

May 8, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 8, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. County Administrator Darren Coldwell was absent.

9:00 AM **Forest Supervisor Update:** Present were Cheryl Probert, McKenzie Williams, Ben Kibbey and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Cheryl Probert submitted the following agenda:

Lincoln County Commissioner's Meeting
Kootenai National Forest Update
May 8th, 2019

Projects Complete:

- SST Salvage sale on Eureka, 3 times minimum bid
- Last Thursday we prescribed burned 3,500 acres
- 4 timber sales up for bid next week
- Target this year = 78 mmbf

Decisions Made:

- Black Gold Decision Memo signed
- Shooting Range Expansion ready to sign, going through internal clearance

Milestones:

- Montanore SDEIS ready for public review, going through internal clearance
- Rock Creek litigation filings complete, meeting with FWS and Hecla to discuss this week
- Rock Creek POO review complete, mineral specialist working with Hecla to address deficiencies and information needs
- OU3—LARP exercise on Thursday in Libby; working on AOC and agreement on projects that WR Grace would do in payment for the timber they are removing. Focus is on fuels reduction, public information and roads/access management; looking at a bigger circle of where they do work under the Administrative Order of Consent (AOC).

Future NEPA Projects:

- Road 128 Granite Creek plan to issue a National Forest Roads & Trails Act (FRTA) easement to the City
- Ripley vegetation and fuels project public field trip today
- Pinkham Meadow vegetation and fuels project scoping/30-day comment in May
- Black Ram draft EA going through Forest internal review now

Big Picture of Shared Stewardship:

- Forest Program of Work—how does the county want to be engaged with Forest in developing the outyear program of work for veg and fuels?
- Stewardship Agreement with County—setting up meeting with principles this month
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update with County—trying to get more of the fuels expertise at the meetings to look ahead. How can we work on the ingress/egress concerns together proactively?
- Good Neighbor Authority—working with Northwest Area Manager Poncin on “Leaders Intent” for how we will jointly prioritize areas to collaborate on and which tools are best for us to use to get more done.
- Forest Strategy for Improving Forest Conditions—working on finalizing the Strategy and Action Plan. Key components are building process efficiencies; consistencies in process and products; developing our organization by adding key field/entry-level positions and addressing program management needs; working across administrative boundaries; focusing on our priority work and asking partners to help with the work we can't do; developing an action plan for implementing shared stewardship concepts; improving our communications; using the tools we have more strategically to “pay it forward”; and meeting with industry to figure out how to work together to get work done on the ground and benefit our communities.

Fire Season Update:

- On track with crews and training
- Predictive services shows us having a normal season but we are still showing in the drought signature so it's likely we will continue to see more activity, similar to the past 4-5 years...but we will tell you for sure in October.

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

Jennifer hired a local collaboration coordinator to administer the Headwaters program.

Jennifer is requesting approval to increase hours for two employees to full time, funding is already in place for July 1.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to increase two employees to full time as of July 1 funded through grants. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Kathi said HB15 passed allowing to use money for junk trailer removal. Kathi said she will be creating a plan to use that money and disposal of those trailers. There was a brief discussion about what constitutes a safe & healthy trailer (environment). Commissioner Bennett expressed concern about low income families, and our right to tell them how to live. Commissioner Bennett suggested looking at the law regarding trailer rentals and funding programs to help with window and insulation type replacement. Kathi said most of her concern is regarding wastewater. Commissioner Peck commented that it is a fine balance between people's rights of how they choose to live and a junk trailer decreasing the value of properties surrounding it. Kathi said she will send out the latest version of the regulation for commissioner review.

Kathi said the air quality residential burn is over; 663 residential permits were issued. Commissioner Bennett said he would like it to be extended through mid-May if possible.

The landfill is having another E-Waste Event starting now through mid-August. Kathi said she will be putting out some advertisement.

Kathi said the landfill was surveyed and it gained some remaining years; it is estimated there are 11.3 years remaining from previous estimate of 7 years. Kathi commented that 190 tons of recycle material was received.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were McKenzie Williams, Ben Kibbey, and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for May 1, 2019 for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett received a request for a road name change on Basham Lane in Troy, pending a court case and further research. There will be a public hearing at a later time.
- Commissioner Bennett commented the commission did approve a vehicle purchase of a used vehicle for the sheriff's department; A ford explorer at 1/5 of the price of a new one and the purchase is within current budget.
- Commissioner Bennett said he has visited with Ben Scott regarding the generators stored at the shop that are not being used at this time. There is no history that would stop the county from utilizing them. It is best we don't sell the generators but allow the Cross-Country Visitor Center to use them, with an agreement they conduct all the maintenance. Commissioner Bennett will help facilitate the agreement.
- Commissioner Peck commented about the Western Interstate Region Conference in Spokane next week as a good conference if a commissioner wants to attend.
- Robin submitted the Abstract of Votes for the May 7, 2019 Troy School District #1 Trustee Election provided by the Election Department. Ben Valentine had the most votes at 263 and Sylvia M. Maffit had the 2nd most votes at 234, winning the open trustee positions.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were McKenzie Williams, Ben Kibbey, and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Nikki asked about the open house regarding updating the county growth policy. Commissioner Letcher will email Nikki information to be discussed at the meeting. Meetings were advertised and will be held in Libby, Troy and Eureka.

11:00 AM **Steve Kimball, Montana DNRC:** Present were Chanel Geer, Luke Hauke, McKenzie Williams, Ben Kibbey and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Steve introduced himself as the DNRC local government advisor and gave a brief history of his work and experience. Steve said he has a lot of experience with forest service planning and collaborative projects. The legislation developed his position as a support resource to counties and to work with local government as a liaison with DNRC. Steve said he wants to ensure the commission has engagement with DNRC whenever necessary.

Commissioner Peck commented the county forester position is to help local government bring collaboration between the county and agencies; WUI is our biggest issue. Our goal is to have a viable joint DNRC, county, stakeholders, and forest service project planning process, tying in the wildfire protection plan. Aligning all the projects with the Community Wildfire Protect Plan (CWPP) would be beneficial during litigation. One goal is to have a Good Neighbor Authority joint agreement, through stewardship and direct contracting to prioritize location and where the wood goes.

Commissioner Peck commented on the positive forest service relationships; we want the forest service to be successful across the board, not just timber sales. Commissioner Bennett agreed the county has struggled for years attempting to get conversation and action with the forest service, but that has rapidly changed in the past 2 years.

Commissioner Peck explained a workshop is scheduled in June to facilitate local agencies, collaborative group, contractor, mills, and county. The forest service will share stewardship and its cohesive strategy. There will be education on new authorities and the state GNA so we are all on the same page. Day 2 of the workshop will focus on how to implement and put it all together.

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

2:00 PM **Western Montana Mental Health:** Present were Douglas Melton, Earl B. Akers, Levi Anderson, Abby Harnett, Jennifer McCully, Ben Kibbey and Alan Gerstenecker.

Levi talked about opportunities to bring some of the mental health services back to Lincoln County. Levi said he is here to begin a community discussion and offer county engagement to make sure services that are planned to continue meet the needs of the community. There is opportunity to bring in prevention services and peer support services to proactively reach out to individuals at risk. Western Montana Mental Health can offer better support through tele health and tele psychology services to help with crisis situations. Levi said the hope is to demonstrate what the value of these services will be to the county.

Abby said an entry level prevention specialist has been hired; the position will act as a patient advocate to individuals helping them navigate the resources and services that are available to them. We are having conversations with Sanders and Lincoln County Detention Facilities on how to plan for crisis services.

Commissioner Peck talked about the funding the county used to provide towards outpatient services. Abby said the intent is to provide outpatient services soon. Levi said the county did help fund outpatient care and he would like to come back to discuss their progress, services, and to talk more about county funding when more service has been established.

3:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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