

March 10, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session at 4 PM on March 10, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Peck, and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson. Also present were MT HD 2 Rep. Mike Cuffe, Luke Russell, Doug Stiles, Monique Hayes representing HECLA Mining Company and Bruce Vincent representing Environomics.

Luke gave a brief introduction and gave a history of the Rock Creek Mine. On February 19, 2016 the Kootenai National Forest released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Rock Creek mine. The Forest Service is taking in written comments due by April 4, 2016. Written comments can be submitted to Michal Huffine, KNF, 31374 U.S. Hwy. 2, Libby, or by email to: rockcreekmine@fs.fed.us. Rock Creek is an underground silver/copper mine that will operate at about 10,000 tons per day. The project consists of approximately 480 acres with over 70% of that being tailings facility located some 5 miles and 3500 feet lower than the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness (CMW) boundary.

Phase I of the project is development of a 6000 foot exploration adit into the ore body. The exploration part of Phase I include collection of geologic, hydrologic and other environmental data to support a feasibility study and future development decision. Phase 1 is estimated to employ approximately 80 people and will be a 2-4 year period.

Phase II would be construction, operation and ultimate closure of the mine following an estimated 30-35 year mine life. The mine will produce over 200 million ounces of silver and over 2 billion pounds of copper. The mine will utilize the paste tailings method of management and will provide over 300 career making jobs and generate over \$175 M in license and property taxes over the life of the mine.

Luke requested a Letter of Support from the Lincoln County Commission by April 4, 2016.

5:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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