

**June 28, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 28, 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk & Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability. Present online were Bruce Phillips, Chanel Greer, Darren Short, Michelle Byrd, Jesse Haag, Ron Thatcher, Danielle Faris, Tom Lane, Sarah Long, Jordan LeCount, Miranda Davis, Ray Stout-Reporter Kootenai Valley Record, and Rebecca Nelson-Reporter Tobacco Valley Newspaper.

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

09:30 AM **Green Box Discussion**: Present were Michael Huck Evergreen, Ashley Weaver Evergreen, Susie Taylor, Maggie Craig, Charles Ekstedt Mayor of Troy, Matthew Stull Landfill, Bryan Alkire Landfill, Veronica Bovee-Anders, Haley Benjamin Health Department, Director of Planning Jesse Haag, Jenny Kair Evergreen, Kevin Stewart Evergreen, Health Department Director Kathi Hooper and Robin Blumberg Health Department.

Health Department Director Kathi Hooper advised of frequent and continued misuse of the green box sites. Kathi provided literature and advised of 16 current sites; most are open 24 hours per day 7 days per week. Kathi commented Landfill operations are supported through the \$135/unit refuse assessment fee paid with property taxes. Kathi reviewed the 3 options presented to improve the green box sites. Option 1-12 sites; Option 2-6 sites; Option 3-3 sites. Commissioner Hammons questioned the biggest usage day of the week. Kathi asked Evergreen and Jenny stated its usually weekends resulting in the green boxes being overfull on Mondays, even with early Sunday pick up at all sites. Commissioner Hammons questioned if items that don't belong are being deposited on certain days. Jenny stated that it is every day, and they can, on any given day, pick up a bag of trash, open it and get an address and it will be out of state - no matter what day of the week. Jenny believes people don't realize what can't be dumped in green boxes. Kathi suggested with manned sites they could call Evergreen and get additional pickups to prevent overfull issues. Commissioner Letcher questioned closing the green box site located at the Eureka landfill. Kathi advised they have discussed blocking access to that site when the landfill is open. Commissioner Letcher asked Troy Mayor if the ballpark site is needed. Charles advised with the ball tournament this weekend it did fill. Charles advised he would expect it to fill on the days the landfill is closed. Charles would like to leave the green box site with cameras for enforcement at this time and reconsider closure if misuse continues. Bryan advised those cameras need upgraded and encouraged enforcing tickets for improper dumping. Kathi advised they have started working with the sheriff office and the citation process is going smoothly. Commissioner Hammons advised the internet service needs upgraded for a camera system at the Troy ballpark green box site to work. Susie advised Ron Anderson was Health Department Director years ago and the trash near her residence on highway 2 remains an issue due to proximity to the landfill. Susie has had a dryer left in her driveway, paneling, etc. due to improperly secured loads enroute to the landfill. Susie would like cameras, enforcement of dumping regulations and to keep the ballpark green box site. Commissioner Teske discussed closing the Savage Lake site and moving the dumpsters to the Hecla site. Commissioner Letcher proposed closing Glen Lake and Pinkham sites. Kathi discussed remote properties not being accessible in winter months for curbside service. Jenny agreed, not even with chains. Kathi stated the contractor at Glen Lake in Eureka may be willing to open other site gates. Commissioner Letcher discussed how the Eureka landfill could be made more user friendly as it's hard to make the loop with a trailer and they could add an additional big container. Kathi advised that the refuse assessment has only been increased once in twenty years and a \$15 increase is needed for any of the options. Maggie questioned if there are any cooperative funding opportunities with the Forest Service as a lot of the green box sites are special use permits. Commissioner Teske advised he is not aware of any funding for this scenario and will discuss it with Chad. Commissioner Letcher advised they will research fees and funding and revisit this during the next scheduled meeting July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Susie questioned the increase in population and how this is reflected on the budget. Kathi advised the number of refuse assessments has gone up, but it has not kept up with budget increases such as rising insurance and fuel costs.

10:15 AM **ARP Update**: Present were none.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Ambulance Board Appointment / LC Fairground Statement of Interest Approval**: Present were Brett McCully, Gerald Brown and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

- Minutes for the May 30, 2023, budget meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve minutes of May 30, 2023. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Minutes for the June 20, 2023, County Compensation Board meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes of June 20, 2023. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Minutes for the June 21, 2023, regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve minutes of June 21, 2023. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Corrina presented Lincoln County *Ambulance Board*; 1 open position, Libby District Resident, 1 application received. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to appoint Jan Ivers to the Lincoln County Ambulance Board. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

- Statement of Qualifications for Lincoln County Fairgrounds; Commissioner Letcher advised of four applications; WGM Group, Fraser Management & Consulting, PLLC, Carver Engineering and Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. Commissioner Letcher advised they put together a committee consisting of Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Commissioner Letcher, and Director of Finance Wendy Drake to review the applications and the Committee recommended Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. Commissioner Hammons commented that while Carver was close, Evensen Engineering best fit the needs. Commissioner Teske **Motioned** to approve the recommendation of Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. for statement of qualifications. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Gerald Brown, Tessa Knapp, Jesse Knapp and Jerry Regh.

Gerald requested information on his property tax assessment questioning what course of action he has to gather information, stating his assessed value has gone up about 40%. Gerald commented that this is a big hit for those on a fixed income. Commissioner Letcher advised of a Property Assessment Town Hall *-being held July 13, 2023, 3-6 PM in the City of Libby Ponderosa Room-* encouraging attendance. Commissioner Teske provided literature on this meeting to those in attendance. Gerald expressed concern with those moving to this area driving up property pricing and the cost of living. Gerald questioned the relationship of the mill levy with property tax asking what the Commissioner can do. Commissioner Letcher advised Gerald to review his tax billing detail noting some of the line items are not controlled by the County, such as the schools. Commissioner Teske noted in his property tax statement the county tax portion was less than a % increase. Commissioner Teske encouraged attendance at the Department of Revenue meeting.

11:00 AM **Open Bids; Gravel, Gas & Diesel, Janitorial Service, Hot Plant Asphalt, Display Ads, Road Oil, County Printing:** Present were Jerry Regh Road Department, Gerald Brown, Tessa Knapp, Jesse Knapp, Melanie Howell Election Administrator, Sierra Gustin Deputy Clerk-Election Assistant and Suzanne Resch Western News.

Commissioner Letcher announced bid openings. Gravel; 2 bids.

- Nobel Excavating, Inc: Libby 3/8" Screened Sand \$7.50/CY – Troy 5/8" Road Gravel \$9.75/CY & 3/4" Road Gravel \$9.75/CY
- Thompson Contracting Inc. Libby 3/8" Sand \$28/ton -Troy 5/8" \$17/ton & 3/4" \$15/ton - Eureka N/A

Gas/Diesel; 2 bids.

- Golden State Oil: Libby Shop: #1 Diesel OPIS + \$.10/gal, #2 Diesel fuel OPIS + \$.10, Reg Unleaded OPIS + \$.10 Troy shop: #1 Diesel OPIS + \$.10/gal, #2 Diesel fuel OPIS + \$.10, Reg Unleaded OPIS + \$.10  
Eureka shop: #1 OPIS + N/A, #2 Diesel OPIS +N/A, Eureka OPIS +N/A
- Moore Oil, Inc; Libby Shop: #1 Diesel OPIS + \$.12/gal, #2 Diesel fuel OPIS + \$.12, Reg Unleaded OPIS + \$.12 +freight Troy shop: #1 Diesel OPIS + \$.08/gal, #2 Diesel fuel OPIS + \$.08, Reg Unleaded OPIS + \$.08 +Freight  
Eureka shop: #1 Diesel OPIS + \$.23/gal, #2 Diesel OPIS + \$.23, Eureka +, Reg Unleaded OPIS + \$.23 +Freight

Janitorial Service; one bid.

- Annie's Professional Cleaning Service, LLC; Courthouse \$15,240, Sheriff's Office \$6,144, Annex \$12,662, Library \$9,864, 503 Building \$4,522, 418 Main Building \$4,332, Elections Department \$3,636.

Hot Plant Asphalt; one bid.

- Noble Excavating, Inc Type "B" ACP mix \$80 per ton.

Display Advertising; 2 bids.

- Western News: 1<sup>st</sup> Folio \$1.40, Add. Folio 0, Display \$2.00, Ad Display 0
- Kootenai Valley Record: 1<sup>st</sup> Folio \$1.30, Add. Folio \$1.10 Display \$2.00, Ad Display \$1.70

Road Oil; one bid.

- McAsphalt Industries Ltd:  
HF-50 Libby Shop 749.46 Troy Shop 755.69 Eureka Shop 722.50  
HF-250 Libby Shop 756.46 Troy Shop 762.69 Eureka Shop 729.50  
HF-500 Libby Shop 841.46 Troy Shop 847.69 Eureka Shop 814.50  
CRS-2 Libby Shop Troy Shop Eureka Shop 772.50  
ADL-70 Libby Shop 825.46 Troy Shop 831.69 Eureka Shop 798.50

County Printing; one bid.

- The Printing Press: 5% less than Franklin Estimating Service listed price.

County Printing-Elections; 2 bids.

- Eagle Printing & Business Forms, LLC: all pricing + shipping with option to pick up.  
Ballot Cost: one sided \$.19 ea. Two-sided \$.24 ea.  
#10 Secrecy Envelope; 15,000 \$1,111, 20,000 \$1,371, 25,000 \$1,631  
#11 Affidavit Envelope; 15,000 \$1,544, 20,000 \$1,918, 25,000 \$2,293  
#12 Mail Out Envelope; 15,000 \$1,359, 20,000 \$1,723, 25,000 \$2,088  
NRVA Cards; 2,000 sheets \$259, 3,000 sheets \$346, 5,000 \$516
- Western News:  
Ballot Cost: \$.3955 ea. #10 Secrecy Envelope \$.19 ea. #11 Remittance Envelope \$.49 ea. #12  
Outside Envelope \$.38 ea. Absentee Instructions \$.12 ea. NRVA Cards \$.52 ea. Free delivery

Commissioner Letcher advised these bids will be reviewed, compared and then addressed at the next meeting.

12:00 PM **Break**

01:30 PM **Planning: Little Bear Flats-Final Plat:** Present were Director of Planning Jesse Haag, Brett McCully, Wayne Hirst, Lisa Rayson and Kurt Rayson.

Director of Planning Jesse Haag presented for consideration final plat approval for Little Bear Flats. Jesse reviewed the subdivision details and history. Jesse advised they have met all conditions of approval including the DEQ. Commissioner Hammons questioned the old access point when this was originally a gravel pit. Kurt advised there is a ditch there and no easement at that point. Jesse advised the onsite inspection looked good and recommends approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Little Bear Flats subdivision final plat. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Commissioner Teske questioned the address requirements. Jesse stated they did not have that requirement at the time. Motion carried.

01:32 PM **Adjourn**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Letcher, Chairman

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

## Current – 16 sites

Site	# of cans	Distance to landfill	Notes
<i>Libby area</i>			
Happy's Inn		44.0 miles	4 roll off containers
Libby Creek	28	14.8 miles	
Fisher River	10	15.5 miles	
<i>Troy area</i>			
Troy Ballpark	25	2.0 miles	
Savage Lake	12	3.4 miles	
Hecla	10	11.4 miles	
Yaak Hill	14	12.4 miles	
Fourth of July	10	23.8 miles	
Upper Yaak	16	41.6 miles (Troy), 33.8 miles (Libby)	8 AM- 6 PM April-Nov
<i>Eureka area</i>			
Trego	12	19.0 miles	
Fortine	12	15.7 miles	
Glen Lake	16	8.5 miles	7 AM – 7 PM April-Nov
West Kootenai	25	23.0 miles	
Pinkham	10	11.3 miles	
Rexford	8	5.6 miles	Not fenced
Eureka Landfill	25	0.0 miles	Not fenced

- Contract with Evergreen Disposal for site collection and clean up, expires November 2024.
- Most sites have electric fencing and mats due to bear activity but are currently open 24 hours/day.
- Libby and Eureka Landfills are open 6 days/week (closed Sunday) and Troy Landfill is open 5 days/week (closed Sunday and Monday). All three landfills are closed on holidays.)
- The Libby Landfill Seasonal Site Attendant started June 12 and a temporary Site Attendant started June 19. These employees will provide additional monitoring of sites.
- Health Department and Landfill staff have increased enforcement.
- Health Department staff are rolling out additional education about proper greenbox site use and landfill use.

# Option 1 – 12 sites

Site	Distance to landfill	Open Hours
<i>Libby area</i>		
Happy's Inn	44.0 miles	
Libby Creek	14.8 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 5 days/wk
Fisher River	15.5 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
<i>Troy area</i>		
Troy Ballpark	2.0 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
Hecla	11.4 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
Upper Yaak	41.6 miles (Troy), 33.8 miles (Libby)	8 AM- 6 PM April-Nov, 24 hrs Dec-March
<i>Eureka area</i>		
Trego	19.0 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
Fortine	15.7 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
<del>Glen Lake</del>	8.5 miles	7 AM – 7 PM April-Nov
West Kootenai	23.0 miles	
<del>Pinkham</del>	11.3 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
Rexford	5.6 miles	Not fenced

Close Yaak Hill, Fourth of July, Savage Lake and Eureka Landfill greenbox sites.

## Libby:

- On-site attendant at Libby Creek – 8-5, 5 days/week, closed at lunch (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up*)
- Happy's Inn has electricity and cell service. Install real time video surveillance. (*\$20,000 initial set up*)
- Libby's seasonal site attendant will monitor Fisher River

## Troy:

- Troy roving site attendant for Ballpark and Hecla – 8-5, 4 days/week including Sunday & Monday (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$40,000 truck*)
- Upper Yaak – increase gatekeeper contract to include site monitoring (*additional \$1500/mo, April-Nov*)

## Eureka:

- Eureka roving site attendant for Trego, Fortine, Glen Lake and Pinkham – sites open 8-5, 4 days/week (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$40,000 truck*)

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.

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

# Option 2 – 6 sites

Site	Distance to landfill	Open Hours
<i>Libby area</i>		
Happy's Inn	44.0 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 5 days/wk
Libby Creek	14.8 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 5 days/wk
<i>Troy area</i>		
Upper Yaak	41.6 miles (Troy), 33.8 miles (Libby)	8 AM- 6 PM April-Nov, 24 hrs Dec - March
<i>Eureka area</i>		
Fortine	15.7 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 4 days/wk
West Kootenai	23.0 miles	
Rexford	5.6 miles	

Close Yaak Hill, Fourth of July, Savage Lake, Troy Ballpark, Hecla, Eureka Landfill, Trego, Pinkham, Fisher River and Glen Lake sites.

Libby:

- On-site attendant at Libby Creek – 8-5, 5 days/week, closed at lunch (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up*)
- On-site attendant at Happy's Inn – 8-5, 5 days/week (possibly reduced hours in winter (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up*))

Troy:

- Upper Yaak – increase gatekeeper contract to include site monitoring (*additional \$1500/mo, April-Nov*)
- Open Troy Landfill 6 days/week. Hire a site attendant two days/week (*wages & benefits \$24,500 - \$32,000 annually*)

Eureka:

- On-site attendant at Fortine – 8-5, 5 days/week (*wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up*)
- West Kootenai and Rexford remain open.

*Budget increase: \$175,000 - \$225,000 annually, \$75,000 initial set up*

# Option 3 – 3 sites

Site	Distance to landfill	Open Hours
<i>Libby area</i> Happy's Inn	44.0 miles	8 AM – 5 PM, 5 days/wk
<i>Troy area</i> Upper Yaak	41.6 miles (Troy), 33.8 miles (Libby)	8 AM- 6 PM April-Nov, 24 hrs Dec - March
<i>Eureka area</i> West Kootenai	23.0 miles	

Close all sites except Happy's Inn, Upper Yaak and West Kootenai

- On-site attendant at Happy's Inn – 8-5, 5 days/week (possibly reduced hours in winter)  
*(wages & benefits \$49,000 - \$64,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up)*
- Upper Yaak – increase gatekeeper contract to include site monitoring *(additional \$1500/mo, April-Nov)*

Open landfills 7 days/week:

- Libby – Increase one existing part time gate attendant to full time *(wage & benefits \$14,500 annually)*  
Add a half-time operator *(wages \$30,650 plus insurance)*
- Eureka – Add a half-time site attendant *(wages \$20,500 plus insurance)*  
Add a half-time operator *(wages \$30,650 plus insurance)*
- Troy – Add a half-time site attendant *(wages \$20,500 plus insurance)*

*Budget increase \$190,000 - \$230,000 annually, \$25,000 initial set up*