

February 15, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 8, 2023 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:45 AM **Kathleen Sheffield / Grant:** Present were Rebecca Nelson, Alyssa Ramirez, Solomon Alcain, Barb Hvizdak, and Ray Stout.

Kathleen talked about the Victim Witness Program and provided a brief overview of services provided. Kathleen informed the commission about a grant from National Administration of VOCA Association for Crime Victim's Week and has been awarded \$5,000 to conduct an activity for that week. Kathleen expressed she will be putting together a social and digital campaign on social media, something sustainable beyond Crime Victims Week providing educational information about services and crime prevention going out to the public; scams (prevention), elderly abuse, domestic abuse, where to find services and help. Requesting Commissioner approval to accept the grant award. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to accept the grant for the Victim Witness Advocate proposal. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

10:00 AM **Library Update:** Present were Scott Shindledecker, Rebecca Nelson, Alyssa Ramirez, Michelle Bianca, Barb Hvizdak, Dianne Hansen, and Ray Stout.

Alyssa provided an update of library programs and services. All three library branches are seeing the public returning to the library programs and using the services since the covid shut down.

Alyssa talked about the library recovery from the flooding in 2020 and gave a brief overview of necessary building maintenance/repairs, staffing, financials/grants, technology/infrastructure upgrades and professional development by the library staff. The library board will be having conversations to discuss written policy regarding the Library Depreciation Fund, per commissioner request. Alyssa discussed the ARPA Grant to hire a temporary technology specialist and the network/wiring/Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrades and tech assistance to all library branches. Alyssa provided a FY 2022-2023 Expenditure Budget Report and gave a brief overview of current expenditures.

Dianne expressed support for emphasis on reading actual printed books vs. emphasis on digital reading. Alyssa and Barb explained more people are wanting digital books and explained reasons why there are people who have digital preferences.

For a complete copy of the Library Director's Report, please contact the Lincoln County Libraries.

www.lincolncountylibraries.com

Commissioner Letcher talked about expenditures and foresight into the future, mentioning the library is spending well beyond the mills allowed. There are hard budget decisions that need to be discussed.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues-Old Business:** Present were Dianne Hansen, Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

- Robin submitted the minutes for February 8, 2023 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.
- Robin commented that Land Specialist Noah Pyle is attending the Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors Conference in Great Falls and current land use legislation will be discussed.
- Commissioner Letcher gave a brief update about ARPA funds that were approved and received.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Scott Shindledecker, County Planner Jesse Haag, Rebecca Nelson, and Ray Stout.

Commissioner Letcher opened the meeting for public comment.

Dianne commended Siri (Eureka Library employee), for her professionalism and welcoming citizens when they come into the library.

Dianne commended Robin for the size of public notices in local newspapers for board vacancies.

Dianne provided a handout about a Montana Election Integrity group coming to Eureka and Libby. Eureka is scheduled for March 4th, and Libby has not been scheduled yet.

Dianne spoke about concerns on the Board of Health (BOH), saying there is not a consensus between the liberal and conservative members. Dianne conveyed that important discussion and decisions are being made at BOH meetings regarding how they will handle future pandemics. Dianne said maintaining her individual rights is important to herself and other citizens and encouraged the public and commissioners to attend the March 4th BOH meeting. Dianne said she believes the next pandemic will be the bird flu.

Jesse Haag talked about a notification received from MACo, regarding LC2647. A bill that if passed will have significant impact on our enforcement to lakeshore regulations. Jesse said he has reviewed this legislation and it could lead to several potential issues and problems in Lincoln County. We know there is public concern on the lakes in Lincoln County. A legislative hearing is scheduled Monday at 3pm. Written comment needs to be received Friday.

Commissioner Teske said he will reach out to legislators questioning what the motivation or momentum this has; the big picture is not fully understood.

11:00 AM **Ethan Lula, FWP: Rescheduled**

11:30 AM **District Ranger Seth Carbonari, USFS:** Present were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Seth Carbonari gave an overview of the following report:

Updates from the Rexford/Fortine Ranger Districts:

- 1) Current planning projects:
 - a. Working on Edna-Fortine fuel reduction/wildfire resiliency project. CE. Working on consultation with USFWS . Likely sign this spring.
 - b. Sunday Creek. Targeted CE for forest restoration including forest health and fuels reduction. Pre-scoping completed. Scoping very soon.
 - 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. MTFWP Rainbow Lake Native Fish, Ksanka Creek re-route, Laughing Water Irrigation Ditch, LEC power access.
- 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. No current operations. 1168 Acres
 - ii. Highway Dickey- Mostly finished- ~12,000 ccf
 - iii. Laughing Ant- operations ongoing-~800 ccf- One unit left for winter harvest- May or may not happen this winter.
 - 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. 16 loads hauled in January.
 - vi. Dead Triangle ~10,000 ccf Sold to Stoltze Lumber Company (\$48.89/Ton) (26,335 tons) Mostly complete. Stoltze may bring in a grinder/chipper to process some of the piles.
 - i. Meadow GNA ~6,500 ccf- 1st GNA sale on district. Sold to Stoltze (\$35.98 a ton). 663 Acres. No current operations. 1 unit remaining to be harvested this summer.
 - vii. Dream Weaver ~11,000 ccf. 748 acres. Sold to Weyerhaeuser \$19.26/Ton. Some road work done last fall, no current ops.
 - viii. Still Pinkham- 1,285 acres, 48,563 tons saw and 22,598 tons non saw (\$27.56 a ton). Stoltze. 12 Loads a day coming out West of Pinkham.
 - ix. Banks Saddle- 631 acres, 20574 tons saw and 6153 non saw. (\$28.89 ton). Tamarack Timber CO. No current ops.
 - b. Recently Sold
 - i. None recently sold
 - c. Future
 - i. Young Dodge- possible small sale through GNA ~100 acres.
 - ii. Dodging Poverty- possible small sale through GNA ~60 acres.
 - iii. Castle Edna TS (Edna/Fortine Project) Volume estimate ~17,000 ccf ~1,500 acres
 - iv. Sunday Project Fall of 2023 ~1,100 acres. 600 acres fall 2023 and 500 acres spring/summer 2024 (GNA)
- 3) Fire/Fuels-
 - a. Prepping for spring burning. Over a thousand acres will be ready, weather will determine what is accomplished.
 - b. Currently 3 contract crews working slashing/piling. Over 2,000 acres planned for the season between FS contract, GNA and FS work.
 - c. Working with the Nature Conservancy on a prescribed burn at Dancing Prairie.
- 4) Recreation
 - a. Continuing work on Douglas Hill CG/OHV project. Working towards a draft decision.
 - b. 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
 - iv. Replacing SST's at Gateway and Tobacco River Access
 - v.
 - c. SST at Young Creek
 - d. Over the snow motor vehicle use for the forest
 - e. Travel Planning for Ten Lakes.
- 5) Other
 - a. Outfitter guide system going from Flat Fee to 3%
 - b. KNF GMR April 17-21
 - c. BIL/IRA/Kootenai Complex- updated Fireshed maps



Seth Carbonari
District Ranger

Forest Service

Kootenai National Forest, Ksanka Ranger District

12:00 AM **Adjourn**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board