

October 19, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 19, 2022 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons, and Deputy Clerk Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

2:30 PM **Fair Update, Pam Rackley:** Present were Pam Rackley, Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Pam presented an updated budget. Pam is requesting an amendment to the budget wage line. Commissioner Bennett will consult Dallas about advertising a couple of budget amendments. Pam presented her list of needed repairs to the County Fairgrounds. Pam stated the well pump may need reviewed as it will not adequately keep up with usage. Pam stated the camping outlets on the north side need updated from 20 to at least 50 amps. Commissioner Bennett advised Pam to get a bid on having the fifteen sites updated. Commissioner Letcher relayed that Mike Fraser is working with DEQ on approval and pursuing minimal allocation grant funding for the sewer improvements.

2:45 PM **Administrative Issues-Old Business / USFS Special Use Permit #LIB277 Lincoln County Shooting Range:** Present were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for October 12, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Letcher presented a pasture lease agreement to Yorlum Cattle Company. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the lease as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Teske discussed USFS special use permit with Lincoln County shooting range outside of Libby noting it was updated to include grizzly bear management. Commissioner Teske advised he'd met with the Shooting Club and they were good with it. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the USFS special use permit as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

3:00 PM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.
There were no public comments.

3:15 PM **Seth Carbonari, USFS Update:** Present were Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Seth Carbonari.

Seth provided updates from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts:

- 1) Current planning projects:
 - a. Working on Edna-Fortine fuel reduction/wildfire resiliency project. CE. Going over comments received to scoping. Likely sign this winter.
 - b. Preliminary work on Sunday Creek. Targeted CE for fuels reduction and wildfire resiliency. Pre-scoping letter going out within the week. Public Meeting Nov. 9.
 - 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.
- 1) 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. Likely start this winter. 1168 Acres
 - ii. Highway Dickey- Mostly 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) Mostly complete.
 - i. Meadow GNA ~6,500 ccf- 1st GNA sale on district. Sold to Stoltze (\$35.98 a ton). 663 Acres. Operations are active
 - vii. Dream Weaver ~11,000 ccf. 748 acres. Sold to Weyerhaeuser \$19.26/Ton. Starting road work
 - b. Recently Sold
 - i. Still Pinkham- 1,285 acres, 48,563 tons saw and 22,598 tons non saw (\$27.56 a ton). Stoltze.
 - ii. Banks Saddle- 631 acres, 20574 tons saw and 6153 non saw. (\$28.89 ton). Tamarack Timber CO.

c. Future

- i. Young Dodge- possible small sale through GNA ~100 acres.
- ii. Castle Edna TS (Edna/Fortine Project) Volume estimate ~17,000 ccf ~1,500 acres
- iii. Sunday Project Summer of 2023 ~1,500 acres.
- iv. Other potential small sales.

2) Fire/Fuels-

a. Two prescribed burns this fall

- i. Big Steep- 18 acres
- ii. Little Lookout- 35 acres

b. ~1,100 acres of piles to burn this fall.

c. 2022 accomplishments

- 7,232 fuels acres for FY22 (KNF Target-11,500 acres).
- BIL - 925 acres meeting forest target
 - i. Fall 2021 Pile Burning – 1,200+/- Acres.
 - ii. Spring Burning – 516 acres
 - iii. Slashing – 588 acres
 - iv. Contractor Work Actually Completed on the Ground This Year from New and Past Contracts – 83 acres Hand Piles, 510 acres Excavator Piles, 410 acres of Slashing.
 - v. Contracts Awarded in FY22- 370 acre footprint (435 acres to target). Possibly 600 + acres more just awarded with IDIQ.

3) Recreation

a. Continuing work on Douglas Hill CG/OHV project. Going over comments from scoping.

b. Recreation quieted down. All campgrounds closed for season

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

d. Around 300 miles of trails maintained this season.

e. Re-surfaced 2 miles of Rails to Trails with RAC funding, Sunburst and Army Corp of Engineers.

f. Over the snow motor vehicle use for the forest

g. Travel Planning for Ten Lakes.

4) Other

a. Trail Creek (FNF) to Lewis Creek Roads had the surface grinded. Great shape.

b. Seem to be getting more dumping of garbage and construction materials in the forest.

c. Sprayed about 250 acres of weeds on the district this season.

Commissioner Bennett thanked Seth for providing this information. Commissioner Bennett commented that Lincoln County has received a letter confirming Cooperating Agency status with KNF and looks forward to working together on projects impacting Lincoln County.

3:30 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Deputy Clerk of the Board