

August 17, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 17, 2022 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**.

10:00 AM **Burma Road:** Present were Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Solomon Alcain.

Commissioner Letcher discussed potential to chip seal Burma Road. There are issues with the road; gravel, very dusty, without good binder. Looking at potentially to re-gravel it, and conduct dust abatement, but actually chip seal would be best. Commissioner Letcher said he will approach the state to see if there is any funding assistance available. The county cannot afford to chip seal, would be approximately several hundred thousand. The Commissioners talked about potential funding sources and infrastructure monies.

10:30 AM **ARP Update:** Present were Amanda Harcourt, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcain.

Amanda gave an overview and submitted the following report:

[Asbestos Resource Program \(ARP\) Report for Commissioner's Meeting](#)
August 17th, 2022 10:15 – 10:30

In July, ARP received 33 hotline calls. 30 were from Libby, 3 from Troy. Most of the requests were for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) comfort letter/MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) status letter requests.

ARP also received 111 utility locate tickets from properties within the Superfund site in July: 89 from Libby, 22 from Troy.

ARP completed 32 site visits within July. Most of these site visits were to confirm digging locations for utility locates and to active asbestos abatement/sampling projects.

ONGOING/PLANNED ABATEMENTS:

386 Riverside Drive, Troy – planned soil removal – on going; SOW has been signed by the property owner. The property owner will start solicitation for an abatement contractor next week.

713 Michigan Avenue, Libby – planned indoor removal from residential building; waiting to hear from property owner about hiring a contractor.

757 E 5th St, Libby- VCI was released on the East side of house, contaminating a large area of the side yard and a portion of the understructure. ARP conducted an inspection and identified VCI within two interior walls and one exterior wall. A SOW has been drafted and approved by the state. The property owner has started solicitation for an abatement contractor.

289 Ave B, Libby-VCI was identified in the attic of the home. ARP is scheduled to conduct an invasive inspection throughout the entire house. Once that is completed, a SOW will be drafted for the attic abatement and any other areas containing VCI.

154 Paulins Way, Libby- (NOEC Property) ARP was contacted by the property owner requesting information on how to get the NOEC removed from the property. The property has had a previous inspection resulting a trace LA existing on greater than 25% of the property. ARP will be drafting a SOW for an exterior abatement.

Asa Wood School, Libby- ARP completed a site visit at the property to start planning the SOW for the CMU abatement.

ONGOING/PLANNED SAMPLING:

287 Terrace View, Libby- ARP identified gross levels of VV on areas of the property where tree stumps had been removed. ARP is waiting on the property owners to start work activities to perform further inspection of the area.

100 Manor Dr, Libby-NOPEC property. The property owner stopped by the ARP and requested a Sampling SOW be drafted for the property. A SI investigation was completed at the property in 2011. ARP is currently drafting a DI sampling SOW.

FUNDING

The ARP program is funded through a Memorandum of Agreement with DEQ. This is funding coming from a cooperative agreement between DEQ and EPA. The agreement designates \$600,000 over 13 months starting with costs from June 1st, 2022, until June 31st, 2023. Total costs incurred by ARP & reimbursed by DEQ since June 1st, 2022, is \$53,880.54 leaving a remaining balance of \$546,119. The last reimbursement for June has been received. Claims for July reimbursement will be sent to DEQ by the end of the week.

The Next LASOC Meeting will be held on September 29th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in Libby.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business:

- Robin submitted the minutes for August 10, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Teske commented that he has received requests from the City of Libby, City of Troy & Town of Eureka to move forward with the Medical Marijuana Tax Special Election. Commissioner Teske will visit with the Election Department.
- Commissioner Letcher talked about the sale of lots within the Tobacco Valley Industrial District (TVID) and questioned how to move forward with deeds and actual ownership. Commissioner Bennett suggested an

agreement of support to the district for selling lots. Commissioner Letcher will conduct further research and attain legal counsel how to move forward.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Nick Enblom, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcain.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Nick Enblom/Morrison-Maierle Airport Update:** Present were Nick Enblom, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcain.

Nick said paint shortage pushed back the timeline at the Eureka Airport Pavement Maintenance Project. The closeout document is ready to send to the FAA. Nick submitted final Morrison-Maierle invoice and final paperwork to the FAA for commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve Morrison-Maierle invoice and closeout paperwork to the FAA for the Eureka Airport Pavement Maintenance Project. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.

Nick said construction is complete for the Libby Airport Pavement Rehabilitation Project. Nick submitted final pay for contractor Shillinger Construction and Morrison-Maierle final invoice. Project will close out in just a couple of weeks. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve drawdown to Shillinger Construction and final payment to Morrison-Maierle and approval of closeout paperwork to the FAA. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Nick said he will be reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan for both airports for future planning.

11:15 AM **Seth Carbonari/District Update:** Present were Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson and Solomon Alcain.

Seth gave an overview and submitted the following report:

Lincoln County Commissioner's Meeting

17 August, 2022

Eureka, Montana



Updates from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts:

- 1) Current planning projects:
 - a. Working on Edna-Fortine roadside fuel reduction/wildfire resiliency project. CE. Going over comments received to scoping. Likely sign this fall.
 - b. Preliminary work on Sunday Creek. Targeted CE for fuels reduction and wildfire resiliency. Finalizing proposed action.
 - c. Next large scale project is planned for Swamp Creek.
 - d. Quite a few small NEPA projects related to road access to private property, special uses, etc.
- 2) Timber Update:
 - a. In progress
 - i. Thirsty Frank- ~18,000 ccf Sold to Stoken for \$22.07 a ton (41,327 tons) road work started. 1168 Acres
 - ii. Highway Dickey- ¾ finished- ~12,000 ccf
 - iii. Laughing Ant- operations ongoing-~800 ccf- One unit left for winter harvest
 - iv. Hagadore Frass-completed other than some road work- ~14,000 ccf
 - v. Williams Grave ~2,300 ccf Sold to Burk Construction (\$28.45/ton) (7,389 tons) Currently working on as conditions allow
 - vi. Dead Triangle ~10,000 ccf Sold to Stoltze Lumber Company (\$48.89/Ton) (26,335 tons) ¾ complete
 - i. Meadow GNA ~6,500 ccf- 1st GNA sale on district. Sold to Stoltze (\$35.98 a ton). 663 Acres. Road work started
 - b. Recently Sold
 - i. Dream Weaver ~11,000 ccf. 748 acres. Sold to Weyerhaeuser \$19.26/Ton
 - c. Future
 - i. Still Pinkham ~26,000 ccf. 1,285 acres. Advertised. Bid Date 9-7-22
 - ii. Banks Saddle ~6,858 ccf. Tentatively advertise in September. 631 Acres. Advertise 19 August. Bid date 9/21/22
 - iii. Young Dodge- possible small sale through GNA ~100 acres.
 - iv. Castle Edna TS (Edna/Fortine Project) Volume estimate ~17,000 ccf ~1,500 acres
 - v. Sunday Project Summer of 2023 ~1,500 acres.
- 3) Fire/Fuels-
 - a. Weasel Fire- ~3,600 acres shared with FNF and Canada. Aggressive initial attack but changed strategy to confine-contain-point protection after a wind event. Very few values. Type 3 Team. Area Closure in effect. Inciweb.
 - b. Sutton- Detected Aug14. ~100 acres. Type 3 Team. ~100 firefighters including 3 crews, engines and heavy equipment. Making good progress. Calling it 10% contained but optimistic. 3 to 4 miles from any private property. Road/Trail Closure in effect. Inciweb.
 - c. East Sunday- ~3 acres contained and in mop up.
 - d. 12 total fires so far this year. 7 in the last week.

- e. Treatments
 - i. ~800 acres of fall pile burning planned
 - ii. ~800-1,200 acres of prescribed burning possible this fall if conditions allow.

4) Recreation

- a. Continuing work on Douglas Hill CG/OHV project. Made some changes based on public comments and currently out for scoping. Had some public meetings the first week in August.
- b. Recreation levels fairly high. Not quite pre-COVID but Canadians seem to be back.
- c. Great American Outdoors Act continues
 - i. Rexford Bench water system replacement design
 - ii. Rocky Gorge CG- replace picnic tables and fire pits.
 - iii. New signs for a number of CG's

5) Other

- a. Currently replacing a bridge up Copeland Creek.- Road closure associated on Big Creek
- b. Will be grinding the Trail Creek (FNF) to Lewis Creek Roads. They will be closed starting August 22.
- c. The Kootenai Complex chosen as one of the Initial Landscape Investments to protect communities and improve resilience.
- d. 13 person Youth Conservation Corp crew working with MCC leadership just finished up for the year. Had a really good season. Got a lot accomplished helping Silviculture, Recreation, Weeds, Fuels, timber, wildlife, and others.
- e. Road closure on 7202 Road to Lake Geneva due to a sluff. Some small slides on Grave Creek that have been cleared so far.



Seth Carbonari
District Ranger

Forest Service

Kootenai National Forest, Ksanka Ranger District

Commissioner Teske commented that he appreciates the information sharing from Seth and knowledge of what is happening in North Lincoln County.

Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board

Jerry Bennett, Chairman