Kathi Hooper and Nick Raines for further discussion regarding restructuring the ARP program and rewriting a new Interlocal Agreement with the City/County Board of Health. Commissioner Peck suggested an independent look to ensure we are moving forward correctly.
- Robin Benson reported to the Commission that she met with the Lincoln County Rural Fire District on November 11, 2015 to present the new county policy by Resolution No. 933, advertising board vacancies. Commissioner Peck will contact LCRFD Board Chairman Dick Wood and follow up.

3:30 PM **The meeting was adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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