

**April 5, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 5, 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, Lincoln County Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk & Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

Present online were Alyssa Ramirez, Kathi Hooper, Ray Stout, Danielle Faris, Chanel Geer, Michelle Byrd, Mac Kirk, Bree Adamson and Chrissy Griffin.

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

**09:30 AM ASA Wood School Building:** Present were Vanessa Williamson, Deb Burrell, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Boyd White, Sherriff Darren Short, Scott Shindledecker, Judge Sheffield Amanda Harcourt and Jesse Haag.

Vanessa advised she and Kathi Hooper have explored available spaces around the community to consolidate departments which are currently spread among five different buildings. Vanessa expressed interest in exploring options for Lincoln County to consolidate most departments into the former ASA Wood school building. Vanessa cited various reasons this would benefit the Lincoln County as well as the community to include Utility costs, older building repair cost, IT support savings, eliminate rent of City Hall, eliminate parking issues while provide better handicap parking, additional safety and security opportunities for the public and employees, more room for public meetings, and improved communications between departments by virtue of being under one roof. Vanessa stated services would be centralized making it easier for the public to locate the correct facility. Vanessa advised this building can be designed to suit individual departments. Vanessa presented a letter of interest to the commissioners to send to Compass Community Foundation. Kathi advised they are seeking approval to apply for Brownfield funding of a feasibility study and this letter of interest is required to apply for the funding. Commissioner Teske asked if there is any funding requirement from Lincoln County. Vanessa stated this is strictly going forward on a grant basis. Commissioner Teske asked Sherriff Short for comment. Sherriff Short advised this would benefit our community in having courts incorporated in one building, the courthouse, thus less transportation logistics. Commissioner Teske advised of long-term costs to retrofit the courthouse. Sherriff Short stated any jail expansion must meet current standards. Commissioner Hammons commented that it would be nice to be centrally located and would like to see the results of the feasibility study. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the letter for a feasibility study. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Commissioner Letcher stated he wants to ensure this is comprehensive, so the county does not get into a financial bind. Motion carried.

**10:00 Planning: USFS:** Present were Scott Shindledecker, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, and Nathan Gassman

Nathan advised Troy has a new District Ranger, Sam Martin. Nathan stated the winter was good and Turner Mountain had an extended season. Nathan advised South Flower trails are going well. Nathan said the Snowmobile Club had a good season with grooming and experienced turnout success. Nathan mentioned prescribed burn operations in the Cripple Horse, Mosquito and Voodoo areas. Voodoo will start soon with over 3000 acres and includes slashing and piling. Nathan advised the contracted purchaser to take care of the pulp. Nathan advised they have not gotten a ruling on Ripley. Commissioner Teske questioned a revision of the route at Horseshoe Trail. Nathan advised the published plan is the route. Nathan stated recreation is looking good for this summer. Nathan said they have two participants with the Student Conservation Organization to be a part of the Cabinet Wilderness trail crew. Nathan advised RAC supports affordable housing for summer staffing. Nathan commented volunteer projects are gearing up for the summer. Nathan advised LARP was the most productive session yet in detailing the broad scope of roles and responsibilities. Nathan commented he is working with state on road networks, Granite Lake Road, Deep Creek Road and Snowshoe Road. Nathan stated the State will elicit contracts and this will be a robust project covering about 1000 acres of treatment. Commissioner Teske commented he'd like to see fire breaks as a lot of housing areas have only one-way in and one-way out. Nathan advised they are doing well filling open positions.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business:** Present were Veronica, Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, DC Orr, and Les Nelson.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for March 29, 2023, regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes of March 29, 2023, minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske advised two public hearings were held regarding CWPP. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to adopt the 2023 CWPP plan. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske advised he will get with Lincoln County Forester, Jennifer Nelson to proceed.
- Commissioner Letcher mentioned the adjudication for the Tobacco River, stating there has been a 90 Day extension given by the water court that includes the FWP water rights claim and the town of Eureka water rights.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, DC Orr, and Les Nelson.

DC commented on problems in the County prosecution department. DC stated he feels his reputation has been harmed. DC advised he is concerned about the Police Department turnover and lack of follow up. DC commented on a newspaper article regarding the Election Department. DC encourages the commissioners to restore public trust.

11:15 AM **Library: Grant to Fund Part Time Employee Approval:** Present was Alyssa Ramirez. Alyssa advised the library has been awarded a grant to fund organizing, managing, and preserving Lincoln County Library's historic properties. Alyssa foresees digitizing documents and photos and making them available on-line. Allyssa stated this position will be part time temp 15-20 hours per week. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Preservation Assistant position request. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske suggested publicizing one these records are available on-line.

11:20 PM **Break**

1:30 PM **Planning: 1. Sugarloaf Preliminary Plat 2. Bighorn Preliminary plat 3. Braach Preliminary Plat 4. Wilderness club phasing plan Amendment:** Present were Kristin Smith and Jesse Haag.

Sugarloaf Views Subdivision: Kristin gave a project description. location and historical information regarding existing protections. Kristin advised Planning Department recommends granting preliminary approval subject to conditions and based on findings in the staff report. Commissioner Teske questioned the impact on wildlife and if a FWP should be standard for rural subdivisions. Kristin suggested Lincoln County adopt a resolution creating a standardized policy county wide. Jesse added that covenants are enforced by HOA, and this standardization would help concerned citizens. Commissioner Teske requested a FWP condition be more specific given the wildlife in this area. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Sugarloaf Views Subdivision preliminary approval subject conditions and update to Covenant #7. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Motion carried.

Wilderness Club Phase 9 Subdivision: Request final plat approval phase 9 prior to phase 8 and provide notice of intent to proceed with revised design for phase 9. Kristin described the project advancement, and the developers desire to reorder the phasing. Kristin stated there is nothing in the regulations to inhibit this. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Wilderness Club phase 9 prior to phase 8. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Motion carried. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the request to increase the lots in phase 9, not to exceed 31 lots. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Motion carried. Chrissy stated the total number of lots originally approved was not changing.

Bighorn Subdivision: Kristin stated Planning Department recommends granting preliminary approval subject to conditions and based on findings in the staff report. Kristin advised this is near the border in the Roosevelt area. Kristin described the layout plan and usage of the land. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to grant preliminary approval to Big Horn Subdivision subject to conditions and based on findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Teske. Motion carried.

Braach Subdivision: Kristin gave general information on the planned subdivision. Kristin advised Planning Department recommends approval of the preliminary approval to Braach Subdivision plat application. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to grant preliminary approval to Braach Subdivision subject to conditions and based on findings of the staff report. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Motion carried.

2:00 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board