

April 13, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 13, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Bennett was excused.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:45 AM Republican Women' Club for Lincoln County: Present were Election Administrator Paula Buff, Amanda Eckart, Evan Comella, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Bryan Hoffman, Dianne Hanson, Rebecca Nelson, Julie Flagtwet, Michelle Byrd, Jennifer Curtiss, John McLaughlin, Solomon Alcaín Jr., Tom Lane, Bobbie Stoken, Bryan Alkire, and Donna Martin.

Evan commented that she would like to preface her presentation, that her comments regarding election integrity concerns is not a lack of trust in our local election officials, but to make our elections more secure.

Evan submitted and read the following report:

Lincoln County Commissioners Meeting April 13, 2020
Election Integrity

Montana Senator Theresa Manzella April 7, 2022 Montana Daily Gazette Opinion Editorial

"Election integrity is heavy on the hearts and minds of your conservative Montana legislators, as well as the vast majority of citizens in our country. Despite passing six good voter integrity laws last session, we have identified many more election-related vulnerabilities in our state statutes that need to be addressed prior to the 2022 midterm elections. Citizenship confirmation, a lack of verification of signatures at the polls, and timely sharing of death records are just a few of the issues we believe need to be statutorily secured.

Understanding today's technology and the ability for wireless connectivity on the world wide web (through something as small as a sim card) is another area requiring credible, expert counsel. We, therefore, have been petitioning for a special select legislative committee to review our state statutes before the midterm elections to address identified vulnerabilities and secure the chain of custody from the voter registrations and rolls to the post-election audit."

Unfortunately, the enforcement of several of the voter integrity laws passed in 2021 has been blocked by Yellowstone County District Judge Michael Moses.

I am here today as a member of the Republican Women's Club for Lincoln County to express my concerns about election integrity in Lincoln County.

- Citizenship verification (Montana DMV issues driver's licenses to illegal aliens)
- Potential for fraud with early voting (chain of custody), mail in voting (USPS lost/delayed, old addresses, no verification of who filled in ballot), absentee voting (no verification of who filled in ballot, who will view video surveillance of remote ballot boxes?), ballot harvesting (intimidation, no verification of who filled in ballot)
- The use of hardware and software supplied by out of state vendors such as ES&S
- Allowing vendors such as ES&S access to our polling places on election day
- Accepting election related money from any source other than voters

Remedies that I would like to see put in place:

- End early voting and mail in voting. Restrict absentee voting to the disabled and those who will be out of town on election day
- Terminate the use of ES&S hardware and software (exception ExpressVote for the disabled)
- Utilize ballots that cannot be counterfeited (photocopied or printed by others)
- Perform a bipartisan citizen led hand count of all ballots as per MCA Title 13 Chapter 15 Part 2 Vote Count Procedures [13-15-206. Counting votes -- uniformity -- rulemaking -- definitions, MCA \(mt.gov\)](#)
- Bar participation/attendance by ES&S representatives from all election related activities
- Have Election Administrator transmit county election results to Montana Secretary of State using password protected SOS provided Election Night Reporting System that Election Administrator manually logs into and enters results

Veronica expressed that she feels the Lincoln County 2020 General Election was secure and that there was no fraud, but commented that her concern is that Montana law is eroding election security and gave an example, such as Costco cards used as voter ID.

Dianne requested the commissioners review 13-17-103 MCA, Required specifications for voting systems.

Commissioner Teske commented that he has several election laws he has been reviewing but did not have that one.

Commissioner Letcher asked for any further public comment.

10:00 AM Health Department: Present were Kathi Hooper, Dorey Rowland, Bryan Alkire, Solomon Alcaín Jr., Evan Comella, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, John McLaughlin, Julie Flagtwet, Donna Martin, and Rebecca Nelson.

Kathi Hooper said the Health Department Annual Report for 2021 is completed and is posted online.

Solid Waste & Recycling:

Kathi informed the commission that all fenced dumpster sites are readied for spring. Upper Yaak, Glen Lake and Libby Creek sites still have gatekeepers and these sites are open 7AM to 7PM from April through November. Electric mats are installed at most fenced sites without gatekeepers. McGinnis Meadows dumpster site is closing the first week of May, dumpsters will be distributed to other dumpster sites.

Kathi commented that internet upgrades are ongoing at the Libby Landfill and site upgrades are planned at Happy's Inn. Electric is now available, and she will get bids for fencing. Kathi expressed there may be further conversation regarding Happy's Inn due to the growth in that area. Kathi said she is meeting with the engineer tomorrow and has a preapplication meeting with DEQ soon regarding the landfill expansion.

Environmental Health:

Kathi said the online burn permit software is up and running. 705 residential permits (385 activated) and 8 management permits (4 completed) have been issued. Burning has been open for 10 of the 13 days so far in April. The Accela software system order will be finalized this week.

Public Health:

Kathi informed the commissioners that the Public Health employees are attending a Montana Public Health Association conference in Helena and that Dr. Black received an award, noting that he has been the County Health Officer since 1984.

Zero to Five Update:

Dorey talked about the Dolly Parton reading program that is currently serving one third of the county population between the ages of zero and 5th birthday and the program serves all zip codes of Lincoln County. The program engages parents and children promoting early literacy.

Dorey said the Kids Corner Program is also countywide and is a way to share community resources.

The Play Group Program in Eureka has 85 kids and 54 adults currently participating from January – March (including repeat participants), lunch is provided and promotes family engagement. Trego Learn and Play has had 34 kids and 26 adults participating in the past month (including repeat participants).

The commissioners thanked Dorey for her work and effort bringing those programs to our communities.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were John McLaughlin, Rebecca Nelson, Evan Comella, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Donna Martin, Julie Flagtwet, and Rebecca Nelson.

- Robin submitted the minutes for April 6, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske commented that he would like to add "Old Business" to the commissioner's agenda.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Donna Martine, John McLaughlin, Solomon Alcaín, Tom Lane, and Rebecca Nelson.

Commissioner Letcher asked if there was any public comment. There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Planning / Glen Ridge Estates-Subsequent Minor Subdivision Preliminary Plat Application:** Present were County Planner Nick Raines,

- Glen Ridge Estates is located on Sinclair Creek Road, Eureka. The developer intends to create 3 lots from the 66+ acre parcel. Nick gave an overview of the subdivision report and recommended conditions. Planning Staff recommends approval to Glen Ridge Estates Subdivision, subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve preliminary plat to Glen Ridge Estates Subdivision subject to 12 conditions and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.

11:15 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board