

February 10, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 10, 2016, in the Commissioner's Office of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson. Absent Commissioner Peck; in Missoula meeting with DEQ and EPA.

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

9:15 AM **WWC Engineering/Tracy McKintyre/Federal Land Access Program (FLAP):** Present were Tracy McIntyre, Jeremy Fadness and Robert Neihart representing WWC Engineering via Vision Net, Alan Gerstenecker, and Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via Vision Net.

Discussion centered around what encompasses FLAP projects and how to meet their requirements. Tracy said Airport Road in Eureka is in bad shape and widening Sophie Lake Road on both sides is the project we want to move forward with. Tracy said today is just a discussion about the scope of work the county would like to apply for and then we can talk about the county match. In kind contributions are allowed if road crews do some of the work. Commissioner Larson verified that today no decisions will be made. Commissioner Larson suggested the project would need a maintenance agreement for clarity of responsibilities. Tracy said FLAP projects must be submitted jointly. Applications would need County and Forest Service involvement and signatures from both agencies. Tracy said she does not have the information for a potential Libby Project at this time. A good project would be to study a portion of Pipe Creek Road beyond Turner Mountain as a potential project. Commissioner Cole said we should pick a project and move forward to put all the pieces together. Tracy said submitting an application now would anticipate 2019 /2020 before funding is available. Right now we need maps and a good idea of a project and once the application is approved, then the details are hammered out with a specific and more defined plan. Commissioner Cole said that both Sophie Lake and Pipe Creek projects fall into that whole recreational aspect to match what FLAP is looking for in its criteria and qualifications for projects.

Tracy reminded the Commission that Recreational Trail Program application is due March 11, 2016 for trail enhancement projects.

9:45 AM **Closed Meeting/Approval of Minutes/Personnel: Postponed**

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- The Commission read the minutes for January 27, 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve minutes with one correction. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve lease agreement request between Lincoln County and Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. The lease agreement is for the Workforce Services Division (job service) to rent space at the Eureka Annex building for \$780.00 for the entire 2016 year.
- The Commission received a letter from the Vocational School of Innovation requesting funding to help purchase three 4-post lifts for the automotive center and for the purchase of one electronic board that students will use to learn more about electronics. Total cost of request is \$31,000. Commissioner Larson said he is in favor of participating in training a future workforce and supporting the vocational training center. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve request in its entirety up to \$31,000 out of the Economic Development Fund. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Commissioner Larson shared three requests for funds that he has approved; \$3000.00 to the Troy Museum, \$5000.00 for Troy School grounds, and \$1,724.00 to the Troy Archery Club. Funds will be paid from the Troy Parks Fund.

10:30 PM **Public Comment Time:**

County Weed Director, Dan Williams submitted a Cooperative Six Year Integrated Noxious Weed Management Agreement between DNRC and the Lincoln County District Weed Board. The agreement outlines the mutual responsibilities for management and control of noxious weeds on School Trust Lands and other DNRC controlled lands situated within the bounds of the weed district. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve agreement as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

County Maintenance Supervisor, Tom Magone talked about beautification of the courthouse and other county buildings. Tom said he would like all of Lincoln County to be involved and that he is looking for local artists who are willing to donate art to display within the courthouse and other county buildings.

Tom said the transfer switch for the generator needs to be replaced. Total cost for repairs (transfer switch and labor combined) is approximately \$4,000. The Commission approved repairs and will determine the fund to be paid from when work is completed.

11:00 PM **FWP/USFW Monthly Update:** Present were Ryan Sylvester, Jim Dunnigan, Mike Hensler, Kim Annis and Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via Vision Net

Kim said that directly after this meeting she will be headed to the Yaak to deal with an orphaned cub and determine what kind of condition it is in. The rehab facility in Helena is full; already has 20 to 30 bears. If the cub is in good condition she will try to get it to a better location. There was a lot more orphaning last fall than in prior years and it has been a tough year regarding mother and cub separation. There are many variables for this to happen.

Kim said the West Kootenai status of bear proof dumpsters is working fine, except doors and latches have become broken because they are not meant for constant public use. It is typically the dumping process that breaks the doors and latches. A possible solution is for the county to get eyes on them more often; currently there is a lack of maintenance.

Kim is in discussion with Environmental Health Manager, Kathi Hooper to work out a solution. Kim said there is a concern about using the same bear proof dumpsters in other areas since West Kootenai is a lower public use area. The dumpsters are not recommended for high use areas.

Kim said she has met with Mayor Coldwell about the dumpster site located across from the Troy Elementary School. There are discussions about fencing the Troy site or moving it to the landfill. Options for funding are also being discussed. Kim said decisions are with the City of Troy and County. Commissioner Larson feels it is a decision the city needs to weigh in on. Kim will be visiting with the Troy City Council to keep the discussion going.

Kim said work on the Fisher River Dumpster Site Project may be fully funded. There has been \$15,000 pledged but not guaranteed yet. Other funding/grant opportunities were discussed.

Jim discussed his involvement with the Kootenai River Network which currently is focusing on water quality projects. Agencies in the entire county water basin are represented. Jim said collectively we can achieve way more than individually. The culvert on Sinclair Creek located on West Road is severely undersized and is problematic during flood season. The design has been funded and paid for. The idea is a cost share with the county and to collectively come up with an idea or replacement plan to move forward with the project. There is \$50,000 in funding which will cover materials but this is only to complete the project. Engineering or a site overseer will need to be discussed. Commissioner Cole said he will visit with District 3 Road Supervisor Tim White and come back with more information stating that it is a soft spot that needs to be addressed since it presents a potential hazard.

Ryan discussed the fishing surveys to track fish from Libby Dam down to Osprey Landing. The survey will continue through the end of February. The survey indicates there have been 40 inland freshwater rainbow trout harvested that are over 28 inches. Last year there were only 25. Typically, this is a good time of the year to catch the bigger fish. Almost zero is hatchery fish, but a few may come through the dam. This year there have been more out of state people fishing in those areas due to closures in their local areas.

Jim said a graduate student has finished her testing on the Diddy Mo algae and will be providing reports explaining a tool to treat the algae. The tool is phosphorus; not only phosphorus, but the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus. The question would be is would we go through the expense to implement the tool she created if it's not going to do anything for trout or if the impact to trout is unknown. Also, flows of the reservoir, snow & rain runoff and other variables all contribute to the ratio of nitrates and phosphorus which impacts the increase or decrease of the Diddy Mo algae.

Mike Hensler discussed the Invasive species program. The boat inspection stations are most valuable for the education aspect. The public learns how to go through the steps to completely dry out your boat from one body of water to another. We are changing and increasing the public perception of its importance to decrease the spread of invasive species. Stations are for any water craft including kayaks. Commissioner Larson asked about the percentage of boats checked with endangered species. Mr. Hensler said he could send reports with statistics.

Mr. Hensler handed out a guide to Montana Water Resources and Permitting. The permitting process and regulations are wide-ranging and can be complex. The guide outlines the permitting process to assist in getting started by providing basic information on the permits and directing people to the agencies and resources that can provide more detailed information. Mr. Hensler would like to get everyone together as a reminder to teach people about talking with permitting entities which would help with input on projects. There are several entities involved in the permitting process. Commissioner Larson expressed that he agrees with a proactive approach. Mr. Hensler said he will work on getting everyone together, possibly next month.

1:30 PM **KRDC/Master Trail Concept Plan for Greater Libby:** Present were Tina Oliphant, Peggy Williams, Donna White and Alan Gerstenecker.

Tina is here to visit with the commission about two BSTF grant projects to be managed by KRDC. Kootenai River Development council is submitting a BSTF grant for \$7,500 toward planning services to facilitate the preparation of a Master Plan to guide the future use, management, conservation, and enhancement of non-motorized recreational facilities in and near the City of Libby. The entire project cost is not to exceed \$15,000. KRDC is looking for a source of matched cash to supply \$7,500 toward the project. This is a ground roots effort about how to get a trail system connecting to downtown. Eastern Washington University has a Master Plan where this is all they do. KRDC would manage the grant, but would like to see the county take a supporting role. The commission will take the information under advisement.

Kootenai River Development Council is submitting a BSTF grant for \$5,000 toward planning services to create a Strategic Plan of an Operating History Exhibit of the Shay #4 Steam Locomotive and the 1876 Ringling Bros Combination Passenger/Baggage Car; Heritage Museum, Libby, MT. The amount of the grant request is \$5,000 to be matched by grant funds from the Montana Historical Foundation. Tina is asking for a letter of support for the benefit of the museum.

2:00 PM **IT Property Tax Abatement, Alpine Precision:**

Tina notified the commission that Alpine Precision, Inc. is going into a 9000 sq. ft. building and is requesting from the county property tax abatement. It's a tax incentive program for companies investing into expansion and fixed assets pursuant to Sec. 15-24-1402 M.C.A. Alpine Precision, Inc. is expanding its machine shop and office space. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the public notice/public hearing date of Feb. 24 to approve resolution 956.

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

---

Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board