

September 7, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 7, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Peck was absent.

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

9:00 AM **USFS Monthly Update:** Present was Chris Savage and Alan Gerstenecker

**KNF Timber Program – Forest Priorities:**

- 136 mmbf of uncut wood under contract, equates to \$9.78M in remaining value
- Signed Dry Creek CE which is another Farm Bill Project (Sanders County)
- Comment period closed for Galton (Eureka)
- Will probably sign Lower Yaak, O'Brien Sheep project in the next week (Troy)
- Approx. 38 mmbf and lots of integrated restoration work completed through stewardship
- Flower Creek Environmental Assessment and Findings of No Significant Impact slated for this fall for decision
- Young Growth Draft should be out for review by the end of the month

**East Reservoir:**

- Ninth circuit remanded emergency restraining order (RO) back to the district court
- Judge Christensen denied plaintiffs RO. Now back to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit for another determination
- If a restraining order is issued, that would equate to about 28.7 mmbf under contract associated with this project
- Primarily road construction work has started

**OU3:**

- Working with EPA and other stakeholders around Feasibility Study and Remedial Investigation documents. WR Grace's contractor is trying to minimize OU3 boundary as well as the remediation that would be required within OU3
- Working on longer term fire preparedness and suppression strategy within OU3
- September 21 will be first meeting with only agency and government officials, and local, state and federal government officials around values at risk discussion.

**Montanore:**

- Still working on litigation. Court released the schedule. Hearing will be the beginning of the new calendar year.
- No other work has been started. MMC/MMI and Hecla will probably not do anything until acquisition is completed. Projected towards the end of the month.

**Upcoming Year and Other Priority Projects:**

- Finalizing Koochanusa Reservoir Management Plan. Plan will make recommendations on future development and opportunities for additional recreational facilities around the reservoir.
- FY 2017 Visitor use surveys will be conducted on the forest. Occurs every 5 years.
- Need to resolve management plan with Lincoln County and Libby Shooting Range.
- The KNF has been chosen to provide the 2017 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. The official press release will be sent out today.

Other brief discussions about RAC, 10 Lakes, Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and Sophie Lake.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Dallas Wamsley, Vic White, Alan Gerstenecker, Henry (Hank) LaSala and John R. Righter.

- Dallas discussed the July 14, 2016 minutes stating the new deputy county attorney rate retroactive to January 2015. The minutes need to be revised to state retroactive January 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to revise the July 14, 2016 minutes to state 2016 instead of 2015 as requested. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Juvenile Probation wants to hire two new people; there have been 3 recent resignations. Commissioner Larson and Commissioner Cole agreed the operations of the Juvenile Probation Facility need to be further evaluated. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to allow Juvenile Probation to hire two people to replace resignations. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Robin explained to the commission that there is no record in minutes that the minutes for July 27 have been approved and is requesting a motion for approval. Minutes for August 29 budget workshop, August 30 Budget Public Hearing, and August 31 regular meeting minutes were submitted for approval. Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Larson read the minutes submitted in their entirety. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve minutes for July 27, August 29, 30, and 31, 2016 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- The Commission signed a letter to all county boards clarifying the public process for mid-term vacancies.
- Eureka Dispatch Board notified Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson of a midterm vacancy. Robin did advertise the vacancy in the Tobacco Valley News for applications. One application came in from Bo Pitman. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve appointment of Bo Pitman to the Eureka Dispatch Board. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Henry (Hank) LaSala, John Righter and Alan Gerstenecker.

John Righter discussed the history of the research conducted to determine the necessity Troy Area Dispatch District (TADD). John questioned the validity of the election of 29 mills for the TADD in 2014. As of today John Righter and Hank LaSala has received 106 letters requesting the Board of County Commissioners pass the required Resolution of Intent to dissolve the TADD as outlined in MCA 7-11-1029.

John expressed his concerns for the residents who are on fixed incomes in the dispatch district and asked if we can provide the same service without the taxpayer cost, why would we not give the public the opportunity to make that decision? Hank said he has been working on this for 3 months and is requesting the commission to prepare the

Resolution of Intent to Dissolve TADD for the commissioner meeting on September 14, 2016. The resolution will then go to the county clerk for public notice as outlined in statute. Hank clarified that the Resolution of Intent does not dissolve the TADD but begins the public process to move forward. The commissioners thanked Hank and John for their research and efforts.

**11:30 AM FY 16/17 School Budgets/Approval:** Present were County Treasurer/ Superintendent Nancy Higgins.

Nancy submitted the Lincoln County School District Levies and budgets to the Commissioners as follows:

District #1 Troy Elementary 170.93 mills

District # 13 Eureka Elementary 91.16 mills

District #14 Fortine 142.94 mills

District #15 McCormick-Sylvanite 63.77

District #24 Yaak 64.49 mills

District #53 Trego 54.08 mills

Troy High School 100.14 mills

Libby Unified 241.92

Lincoln County High School Eureka 68.58

**Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve school district levies as presented with an update on the County Wide Funds later today. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.

County Wide Funds for Education is not completed but will be completed by end of day. Nancy will continue her presentation during the Final Budget Adoption at 2 PM today.

**1:00 PM EMA Update:** Present were EMA Director Kirk Kraft and Lisa Oedewaldt.

**Communications Update:**

- Finished Generator RFP, advertisement completed awarded to T.W. Enterprise. Only 2 bids were received.
- Solar installation in progress for Meadow Peak
- Working with MHP to finish Blue, King and Pinkham sites

EMA is working with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department to finalize the RFP for the 911 equipment upgrade.

EMA is coordinating with Cabinet Peaks Medical Center, planning a Bio Hazard Airborne Contaminant Exercise for September 17, 2016. This is an opportunity for the hospital to test its evacuation drill.

Kirk and Lisa attended the OU3 wildfire exercise last month. Kirk said the biggest take was we need to dial in Public Information Officer (PIO) and what those responsibilities will be. Kirk said the county needs to conduct a PIO training exercise coordinated with all agencies who would be involved in county emergency.

**1:30 PM Planning Department/Lisa Oedewaldt: Cancelled**

**2:00 PM FY 16/17 Final Budget Adoption:** Present were Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson, Robert Mast, Gerald Wallace, Chuck Gerheim, Alan Gerstenecker, and Suzanne Resch.

Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson submitted a final Levy Requirement Schedule to the Commission for approval. The county is allowed to levy 107.11 mills for the general fund. The Levy Requirement Schedule is balanced at 106.86 mills with 0.25 mills remaining. Robin also prepared *Resolution 977 – Levies for Lincoln County for Fiscal year 2016-2017* for the Commission to sign. Commissioner Cole read Resolution 977 in its entirety. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Resolution 977 and adopt the FY 2016/2017 Levy Requirement Schedule as presented. Commissioner Larson commended Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson for the hard work and preparing handouts that help make the budget easier to understand. Commissioner Cole said he mirrored Commissioner Larson's sentiments on the professionalism of the County Clerk. Commissioner Cole summarized the Levy Requirement Schedule to the public and said ultimately we did fund a portion out of PILT as we did last year. Commissioner Larson said one of the departments that did receive more funding was in the county attorney's office which he feels will reflect positive change.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole, motion carried. Alan Gerstenecker thanked Robin Benson for providing pie charts and graphics in the budget presentation for improved public knowledge and understanding.

**2:30 PM Sheriff's Department Update:** Present were Sheriff Roby Bowe, Undersheriff Brandon Huff, Vic White, Dallas Wamsley, Seaborn Larson, and Alan Gerstenecker.

Roby reminded the commission of an earlier request for ideas if the Sheriff's Department could manage the Juvenile Detention Facility to help it become financially stable. Roby said that statistics (real numbers) need to be thoroughly checked such as transport cost, employee cost including unemployment costs and cost of meals. There are legal guidelines and standards that need to be met for detention meals.

Roby said the management of the facility needs to run efficiently and effectively and it may help if we could market the facility to outside counties to help increase revenue. Ideas were discussed that would help with the management. Roby said the Sheriff's Department is not opposed to managing the facility but would prefer to manage under full time employees who are also cross trained within the Sheriff's Department. Roby wanted to be clear there may be initial costs before actual new revenues come in.

Brandon said he could reach out to other counties and try to get some firm data instead of guesswork to base decisions on moving forward.

**3:00 PM Meeting Adjourned:**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board