

February 19, 2020

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 19, 2020 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Letcher, and County Administrator Patrick McFadden. Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson was present via VisionNet.

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

10:00 AM Worker's Compensation Discussion: Present were Nikki Meyer and Ron Catlett representing Senator Daines Office. Also present was HR Director Dallas Bowe, Libby via VisionNet.

Commissioner Bennett explained that MACo has decided the state has turned around their worker's compensation process. There is about 1 billion in reserves and MACo is moving the whole pool to the state pool which will save the county approximately \$107,000. Commissioner Bennett clarified that the county would normally ask for an RFP, but MACo is managing the transition and they have already done that. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to agree with MACo to move the county insurance pool to the state. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:15 AM County Forester Jennifer Nelson Update: Present were Ron Catlett representing Senator Daines Office and Nikki Meyer. Also present, Libby via VisionNet were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brad Dodson, Tina Oliphant, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Jennifer submitted and discussed the following update:

County Forester Notes for Commissioners meeting 2/19/2020

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (KFSC) — USFS, County, KFSC - cadre efforts have wrapped up, sent info out to commissioners, working on getting back on track.

Kootenai Forest to Rivers Initiative — DNRC, County - Phase 1 -State has completed screening, county applications have gone out to screened applicants, form and process is being developed. Nineteen properties in the Eureka, Fortine, Trego, Rexford area, 3 in Troy area. Possibly hire a forester on contract, need to see how demanding the process is. Holly McKenzie has sent her information, also Lou Kuennen has shown interest.

Phase 2 — DNRC, County, AFF - Two locations — Pipe Creek/Bobtail and Swede — AFF has Swede. County/DNRC has Pipe/Bobtail We needed to spend some of the funds by 2020 so DNRC had a small area treated on Bobtail by thinning and mastication, also thinning and piling. A sign was made to bring attention to the treatment area and a covered brochure holder was added. The brochure is being designed, as is the outreach postcard.

Home Assessments — FireSafe Council - redesigning the home assessments, new format to match with SAM database, Door hangers for absentee homeowners being developed. Bringing a home assessment training to county, working with the DNRC in Missoula to develop a one-day training with a certification.

Burn Permit Coordination and Information — FireSafe Council — coordinating with county and the agencies to create a document to provide information for the agencies and the public on the who, what,

how and when of burning windows and burn permits in the county. Will be available in print and on websites — county, DNRC, possibly KNF. Waiting on map to finish brochure and website installment.

County Subdivision Regulations Revision — FireSafe Council (FSC), CWPP team —we had four meetings (two with FSC, two with CWPP) to address recommendation for the subdivision revision. The recommendations were provided to the planning board and we had a working meeting with them 2/11. They accepted for consideration most of what we proposed. Some recommendations were not appropriate for the regulations, including additions to addressing and the FSC will ask the commissioners to address those concerns through possible changes in the addressing ordinance at a later date. The FSC also offered to design a new template for the Fire Risk Assessment and the Vegetation Management Plan, which the board accepted. FSC also offered to create a better template for FPA to reviewing subdivisions and assist the board in getting more and better input from the local fire agencies regarding subdivision applications.

GNA — SkiDale is back on the radar for a GNA project. The 22-acre county parcel adjacent should be treated also but isn't allowed under GNA. We could coordinate with the contractor awarded the bid for SkiDale. I will be writing the prescription this spring. Discussions are occurring about making the FS parcel a community/school forest. The City of Libby has received an easement on Balsam street from the FS and tree removal along the ROW would be part of the county project. ROW removal would reduce fuels between the forest and the school, clear along the powerline and daylight the Balsam Street, including Balsam Street hill. Would like to work with Parks and Rec to create a better sledding area and possibly a trailhead for Parmenter Trail access. The harvest on county land should also be looked for opportunities to provide an emergency egress from residents from the top of Parmenter Hill.

CWPP —Area concept was agreed on and has been delineated. Shown on map. Work continues

FEMA grant — FEMA won't allow the water main extension and hydrants, nor the mobile firefighting equipment. They will not allow commercial removals (> 12 DBH) —which will likely affect the SkiDale ROW, school and county property tree removal. What is left is defensible space in subdivisions west of town and hazardous fuel reduction in forested areas within. Need to reassess participation in this grant.

WUI grant (formerly Western States) have been reviews. Ranked 26 in reviewer priority out of 87 applications. Should know in April if we are funded, June is when the Congress will appropriate the funds. Very encourage by the state.

Applied for \$7500 grant through Fire Adapted Montana to totally revamp what is now a county FireWise website. There is a need to update the site, creating a more comprehensive site that would include, or possible be based on, Fire Adapted Communities principles. We envision a site that includes a home for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), FireWise and Fire Adapted Community information, fuel reduction cost-share information, available grants, trainings, educational material and events pertaining to reducing fire risk, both wildfire and residential. The site could possibly include interactive educational tools. Further, we would like to provide information on burn permits, fire restrictions, air quality, current fire situations, etc. either directly or through links to partners websites including the USFS, DNRC, Public and Environmental Health, EMS and various fire departments. We would contract this to a website developer using SquarePoint technology, so we could manage the site. Such a contract would likely need the entire \$7,500, but if costs exceed that amount, Lincoln County could cover additional costs through Title III.

Developing projects —
SkiDale county land TS—
J.Neil's Park hazard tree removal —
Landfill TS -

Biomass Feasibility grant for schools -

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Ron Catlett representing Senator Daines Office and Nikki Meyer. Also present, Libby via VisionNet were Tina Oliphant, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

- Patrick informed the commissioners the FY 18/19 Audit has started and will be completed by end of March.
- Patrick said he has been working with Judge Cuffe about moving the Drug Treatment Court to the building located at 418 Main Avenue by end of this month. Patrick said we will need to discuss a fair and balanced rent. Commissioner Peck suggested the Drug Treatment Court present a budget for further discussion. Commissioner Letcher suggested finding what the annual maintenance costs to the building have been. Commissioner Bennett commented that the commission is very much in favor of the Drug Treatment Court.
- Robin presented the minutes for February 5 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin presented minutes for a closed meeting on January 29, 2020. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried. Commissioner Peck said he was not in attendance during the closed meeting and chose to abstain from voting.
- Commissioner Letcher presented a lease agreement with the Eureka Dune Runners to rent space at the fairgrounds. Lease is for \$1,000 per year. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve the lease for the Eureka Dune Racers. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

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

11:00 AM **Joel Cobb, FCC Districting Petition:** Present were Myles Hickman, Nikki Meyer, Neil Duram and Ron Catlett representing Senator Daine's Office. Also present, Libby via VisionNet were Leigh Riggleman, Tina Oliphant, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Joel talked about a change of media market for Lincoln County, stating there is a lack of coverage for local events such as forest fires and other local news. The project is to bring the public and commissioners on board to submit a proposal to the Communications Division. Joel said that ultimately the project will come down as a commissioner decision. Commissioner Peck said he has not heard of anyone that would not support this and he personally is very supportive. Joel commented that he needs to attain current statistical information and he would like to create a Facebook forum so people can see it and comment. Commissioner Bennett asked how this affects the rest of the county. Joel said it changes designated market area from Spokane stations to Missoula stations. The commissioners conveyed that there does need to be a push to inform the public and attain their input. Joel said it's not a hard project, but you do need to get buy-in. Joel said he will come back to update the

commissioners in April or May. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Peck said they will meet with the local TV Clubs to inform them of the project.

Ron commented that Lincoln County is a good candidate for this project and offered the help of Senator Daine's Office if this is the way the county wants to go. Ron said his office does receive calls from Lincoln County citizens regarding the lack of local TV coverage.

11:15 AM Kootenai Business Park TEDD, approval of documents: Present were Ron Catlett representing Senator Dain's Office and Nikki Meyer. Also present, Libby via VisionNet were Tina Oliphant, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Tina submitted Resolution 2020-04, a resolution to create the Kootenai Business Park Targeted Economic Development District Advisory Board and an Agreement for the Management of the Kootenai Business Park Targeted Economic Development District (The TEDD). Both the resolution and agreement has been reviewed and approved by the county attorney. Tina submitted the resolution and the agreement to the commissioners for review and asks the commission to place this on their calendar agenda.

11:30 AM Troy Rural Fire District / Resolution of Intent: Present was Ron Catlett representing Senator Daine's Office and Nikki Meyer. Also present Libby via VisionNet was Election Administrator Leigh Riggelman, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Leigh presented Resolution 2020-03, a Resolution of Intent to annex one property into the Troy Rural Fire District. Commissioner Bennett read the resolution to the public. Petition for annexation was submitted to the commissioners on January 29, 2020 and the property has been verified by the county elections department. A public hearing will be scheduled with the Notice of Public Hearing published pursuant to 7-1-2121 MCA.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2020-03 as presented.

Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM Special District Election by Acclamation: Present was Ron Catlett representing Senator Daine's Office and Nikki Meyer. Also present Libby via VisionNet was Election Administrator Leigh Riggelman, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Leigh said filing for special districts ended February 10, 2020. The number of filed candidates equals or is less than the number of positions open for Fire and Park Districts. Therefore, the regularly called for Special District Election held on May 5, 2020 is cancelled. The following candidates are duly Elected by Acclamation:

Bull Lake Fire District Board, Sylvia M. Maffit and Patricia Sargent

Libby Park District Board, James C. Germany and Daniel T. Youso

Lincoln County Rural Fire District Board, John Curt Jones and Richard S. Wood

McCormick Rural Fire District Board, Stephen J. Allen

Troy Rural Fire District Board, Markay Brown and Max Schroeder

Troy Park District Board, Mark A. Roesler-Belgalke and 1 unexpired position-No candidate filed

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Trustee Election by Acclamation as presented by the Lincoln County Election Administrator. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board