

Lincoln County Study Commission
Minutes of July 23, 2015

The Lincoln County Study Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held in the County Commissioners office in Libby. Member Rita Windom, ex-officio Bill Bischoff, Greg Larson, Secretary Shellie DeLeo and community member Alvin Benitz attended in Libby. Chairman Steve Curtiss and Member Bobbie Stoken attended via satellite in Eureka.

Steve C. called the meeting to order at 5:08p and asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes. Minutes were reviewed. Rita W. moved to accept the minutes as they are recorded, Bobbie S. seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.

Members discussed the July 9th meeting at the Kootenai Senior Center in Troy. Steve C. reported that he was disappointed with the lack of engagement. Rita W. stated that the group did not allow for a space for people to sit and visit with the board, which may have been why the public didn't engage. Bobbie S. added that she feels the people wanted to remain unknown.

Members discussed the returned surveys. Steve C. asked how they would be dealt with and noted that they need to be reviewed periodically. Rita W. stated that the libraries may be a good place to have the surveys and any completed surveys can be dropped off in Libby at the courthouse.

Rita W. reported that she tried to speak to the CEO of the hospital about leaving surveys there for the public. She reports that she was told that it would be considered solicitation which is not allowed. Steve C. stated that he handed out approximately 100 surveys last Thursday night and six have been returned.

Steve C. asked the group if they are to a point where they would recommend a change in government. Steve C. stated that he feels based on the books that were received from Bozeman, the affiliation that he personally has with our government and the conversations of the group that he would personally not recommend a change in the form of government. He added that based on comments from the public, he feels they are more concerned about certain issues and not necessarily how our form of government works. Steve C. asked the members to sum up their opinion of knowledge of various forms of government and send them to him.

Members discussed Charter forms of government where the community would hire replacements through a competitive job opening versus holding elections. (Bill later sent an email stating that the group is able to have a charter.)

Mark Peck will possibly be filling in for Bill B. after Bills July 31 retirement. This is Bill's last meeting as ex-officio however, he stated that he will be attending as a member of the public. Bill B stated that he has been attending meetings and listening to the conversations of the public. He reported that to sell a different form of government is almost impossible.

Rita W. asked about the community meetings, how will we advertise and what is the long term planning.

It is noted that Tracy M. has not been to the last several meetings. Bill B. will contact her and see if she is still interested in the Study Commission.

Eureka Fair is August 27 – 29.

Bobbie S. made a motion to adjourn, Rita W. seconded motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm

Next meeting August 13.

Tangible Tasks

- Eureka Fair booth – August 27- 29
- Brainstorm Nordicfest ideas for next regular meeting (carried over)