

July 17, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 17, 2019, in the North Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Also present was County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Libby via VisionNet.

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

9:00 AM **USFS Bryan Donner, District Ranger:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Sen. Mike Cuffe District 1. Also present was Ben Kibbey, Libby via VisionNet.

The following update was submitted by Brian Donner:

Lincoln County Commissioner's Meeting
July 17, 2019
Eureka, Montana



Updates from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts:

- 1) Fire Season Update:
 - a. Very little wildland fire activity in the past month, with current fire danger at 'moderate' for both Eureka and Fortine.
 - b. Cool and somewhat wet conditions are allowing our folks to be assigned elsewhere. Four firefighters are currently supporting Arizona operations and six are in Alaska. Eight just returned from Arizona and will be back in service tomorrow.
- 2) Current planning projects:
 - a. Tenmile Sterling Fire Salvage Project – The final Environmental Assessment and a draft Decision Notice were issued in early June and the objection period ends Tuesday night. None have been received thus far.
 - b. The Pinkham Meadow project's proposed action has been slightly re-designed to take advantage of newer authorities. A scoping document should be issued in a month.
 - c. Ten Lakes Travel Management Final EIS and draft Record of Decision is being paused as per Regional Forester instruction.
 - d. Highway 93 Hazard Tree Removal Project – Scoping received two comments and a decision was issued last week. Implementation will be later this summer or fall.
 - e. Edna-Fortine roadside fuel reduction project was initiated last week. This project is designed to respond to the ingress/egress objectives of Healthy Forests Restoration Act and will integrate with the NRCS's efforts to reduce fuels on private property in the same area. A proposed action is currently being formulated.
- 3) Lots of good projects getting done with our YCC/MCC crewmembers so far this summer. We had fewer applicants for the program this year than what we had budgeted and will increase our recruitment efforts for next year.
- 4) Wam Lookout restoration continues this week with our partners at the Firefighter Lookout Association. The multi-year effort should be completed next summer.
- 5) Grave Creek road slump repair will take place next week Tuesday to Thursday with the road blocked between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm between Birch Creek and Clarence Creek.
- 6) Timber Sales Update:
 - a. Twelve large sales (>5MMBF) and nine smaller sales are currently open, but only five of the larger sales are currently active. Five of these sales are soon to close.
 - b. One large sale from Tenmile Sterling will be offered in September or October and a 2 or 3-million-foot sale will be offered from the Gateway project soon.
 - c. Border Patrol funding for road reconstruction in the Gateway project area has been secured. Road work should be completed by the end of October.

Bryan shared optimism about projected fire season for both Eureka and Fortine due to cool and somewhat wet conditions.

Commissioner Bennett asked about a timeframe on the Ten Lakes Project moving forward. Bryan said there is a developing situation, but he is unclear of the specifics. Bryan commented there is no timeframe at this time but will keep the commissioners posted.

Commissioner Letcher talked about the new proposed green box site. The homeowners are not happy with the location of the upper site. The lower site is not bear friendly. A centrally located, consolidated, site has been recommended. A couple residents are opposed to the site, but a petition recommending the site is circulating through the community.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Sen. Mike Cuffe District 1. Also present was Ben Kibbey, Libby via VisionNet.

- **Resolution 2019-11:** Commissioner Bennett read Resolution 2019-11 in its entirety. A resolution requesting distribution of bridge and road safety and accountability program funds. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-11 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin presented the minutes for July 2 finance meeting and July 10, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett said a meeting with Cabinet Peaks Medical Center is scheduled to talk about \$8,500 in budget for the involuntary commitment program.
- The commissioners signed a letter from Lincoln County to Western Montana Area VI on Aging to appoint JoAn Cuffe as their Senior Representative on their Executive Board, from August 2019 to August 2022.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Sen. Mike Cuffe District 1. Also present was Ben Kibbey, Libby via VisionNet.

Sen. Mike Cuffe informed the commission that the Columbia River Treaty is in negotiation, but there is no timeline or further information at this time. Commissioner Bennett commented he may be in DC in September and could touch base with Jill Smail, Chief Negotiator.

11:00 AM **Property Lease North 93 Services, LLC:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Sen. Mike Cuffe District 1. Also present was Ben Kibbey, Libby via VisionNet.

Commissioner Letcher presented a lease agreement between Lincoln County and North 93 Services, LLC. The term of the lease is for 5 years through June 30, 2024. North 93 Services will in lieu of payment, maintain (to include weekly mowing and weed eating during the summer; and snow plowing in the winter) the tract of land S14, T36N, R27W Plat 1139, 0.35 Acres TR 3CA in NWNW, commonly known as the Lincoln County Peace Park. The premises are for use as parking only. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve the lease agreement with North 93 Services, LLC as presented. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Planning – Olds Survey/Matilas Family Transfer:** Present were Jake Mertes, Libby via VisionNet.

- **Cause No.: DV-14-58 Court Ordered Split:** On June 12th, 2019, the Lincoln County Planning Staff received a request from District Court for comment on the Court Ordered Split for the “Olds” Dissolution. Jake said the Exemption review Committee found no evidence of an attempt to evade the Montana Subdivision & Platting Act 76-3-201 MCA. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the court ordered split per planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- **Matilas Family Transfer:** Jake said he has received phone calls from a family member and informed the commission this could go to litigation. Jake commented that is not our business; as far as the Montana Subdivision & Platting Act 76-3-207(1)(b), there is no indication of evasion, therefore, recommendation from the Exemption Review Committee is to approve the Matilas Family Transfer. Commissioner Letcher asked about legal access. Jake said he will put a requirement on the plat prior to recording showing legal access. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Matilas Family Transfer subject to the requirements showing legal access and planning staff conditions and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Commissioners Inspect Rodeo Ground Improvements:** The commissioners toured the rodeo grounds improvement project.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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