

**November 8, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 8, 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for Zoom participation. Present online were Rebecca Nelson, Chanel Geer, Ray Stout, Melanie Howell, Jesse Haag, Danielle Maiden, Jon Gass and Michelle Byrd.

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

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully and Bryan Alkire and Scott Shindledecker.

Kathi Hooper Health Department Director provided updates on management burns, hoping to conclude by the end of November. Serve Safe Training, required by state, has been completed. There have been 273 applications for septic permits this year. The training for contracted reviewers will take place in Helena next week. Jennifer McCully Public Health presented the Lincoln County Connections on-screen website, which is interactive and allows for Health Department review of information submitted before it's displayed. Jennifer highlighted the searchable features of the site: *lincolncountyconnections.com*. She also shared future plans for a behavioral health website with vetted information, filterable to user criteria, including local resources. There is ongoing teen mental health work at Libby High School. Kathi updated the timeline on solid waste licensing, mentioning a meeting with DEQ in Helena next week. She anticipates the license for expansion in early May, after which it will go out for construction bids. They budgeted \$60,000 for a compactor from Flathead County, but Bryan stated they now want \$75,000 after reviewing the recent repairs and sale with their commissioners. Despite the increased cost, he feels it's still worth it, noting that this compactor is twice the size of the current one, and a new one would cost about \$750,000. Bryan also mentioned having to rebuild a rusted-out trailer to pull the green cans. Kootenai Truck rebuilt it for roughly \$31,000. This rebuilt trailer doubles the transport capacity, reducing trips. Bryan informed about the new loader at the Libby landfill and the old G936 loader needs a transmission rebuild before being sent to the Troy transfer site. This will allow the Troy loader to be relocated to Happy's Inn. Kathi advised someone demolished the gate at the Troy landfill, and they are working to replace it. Bryan mentioned a pickup repair cost of about \$3,000 that will go to Eureka for the remote site attendant. Bryan further advised that the Libby Creek shack has power and is being spray foam insulated. They will then wire and sheetrock the inside. IT is installing internet and cameras. Commissioner Hammons questioned enforcement, and Kathi advised they are working with the Sheriff's office. Kathi also mentioned two violations at the 4th of July and Yaak Hill is still receiving complaints of dumping. Kathi confirmed that the sites are better than before, and they are seeing community reporting as residents don't want to lose their green boxes.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Resolution 2023-39 to Amend Resolution 2023-22 to Hold a Special Election for a 3% Marijuana Tax:** Present were Scott Shindledecker and Wendy Drake.

- Minutes of November 1, 2023, regular meeting for approval: **Motion** to approve the November 1, 2023 minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher read Resolution 2023-39 to Amended Resolution 2023-22 local-option tax implementation date. Commissioner Teske stated that, according to the MCA, this tax becomes effective no earlier than 90 days after the election. Preliminary election results confirm this tax has passed. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2023-39. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Corrina Brown Clerk and Recorded expressed gratitude to all those who assisted with the election as well as all who provided input, stating the Clerk's office has implemented enhanced security measures for handling US mail.
- Wendy Drake Finance Director provided an addendum changing the start date of Troy John Deer road grader lease agreement approved last week.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present was Scott Shindledecker.

No public comment.

11:00 AM **Libby Creek Project Mobile Home Park Update-Amend WGM / Lincoln county Contract- Danielle Maiden & Jon Gass:** Present was Scott Shindledecker.

Danielle Maiden delivered an infrastructure update for the Libby Creek community. The City of Libby sponsored the Montana Coal Endowment Program Grant for \$460,000 for replacement of the Cedar Street water line. The interlocal agreement has been reviewed by the City of Libby and is now ready for commissioner review. All necessary startup conditions for the MSTEP grant have been submitted to the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Letcher advised they will assess the proposal and put it on the agenda.

Jon Gass of WGM presented an engineering update, noting that approximately 90% of the onsite work has been completed, and all startup conditions have been satisfied. A contract amendment became necessary when it was discovered that the city had initially identified a 12" main on Cedar Street, but upon further investigation, it was revealed to be a 4" line. This adjustment has resulted in a change in the cost for the water main replacement on the city side, now amounting to \$75,275. Commissioner Teske sought information on the septic update, prompting Jon to explain that groundwater monitoring was conducted earlier this spring. The data gathered from this monitoring has been utilized in the wastewater design, and the corresponding documentation will be submitted to the DEQ.

11:15 AM **Review of Updated Operations Plan-EMA Tom Lane:** Present were Tom Lane and Scott Shindledecker.

Tom Lane, EMA, presented a draft advising that the Emergency Operation Plan was initially drafted in 2010 with annual updates. He emphasized the enhancements made to the plan, underscoring its critical role as the backbone for responding to significant incidents in the county. The primary responsibility outlined is to coordinate resources for recovery and community support. During the discussion, there was a consideration of referencing specific creeks in hazard mitigation, along with a focus on Glen Lake Irrigation. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to accept the draft Emergency Operation Plan with corrections. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried. Commissioner Letcher suggested opening up a public comment period with documents available for review.

11:45 AM **Final Plat: Braach Subdivision:** Present were Jesse Haag and Scott Shindledecker.

Jesse presented the new final plat for the Braach Subdivision, having resolved approach issues with county addressing and recommended approval having met all conditions. Commissioner Teske confirmed that the change was to leave the approach and change the address. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Braach Subdivision final plat per planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.

11:49 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

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