

Lincoln County Study Commission
Minutes of September 10, 2015

The Lincoln County Study Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held in the County Commissioners office in Libby. Commissioner Greg Larson, Member Rita Windom and Secretary Shellie DeLeo attended in Libby. Chairman Steve Curtiss, Representative Mike Cuffe, Member Bobbie Stoken and Member Josh Letcher attended via satellite in Eureka.

Steve C. called the meeting to order at 5:16pm.

Minutes of the August 13th meeting were discussed. One correction to these minutes were to change an Agenda item to read "for example, Bills position" for clarification. Another corrections was noted for the July 23rd minutes which consisted of changing 'commissioner form of government' to 'general form of government'. Bobbie S. made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted. Josh L. seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion passed.

Steve C. explained that in our current form of government, as per the MCA 7-3-431, you can, in fact, instead of electing a certain individual, appoint him/her. Rita W. asked for clarification on whether this was in lieu of them being elected in the general election or is it midterm in case they then they can be appointed. Steve C. stated that he thinks it's both. Rita W. replied that she is not sure that is the case and will research it.

The group discussed filling the position that Tracy M. held. Rita W. reported that upon her resignation, Tracy suggested that someone from Troy would be a good replacement for her. A consensus among the group is that there are not many people interested in being part of the study commission.

Greg L. stated that the law reads that the seat must be filled within 30 days. However, the current members can continue meetings and decision making until a replacement is found. After a group discussion, Alvin Beatz and John Righter were named as possible interested candidates. Greg L. will contact each and see if they have an interest in the position.

Rita W. reminded the group that with Tracy M's departure, there needs to be a vice chair elected. Steve C. stated that he feels it should be one of the three remaining members. Rita W. nominated Bobbie S. however, Bobbie S. stated that she has taken on a new teaching job and is not confident that she'll have the time. Rita W. suggested to her that she doesn't think the responsibility would be too much. Bobbie S. agreed. Rita W. nominated Bobbie S. for Vice Chair, Josh L. seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion passed.

It was noted that a request needed to go to Tracy M. asking her to bring any materials back that will assist Bobbie S. in her new position of Vice Chair. Greg L. stated that either he or Cole would contact Tracy M. and ask her to bring in the materials.

Steve C. stated that our current status is next on the agenda and that it had been decided that the form of government we currently have is good. The question is, if there is not a desire to change our form of government, for example, to a charter form, what then is the priority of things that we want to continue to review? He added that our main objective in this study review process is to decide what form of government we would recommend. Steve C. verified a meeting set for September 16th at 230 to discuss the direction, thoughts, positions and desires of plans for the future.

Rita W. stated that if we decide that we like the current form of government than maybe we need to move on in deciding what recommendations the group could make to the commissioners as to how to have more efficiency in stream line government.

Steve C. asked the group if they are interested in a moderator to help keep things on track.

The group discussed the minutes that are taken at the study group meetings, who they are sent to and how they are offered to the public. At this time, the minutes are typed and sent via email to all members as well as the audio being uploaded to the study commission website. Rita W. made a motion to desist posting the audio tape of the meetings on the website. Josh L. seconded, all were in favor and motion passed. In addition, Rita W. moved that the audio that is currently uploaded to the website, be deleted. Bobbie S. seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried. Greg L. offered to ask Dallas to remove the audio files from the website.

Greg L. reported that three more surveys were turned in to Libby and all were favorable.

Bobbie S. reported that she and Josh L. set up a booth at the fair with information about the study commission but there was not much interest at all.

Greg L. introduced Representative Mike Cuffe. Mike C. reported that he is attempting to pass legislation to establish a legal framework for Montana to receive proceeds from storage behind the Libby Dam and to pass most of those dollars to Lincoln County, Montana, the only part of the United States who sacrificed under the Columbia River Treaty (see handouts).

Steve C. stated that if a letter in support of this is appropriate from the study group, we should vote on it and decide the contents. Bobbie S. made a motion to write a letter in support of Mike C.'s attempt to obtain compensation for Lincoln County. Josh L. seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.

Bobbie S. makes a motion to adjourn, Josh L. seconds the motion, all were in favor and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 658p.

Minutes recorded/typed by Shellie DeLeo
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