

March 9, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 9, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Mark Peck, Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson, and Deputy Clerk Chris Nelson.

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

9:00 AM Administrative Issues:

- The Commission read the minutes for March 2 and March 3, 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Reschedule LCRFD Public Hearing to be held on March 30, 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to amend and sign Resolution 963-A to reschedule LCRFD Public Hearing from March 30 to April 7, 2016 at 6pm at the Ponderosa Room. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson asked the Commission to schedule the initial Department Head/Elected Officials 2016/2017 Budget Meeting and to deliver the state of the county budget message. Robin will deliver budget packets to the department supervisors at that time. The budget meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2016 at 3 PM.

9:30 AM Public Comment Time: DC Orr was present to discuss problems attaining information from EPA. Mr. Orr stated that EPA was becoming secretive and he feels there will not be Institutional Controls that cost nothing to the locals. Mr. Orr complimented the commissioners on the work they are doing to improve public trust.

10:00 AM EPA Update: Present were DC Orr, Mike Cirian, Alan Gerstenecker, and Nick Raines.

Mike Cirian from the EPA updated the commissioners on cleanup activities. Mr. Cirian said the EPA mailed out an annual update and there were 13 people that refused removals and 23 that deferred who have now changed their minds. Mr. Cirian said the EPA will be holding meetings the week of March 21, 2016 for all the contractors who are doing cleanup for the EPA. He said the EPA will advertise the meeting when they confirm the dates. Commissioner Cole asked if EPA kept any crews working during the winter. Mr. Cirian said they were able to keep a single interior cleaning crew through the winter and will begin the regular construction season in April.

11:00 AM FWP/USFW Monthly Meeting: Present were Kim Annis, Tonya Chilton-Rodandt, Donna White and Alan Gerstenecker.

Kim discussed her grant proposal to DNRC for the Fisher River area to help with costs for a dumpster site. This is still an ongoing coordination; ideas and conversations about different types of gates and costs are still being researched. There was a brief conversation about relocating the Troy sites. Kim has been visiting with Mayor Caldwell and Commissioner Larson regarding alternatives and solutions and would like to continue to assist with the process and help with providing options and solutions.

Kim talked about her public education classes and meetings that she provides to the community regarding wildlife.

Kim discussed the continued bear activity close to residential neighborhoods; there is also going to be more bear/human interaction as there are more walking paths and mountain biking trails in wooded areas. Kim mentioned that when a bear learns an easy food source such as fruit trees, garbage cans or birdseed, it is a behavior that is learned for the life of the bear.

Tonya discussed ideas and changes regarding the deer and elk hunting laws. The public is encouraged to read the hunting regulations to learn more about this, specifically changes to the first and last weeks of hunting season.

Commissioner Cole asked if the public discussions are different in the Libby and Troy area vs. the Eureka area. Tonya said there are a greater number of vicinities in the North end of Lincoln County where elk is being spotted by the public. Tonya discussed elk management and how elk population is increasing in the Fisher River area.

Kim said there is no way to determine what the huckleberry season will be like until May or June. It can also be spotty where one area is better than another area which will contribute to the types of wildlife activity in different areas. Tonya said the public education focus is to discuss the reasons why it is illegal to feed the deer and other wildlife; two of the main reasons include the actual harm it does to wildlife and the encouragement of other predators to your home.

1:00 PM Kathi Hooper/Public Health Discussion: Cancelled

1:30 PM Lisa Oedewaldt/Planning Department: Present were Lisa Oedewaldt, Deb Blystone, Donna White, Alan Gerstenecker and Larry Dolezal.

- **Colson Family Transfer:** **Motion** by Commissioner Cole to approve the Colson Family Transfer subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **Sedler Court Order Split:** Lisa said court order has already been ruled on, so this is a formality. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the Sedler Court Order Split as ruled. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered by the unanimous consent of the board.

Deb Blystone discussed an email from the census bureau concerning redistricting of census blocks. Deb said this could affect the commission districts in Lincoln County. The bureau is giving the county until March 14, 2016 to notify them if the county would like to have input during the process. The commissioners asked Deb said she feels the county should participate in the process. Deb said that she will email the Census Bureau that Lincoln County would like to participate and she will keep the commissioners up-to-date on the issue.

Lisa requested the commissioner to sign the application for the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$90,590. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$90,590. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

2:00 PM **Dan Williams Noxious Weed Budget:** Present were Donna White, Alan Gerstenecker, and Dan Williams. Dan Williams said that he was told to come back to the commissioners to discuss if there were funds available for spraying. Williams said that \$15,000 would help greatly in spraying the county roads and parks in the way they should be. Commissioner Cole asked if it would all be used for county property, which Williams said it would. Commissioner Cole said his position on the matter is that spraying is long overdue and needs to be done. The commissioners will take the request under advisement.

Commissioner Cole asked what success Dan has seen from using bugs to fight some of the county weed issues. Dan said that they have had great success using bugs to fight weeds.

2:15 PM **TRFD Annexation/Resolution of Intent:** Present were Larry Dolezal, Donna White, Deb Blystone, Alan Gerstenecker, Robin Benson, Harold Etienne and Deb Blystone
Election Administrator Leigh Riggleman said the requirements have been met for the Troy Rural Fire District Annexation. **Motion** by Commissioner Cole to approve Resolution #960 setting the public hearing for April 6, 2016 at 2pm. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered by the unanimous consent of the board.

2:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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