

June 12, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 12, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:30 AM **Montana Association of Forest Counties Discussion:** Present were Ben Kibbey, McKenzie Williams, and Ray Stout.

Commissioner Peck discussed Montana Association of Forest Counties history. Approximately 3 years ago the association redid the by-laws to make it more policy driven, Commissioner Peck said he is the vice chair; it's a very inactive group, meeting only twice a year. Dues are \$9,000 annually. Darren asked what their focus is and are there other organizations doing the same work. Commissioner Peck commented that it could be a powerful force with 26 counties in the state involved for timber management. Commissioner Bennett suggested to pay them for a year, work to refocus and convey we are not content with where we are. Commissioner Peck said he will make phone calls because right now we are not seeing the benefit, but the county will hang in there to see if there will be progress. Commissioner Bennett expressed that every time they go to DC, they ought to be taking a different commissioner and reporting back to counties. Commissioner Peck commented that the problem is nobody has the time to do this work on their own, we need a designated person to put it all together.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to pay the dues approximately \$9,000 with the caveat that we pursue some changes in how we operate in forested counties. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Peck stated that it is a valuable group and has a lot of potential. Commissioner Letcher commented that an update once in a while of what they are doing, how can we assist or participate, and what has been done would be beneficial.

9:45 AM **District Board Appointments:** Present were Ben Kibbey, McKenzie Williams, and Ray Stout.

Board Appointments were as follows:

Airport Board: 2 vacancies, reappointed Martha Hendrickson and appointed Glenn Whitfield.

Eureka Dispatch Board: 1 vacancy, appointed Maury McKinney

Library Board: 2 vacancies, reappointed Marilyn McDougall, appointed Annie Gassmann

Boyd Hill Cemetery: 1 vacancy, reappointed Camille Leidigh

Trego/Fortine/Stryker FSA Board: 1 vacancy, appointed Bill Hume

Eureka FSA Board: 1 vacancy, appointed Warren Powell

Fisher River Valley FSA Board: 2 vacancies, reappointed Robin Swimley and George Neils

Troy Area Dispatch: 2 vacancies, reappointed Roger Gilligan (one vacancy open)

Fortine/Trego Cemetery District: 2 vacancies, reappointed John Linn and Gayle McCarron

McCormick Fire District Board: 1 vacancy, no applications received

Troy Park District Board: 2 vacancies, Robin explained that applications from Alinon Arpin and Sheila Etienne were sent via email for the last election cycle but went into a junk email file and were not received until recently leaving 2 vacancies. Alinon Arpin and Sheila Etienne were reappointed.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve applicants as recommended by the boards, pending Troy Dispatch appointment of Herb Cargill who did send in an application to be considered several months back. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried. Robin said she will contact Herb Cargill regarding the open vacancy on the Troy Dispatch Board..

10:00 AM **Health Department Update:** Present were Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Brian McCormick, Ben Kibbey, McKenzie Williams and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Kathi introduced Brian as the new sanitarian in training from Bozeman. The commission welcomed Brian to the county. Kathi submitted two contracts for review and approval. Contract 217028 is to update subdivision rules in 2017; no other changes and is a standard contract. Extension to June 30, 2021. The contract allows authority to review certain water supply, wastewater, solid waste and stormwater systems in subdivisions.

Kathi submitted an air quality contract with the state and are federal funds passed through the state, no changes.

Contract is for the purpose of assisting Lincoln County to conduct its own air pollution control program pursuant to 75-2-301 MCA. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the subdivision review contract with extension through June 2021 and the air quality contract as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer is requesting approval for the Master Contract from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The contract is for Lincoln County to provide the Department with public health related services required to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The commissioners approved and signed the annual contract as submitted. Jennifer talked about an ATV injury prevention class, 15 safety helmets were handed out, 36 children attended. The class was conducted from extra money from the state.

Jennifer said the Best Beginnings Early Childhood Program is offering a summer reading program once a week; kids get a book, and the program encourages family engagement. Best Beginnings will also be collaborating with Cabinet Peaks Medical Center, offering breast feeding education.

Jennifer handed out the Lincoln County Health Department Strategic Planning Process.

Mission: Our mission is to promote a healthy and resilient Lincoln County through collaborative leadership and community involvement. Vision, values and proposed priorities.

Values:

We believe in:

- Collaborating with community members and organizations to develop and promote a health culture.
- Advocating for a healthy and safe environment.
- Empowering our employees to pursue personal and professional growth.

- Providing fair, honest and quality service.

Proposed Priorities:

- Community involvement
- Funding diversification
- Education
- Prevention
- Organizational excellence

Commissioner Bennett commended Jennifer on great work and managing all the grants; we have 41 grant-based employees not paid from general fund dollars.

Kathi commented on the 2-day Spring Spay/Neuter Clinic: 77 animals were treated, and we have a waiting list. There will be another clinic held in the fall. Kathi said the shelter has been dealing with cats that came in from the Yaak, approximately 100 mostly feral. Many cats have gone to other shelters across the state.

Kathi said she is working with other agencies regarding the CWD and how it's going to affect and be handled at the landfill. Carcasses will have to come to the Libby landfill and will not be accepted at the Eureka landfill if Eureka is considered in the zone.

Commissioner Letcher asked about placing cameras at the lower green box site in the West Kootenai. Kathi said she can put up game cameras.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Ben Kibbey, McKenzie Williams, and Kenny Rayome Jr. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for May 28 finance meeting, May 29 regular meeting and June 5, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- The commissioners signed the renewal for UAV Aviation Insurance (drone insurance) that is primarily used for emergency management. Insurance is carried by Endurance American Insurance Co. for \$1,900 through July 1, 2020.
- Darren submitted an agreement for the railroad crossing work to be conducted on 5th Street Extension. Agreement is between the MTDOT, BNSF and Lincoln County. Darren said no county money is involved in the agreement. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Tri-Party Agreement as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brian Griffeth, Kenny Rayome Jr., Tony Petrusa, Ben Kibbey, and McKenzie Williams. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Stimson Lumber Land Easement:** Present were Chris Deming, Catherine Schmidt, Kris Tempel, Bruce Rowland, Alan Wood, Barry Dexter, Jennifer Nelson, Tony Petrusa, Tina Oliphant, Brett McCully, Brent Teske, Ray R. Stout, Kenny Rayome Jr., Ben Kibbey, and McKenzie Williams. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Chris Deming presented the Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project, Phase II regarding 27,929 acres owned by Stimson Lumber company. The objective is to purchase a conservation easement, permanently prohibiting subdivision and development while allowing for continued sustainable forest management, wildlife habitat protection, and public access. Some of the benefits are to maintain Stimson Lumber Company's ability to own and manage these lands long-term, providing local forest-based jobs that contribute to the local economy, maintains local tax base, complements Lincoln County Growth Policy, preserves important fish and wildlife habitat and secures public access outdoor recreational uses. The property consists of various parcels stretching from the Salish Mountains on the east, through the Mitchell Creek-Kootenai River and Lower Fisher River drainages along the Highway 37 corridor, and to the eastern edge of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area.

Barry Dexter talked about the importance of an easement to Stimson, a family held company since the 1850's. We want to come here, and we want to stay here. To manage timberland into perpetuity, the easement is necessary to continue to offer these lands to the community. Barry said he grew up here and loves this place.

Coldwell commented about a conservation easement in Troy resulting in a gate and blocked access. Coldwell asked if that will happen in the Fisher? Barry said there are areas that roads need to be managed, but he is willing to work with people; can be seasonal to protect our investment in the roads. Commissioner Peck commented that protecting investments in roads is understandable, point well taken.

Allen Wood commented that easements are perpetual and as we move forward, these lands stay economical and balance with recreation. We want to make sure the rules are the same for everyone and to ensure Stimson can manage these lands for many years.

Chris Deming presented the Libby Community Forest Project, regarding 140.7 acres owned by Stimson Lumber company. The objective is to provide the property for inclusion into the Lincoln County park system, permanently prohibiting subdivision and development while allowing for sustainable forest management, public recreation, trail expansion, and wildlife habitat protection. Some of the benefits are expanding on the recreational amenities created by the Lincoln County Port Authority and trail systems being implemented with the assistance of the Libby Outdoor Recreation

Association, maintaining a productive forest adjacent to the central populated area, sustain local forest-based jobs that contribute to the local economy, securing public access to a favorite local recreation spot, complementing Lincoln County's Growth Policy, conserves important fish and wildlife habitat, and protects water quality along Libby Creek and within the Lower Libby Creek Watershed. The property consists of one parcel in central Libby along Spencer Road, 1.5 miles from Libby's town center. Libby Creek splits the property in half. The property is bordered on the north by the US Forest Service and on the east by 319 acres of Montana State Trust Lands. Its inclusion into public ownership links to a network of approximately 120,000 acres within the KNF.

Chris said we are looking at a partnership with the port, Lincoln county and the community if this is something the community wants. We will engage the community, and if this project comes to fruition, the property will be owned by the county.

Tony representing Libby Outdoor Recreation Association commented that it's a perfect fit with existing trails, a good piece of the puzzle with excellent outdoor recreation opportunities; we support this.

Tina commented that KRDC took the lead to create the base level trails plan for the greater Libby area and that trails plan demonstrated value of this parcel; established as a recreation area. Tina expressed that this project will potentially have great future benefits.

Commissioner Peck expressed that this project is helping preserve our heritage and culture, keeping that available is a good thing. Commissioner Peck commented he is grateful to have everyone here today.

Barry said he is glad to be here and to be a part of this community.

11:30 AM FAA Transfer of Funds: Present were McKenzie Williams, Ray Stout, Ben Kibbey, Kenny Rayome Jr., Darren explained that we receive entitlement monies for airports and we can loan that money to someone else. We have a little over \$200,000 sitting that we will not see because Lincoln County did not get approved for any projects this year. Lewistown would like to borrow our money and pay it back next year. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve loaning money to Lewistown with the caveat that Bill Caldwell is contacted as a courtesy. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM Eureka Ice Rink Discussion: Present were Ben Kibbey, and McKenzie Williams. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Commissioner Letcher submitted a map of Eureka Schools land where the ice rink will be located and a map showing County lands used by the schools for track and softball facilities. Commissioner Letcher expressed that in an effort to make everything clear we should have a lease agreement with the school for maintenance and liability purposes moving forward. Eureka Schools will lease the currently vacant 20 acres to the County, giving the community a larger area for a community sports facility. Commissioner Letcher is seeking approval to move forward with a lease from the schools. Darren suggested allowing the county attorney's office to review the lease agreement before finalizing. Commissioners Peck and Bennett agreed to allow moving forward and commended Commissioner Letcher for his good work.

1:30 PM Planning Update: There were no planning agenda items.

2:00 PM Opening Bids-County Election Ballots, County Printing, County Legal/Display Advertising, County Gas and Diesel, and County Road Oil: Present were Dallas Bowe, McKenzie Williams, Suzanne Resch, Trent Gofers, Trevor Wheaton, Jesse Knapp, Clyde Ross, Chris Nelson, and Ben Kibbey.

- Election Ballots – one bid received from Runbeck Election Services Inc out of Arizona.
- County Printing-one bid received from The Printing Press, Libby
- County Legal Display Advertising-two bids received from the Kootenai Valley Record and The Western News. The costs were equal except for color display, The Western News came in at \$2.74 and The Kootenai Valley Record came in at \$3.00. Bid awarded to The Western News.
- Gas and Diesel – two bids received. One from City Service Valcon came in for Eureka only. Golden State bid came in for Libby and Troy only.
- Road Oil – one bid received from McAsphalt.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to accept bids as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Complete bid packages can be obtained by contacting the Lincoln County HR Department.

3:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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