

**July 19, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 19, 2023, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher, and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability. Present online were Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Sean Leahy, Ray Stout Reporter-Kootenai Valley Record, Ashleigh Clark, Alyssa Ramirez, Chanel Geer, Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western News, Shelly Graham, Alex Smith, Diane Watson, Tom Lane, Michelle Byrd and Rebecca Nelson Reporter-Tobacco Valley News.

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

09:30 AM **Lakeshore Permit: Dickey Lake-USFS, Dickey Lake-Spackman and Middle Thompson Grant**: Present were Seth Carbonari USFS, Pat Price USFS, David Wheeler, Laurie Hull, Tanner Nicholls, Brendan Humphrey, Nathaniel Peoples, Michelle Wilbur, Mary Handy, Richard Avery, Phronsie Raines, Jack L. McCracken and Thomas Lane EMA.

Lakeshore permit Dickey Lake-USFS: Jesse advised of the Dicky Lake Lakeshore USFS construction application to repair the public boat launch on the north shore of Dickey Lake. Jesse summarized the project and advised the Planning Board recommends approval as written. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the USFS construction permit on Dicky Lake with six conditions per Planning Board staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Public comment: David inquired how long the repair will take. Pat stated this should be completed before the weekend. Motion carried. Jesse clarified the other two agenda items will be postponed until next week.

10:00 AM **Fisher River Fire Budget Discussion**: canceled.

Commissioner Letcher acknowledged a recess until 10:30 and advised the attendees that *green box sites are not on today's meeting agenda* yet there is designated public comment time from 10:45-11:00 to allow attendees to voice their opinions or concerns on any relevant matter during that period. Commissioner Letcher confirmed some green box sites are being closed and some sites are staying open per prior meeting discussions. Commissioner Letcher advised the attendees that meeting agendas have to be published in advance and encouraged attendees to request to be put on the agenda or to contact him with any concerns. Commissioner Teske mentioned the topic of green box sites has been discussed over a period of three weeks, with relevant information being shared through posted meeting agendas, newspaper articles and online minutes.

- Commissioner Letcher advised the main Eureka transfer site will remain open and will be upgraded for more capacity and efficiency, but the small containers outside the site will be redistributed.
- Commissioner Letcher advised green box sites have been a recurring issue all five years of his tenure.
- Commissioner Teske advised the sanitation department provided three options, with Option 1 being amended over the course of three weeks to its current state.
- Commissioner Letcher advised thousands of dollars have been invested in camera systems to monitoring sites where they can be utilized, but the cameras at multiple sites have been stolen or shot out.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the green box sites are on Forest Service leases, and the FS has contacted the county regarding violations of special use permits due to improper dumping, potentially affecting lease renewals.
- Commissioner Letcher said Flathead County, with over 100,000 people, has nine container sites, while Lincoln County, with 21,000 people, has 20 total sites.
- Commissioner Teske stated services are not being reduced, only convenience.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the costs of goods have increased at least 40% while the population has only increased by a couple of percentage points leaving a gap of 38%.
- Commissioner Letcher asserted they are not taking away cans but rather consolidating sites, the over all capacity is increasing.
- Commissioner Letcher advised that consolidation of sites and hiring three additional employees aims to improve monitoring and maintenance of the sites.
- Commissioner Teske advised Option 1 includes a Rover in each district working four ten-hour days with a vehicle to open, monitor, maintain and close the sites throughout the day, with a few sites having full-time attendants.
- Commissioner Letcher described enhancements being made to the Eureka transfer site to increase capacity and improve traffic flow.
- Commissioner Teske advised the refuse assessment fee covers county-wide services, including Libby Landfill, both Troy and Eureka transfer sites, green box sites, operational costs, etc.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the current refuse fee was designed to cover expenses, but increased volume has taken three years off the life expectancy of the current landfill cell and an ARPA grant has allowed for development of another cell.
- Commissioner Teske clarified issuing citations for misuse of facilities does not result in monetary incentives for the agency per state statute.
- Commissioner Teske advised of ongoing discussions involve operating hours of sites and efforts to recruit additional employees to improve oversight and deter misuse.
- Commissioner Letcher advised public comments are being accepted until August 4<sup>th</sup> and encourages people to reach out with questions or concerns.

10:37 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes, Board Training, 1098 payment or SRS election, Court Order Split Draft Letter:** Present were none.

- Minutes for July 11, 2023, special meeting was submitted for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve minutes of July 11, 2023. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Minutes for July 12, 2023, regular meeting was submitted for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes of July 12, 2023. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown requested the Commissioners sponsor board leadership training for members of local boards. Corrina advised training will be conducted by Daniel Clark, Director MSU Local Government Center, with a cost of \$500 per session plus travel expenses. Corrina proposed training be September 20<sup>th</sup> at Eureka Fairgrounds and September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Annex, 418 Mineral Ave. level B, both from 5-8pm. Commissioner Teske stated these are very beneficial training sessions. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the board training sessions as noted. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- 1908 Act Amended or the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act payment methodologies: Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown presented both options and listed the differences of each plan. Jennifer also listed projects per fund. Commissioner Teske concluded the choices were between convenience and dollars and Commissioner Letcher advised without timber sales, the SRS looks like the way to go. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve and move forward with the SRS program. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Court Order Split letter to District Court: **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the letter as this had come up at the last meeting and concerns have been addressed. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske cited a letter from Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown regarding Troy Area Dispatch District Board oversight in appointing Jamie Shupe a city resident as a county resident member of the Board. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the letter. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

10:50 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were none.

Rebecca, Reporter-Tobacco Valley News questioned how a green box discussion occurred. Commissioner Letcher advised everything else on the agenda was cancelled and the reason people were present at the meeting was specifically to talk about green box sites. Rebecca questioned if this was planned in advance or if people just showed up. Commissioner Letcher advised someone put on Facebook that there was to be a green box discussion today, but it was not on the agenda. Commissioner Letcher acknowledged the apparent community need for information related to the green box sites. Diane Watson clarified she did not try to say this was a green box meeting but just that people need to pay attention as she feels more community involvement and communication is needed. Diane suggests a social media page be used to inform the public. Laurie Hall publicly noted the green box discussion is open for comment until August 4<sup>th</sup> and emphasized the process should be followed and no changes made until the comment period is over.

11:00 AM **RFP for Pinkham Tower Replacement:** Present was EMA Tom Lane.

Tom advised he received one bid from Larson Tower Specialists for \$284,170.69. Tom advised this may be pushed to next year and if the Commissioners accept the vendor, he will then go to the insurance company to see if they will accept the vendor at that price tag and move forward from there. Commissioner Letcher questioned the pricing expectation. Tom advised this bid is comparable to what is being seen given its a remote location and the travel distance. Tom said he has been in touch with MACO on the claim. Tom advised a local person who has said they can provide some of this stuff, yet they are not a contractor and are not willing to take on the liability and risk to put up this kind of tower. Commissioners agreed this would not work especially given the insurance claim. Tom advised he expects this will go into next spring. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the one and only bid contingent on insurance coverage. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske advised this is within the window expected. No public comment. Motion carried. Tom will reach out to MACO regarding covering the cost of the replacement.

11:15 AM **Electrical Updates LC Fairgrounds:** Present were Jesse Haag and Pam Rackley.

Fair Director Pam Rackley advised the power at the fairgrounds has to be upgraded to update the camping plug-ins from 20 to 50 amps and this requires bringing in another power source. Pam wants to cover all the fairground changes and would like to complete this in phases with the goal of the overhead electrical all being underground. Pam advised they'd consolidate the meters to 3 at a rate savings of \$50 each per month. There is currently 9 meters. The updates are expected to enable revenue generation from the camp sites throughout the year. Additionally, connecting the sewer could lead to an increase in the \$15/night fee. Lincoln Electric Cooperative provided an estimate of \$11,198 for the cost to upgrade the electrical system and \$16,949.65 for the cost to start converting to underground. Commissioner Letcher advised the sewer should be completed in the spring. Pam said a camera system is being solicited for the fairground. Commissioner Teske agreed to look into availability of electrical panels that had been used for Nordic fest as Pam would like to use them for food trucks. Pam will reschedule a meeting when Lincoln Electric can attend.

11:33 PM **Adjourn**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

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

# Option 1 (rev) – 11 sites

Site	Distance to landfill	Open Hours	Notes
<i>Libby area</i>			
Happy's Inn	44.0 miles		Install real time video surveillance. Site is now fenced.
Libby Creek	14.8 miles	9 AM – 6 PM, Wednesday - Sunday	On-site attendant
Fisher River	15.5 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, Wednesday - Saturday	Limited to daytime hours May-October
<i>Troy area</i>			
Troy Ballpark	2.0 miles	To be determined	Limited to daytime hours. Roving site attendant.
Hecla	11.4 miles	9 AM – 6 PM, Friday - Monday	Limited to daytime hours. Roving site attendant.
Yaak Hill	12.4 miles	9 AM – 6 PM, Friday - Monday	Limited to daytime hours. Roving site attendant.
Upper Yaak	41.6 miles (Troy), 33.8 miles (Libby)	8 AM- 6 PM April-Nov, 24 hrs Dec-March	Increase current gatekeeper contract to include site monitoring
<i>Eureka area</i>			
Trego	19.0 miles	9 AM – 6 PM, Thursday – Sunday	Limited to daytime hours. Roving site attendant.
Fortine	15.7 miles	9 AM – 6 PM, Thursday – Sunday	Limited to daytime hours. Roving site attendant.
West Kootenai	23.0 miles		
Rexford	5.6 miles		Not fenced. Roving site attendant.

Site monitoring includes opening and closing gates, cleaning outside fence, checking fence, educating users, documenting violations, and notifying landfill staff and/or contractor of issues.

- Close Pinkham, Fourth of July, Savage Lake, Glen Lake, and Eureka Landfill greenbox sites.
- Purchase attendant shack for Libby Creek site.
- Purchase two trucks (Silverado 1500, Fort F150 style).
- Hire three full-time employees, Grade 5. One each Libby, Eureka & Troy areas.
- Increase refuse assessment from \$135/year to \$150/year.

*Budget increase: \$162,000 – \$210,000 annually, \$100,000 initial set up*