

August 5, 2020

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 5, 2020 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Bennett, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher was present via VisionNet. County Administrator Patrick McFadden was excused.

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

10:00 AM **USFS Update:** Present were Chad Benson and William Langhorne. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Chad commented that a goal is to improve gate and access management and communicating with the public. Commissioner Bennett commented that we need to combine messaging instead of separate public messaging. Commissioner Peck agreed that we need to improve messaging to protect and preserve what we have and asked Chad to let the commissioners know if there is anything the county can do to help with this.

Chad said the forest service is shooting for 65/70mmbf goal this year and next year.

Chad gave a brief overview of the *Great American Outdoor Act* that was approved yesterday and how the funding will affect Region 1. Funding is focused on recreation with a smaller portion to be used for roads. Commissioner Peck commented that just to get Congress to pass this was an achievement and expressed a potential benefit to the county.

Chad said he is having conversations on strategies to see more on shared stewardship projects in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Commissioner Bennett talked about educating and reaching out to legislators and mounting an effort regarding Good Neighbor Authority Projects. Chad talked about efforts to move some funding to third party private industry.

Commissioner Bennett asked generally, in an overall view, how can the county help? Chad said being at the table together and committing to opportunities to get the momentum going is a big help.

Commissioner Peck talked about the Bear Creek scenic loop area up Libby Creek and how there are spots in that area where vistas would be phenomenal if not for so many trees in the way. This needs to be improved for scenery value. The roads are fine, but it would be beautiful to have this opened up.

Commissioner Letcher talked about the viewing on Highway 37 and if that is moving forward and also commented about the big ponderosas in West Kootenai that are starting to die. Commissioner Letcher said it's probably not enough for large mills, but it would benefit some of the smaller mills.

Commissioner Letcher asked about RAC projects and if the county should be looking at potential projects. Chad said he needs to get authority and once we know what that is, the forest service will put out a call for projects.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Derrick Perkins, and Megan Rayome. Also present were Nikki Myer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Commissioner Peck said he invited Megan Rayome to come in to visit as the new Director at the Lincoln County Campus. Megan said the college leases the property from the county and she is asking for a support letter for upcoming grant opportunities. The goal is to bring every occupational class that Kalispell offers to Libby to better serve our community. Commissioner Bennett said there is plenty of building and parking space for expansion to complete your desired goal. Commissioner Peck said technically the county owns the building, but the college helped pay for it, and expressed the benefit the college brings to our community. Commissioner Bennett commented the college has been undermarketed and we need to get the message out to the community and high schools about the opportunities the college offers. Commissioner Letcher commended the efforts put into expanding trade education.
- Robin presented the minutes for July 22 and 29, 2020 regular meetings for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett submitted a support letter for the Community Action Partnership Block Grant Program. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the support letter for the Community Action Partnership Block Grant. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett talked about the annual chemical dependency allocation of funds and who the provider is for Lincoln County. Tabled until further research to be completed.
- Commissioner Bennett explained there is no money available to rebuild the Libby Creek Levy, but the county can enter into a flood contingency plan. Commissioner Bennett said he will continue to communicate with Senator Daine's staff.

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

11:00 AM **Brook Hollow Final Plat:** Present were Jake Metes and Derrick Perkins. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka, via VisionNet.

The Lincoln County Board of commissioners approved the Brook Hollow Subdivision subject to conditions on May 27, 2020. Jake said all requirements have been met and planning staff is recommending final plat approval for Brook Hollow Subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve final plat for Brook Hollow Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation and subject to conditions. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Resolution: Increase Mill Levy/Eureka Area Dispatch District:** Present were Election Administrator Leigh Riggleman, and William Langhorne. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet. Leigh submitted Resolution 2020-17 A Mill Levy for Maintaining Current Budget for The Eureka Area Dispatch District. The Board resolves to submit to the electors of the Eureka Area Dispatch District the question of whether to permanently increase the current mill levy from 11 to 15 mills for maintaining the current budget. The resolution includes language of the approximate tax increases for homes valued at \$100,000 and \$200,000. Commissioner Peck read the resolution in its entirety. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2020-17 to submit a mill levy request to the electors in the Eureka Dispatch District (Eureka High School District) on the 2020 General Election ballot. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Letcher asked if the numbers were approximate or actual. Leigh said it's a close approximate and is dependent on the value of a mill.

***All resolutions can be viewed in their entirety on the county website at www.lincolncountymt.us
Or by contacting the Lincoln County Clerk and Records Office.***

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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