

April 18, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 18, 2018, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson, and County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Libby via VisionNet.

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

10:00 AM **Recommended Wilderness Area (RWA) Discussion:** Present were Scott Mattheis, Don Truman, Nikki Meyer and John Blodgett, Libby via VisionNet.

Scott discussed the continued erosion of forest access, and stated that Region 1 is the only region that appears to have arbitrary decisions. Scott feels the problem is in the evaluation of lands and that is why the Executive Order (EO) is so important; we need to maintain our established, traditional access to our public lands. Don said the EO would bring some consistency across the regions, recognizing Region 1 is making arbitrary decisions. Scott said he is here to get commissioner support on the EO. Commissioner Peck commented that he has looked at the EO objectively, and cannot find anything that stands out that is not already there and feels it brings consistency and fairness to the table. Commissioner Peck said he is willing to write up a letter of support for this. Commissioner Cole said this commission has always supported actions that allow us to maintain access to public lands. Commissioner Bennett thanked Scott and Don for their efforts and for keeping this in front of us.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Nikki Meyer and John Blodgett, Libby via VisionNet.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-ED) Support Agreement with Lincoln County for Fiscal Year 2019. The agreement is an annual renewal and is coordinated through the Lincoln County Extension Agency. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the SNAP-ED Agreement as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cole read the amendments of the MACo By-Laws, commenting the changes are mainly concerning electronic communications. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to accept the MACO By-Laws as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

Robin submitted minutes for March 21, 2018 Armstrong RV Park Public Hearing and minutes for April 11, 2018 regular meeting. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

The commission signed a support letter for the Columbia River Treaty as requested from House Rep. Mike Cuffe.

Darren commented that he attended a meeting with Can AM and David Thompson Search and Rescue. We are attempting to put together monies that were spent since 2006 by both Can Am and David Thompson and how that money was divided. Darren said he will bring this to the commission for further discussion.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Bryan Donner/USFS:** Present were Nikki Meyer and John Blodgett, Libby via VisionNet. *Bryan Donner submitted the following update from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts.*

Lincoln County Commissioner's Meeting  
April 18, 2018  
Eureka, Montana

Updates from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts:

- 1) Current large planning projects:
  - a. Caribou Fire Salvage
    - i. Excellent progress is being made on preparing the EA and with US FWS consultation
    - ii. Draft EA expected mid-May
  - b. Gibraltar Ridge Fire Salvage
    - i. Decision signed yesterday; you will be getting a mailing early next week
  - c. Ten Lakes Travel Management EIS & Pinkham Meadow EIS – delayed due to priority efforts around the fire salvage projects but should pick up again mid-summer
  - d. Blowdown Salvage
    - i. Trego Triangle – new Regional NEPA Strike Team is in place
    - ii. Sutton Salvage 17 – October winds created need to reassess contract before putting out for bids
  - e. Gateway Restoration Project – Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision expected in the next couple weeks
- 2) Commercial Mushroom harvest on the lower portions of the Caribou Fire, personal use is allowed there as well as all other burned areas. One commercial camp is being set up near Poverty Creek on the Dodge Creek road
- 3) Green Box Sites
  - a. Pinkham/Othorp Green Box Site – Pad construction looks excellent. Looking forward to fence construction this spring
  - b. West Kootenai relocation – proposal for new location sent to Commissioner Cole
- 4) Lake Kooconusa Scenic By-Way update – delayed until spring or summer
- 5) YCC crew has been hired, with all 11 applicants being selected.

- 6) Seven new Wildland Fire permanent positions were hired during an all-region effort at the beginning of February in Helena. Somewhat large number of new seasonal firefighters were hired, but we are fully staffed for the summer. One four person crew has already returned from an assignment in Virginia.
- 7) Cattle guard on West Kootenai road to be installed in the next month or two
- 8) Timber Sales Update
  - a. No active sales right now, but nine large sales and 12 smaller sales are currently open in various stages of completion
  - b. Several small sales created from Lincoln Electric ROW enhancement

Commissioner Cole expressed disappointment that only 250 acres are available for salvage. Bryan said those were the only acres within the suitable acreage areas; additional acres would have required an environmental assessment.

Commissioner Cole asked about the timeline for Ten Lakes Travel Management Plan. Bryan commented that it should be back inline this summer.

Commissioner Cole questioned the possibility of snowmobiling in the fire areas. Bryan said the forest service has not made that determination yet, but he does not see a whole lot of additional area for snowmobiling from fire areas.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

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