

**December 13, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on December 13 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for Zoom participation. Present online were Rebecca Nelson, Scott Shindledecker, Ray Stout, Michelle Byrd, Alyssa Ramirez, DJ Welch and Chanel Geer.

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

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Stu Crismore, Kathi Hooper, Bryan Alkire and Jennifer McCully.

- Environmental Health
  - Management burns: Kathi advised burns are closed until March with 22 permits issued and 14 completed.
  - Septic Permits: 284 applications this year (257 in 2022). Working with Department of Revenue on permitting and new construction. Completed the quarterly refuse assessment review of properties and sent 30 letters to properties not showing a permit with 12 resolved so far. Prioritizing online access to permits utilizing GIS.
  - Licensed Establishment Inspections: 340 this calendar year. A task order will follow for next year.
- Public Health
  - MCHBG Task Order: Annual renewal task order HHS-ECFS-00000429 Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program award of \$13,951. **Motion** to approve the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program task order by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried. Discussion of reaching out to the Port for covered van parking this winter.
- Solid Waste & Recycling
  - Expansion Update: Kathi stated DEQ application review should be received mid-January. Bryan advised they are receiving bids for logging 10 acres. Discussion of Bryan and Jerry Regh coordinating materials needed for both entities when they screen at the Farm-To-Market pit. Kathi advised they are accepting bids till Friday on concrete work at the Eureka transfer site.
  - Equipment Update by Bryan; he mentioned that the new compactor has significantly increased efficiency, allowing them to accomplish more in less time. This is a 80,000-pound machine versus the 55,000-pound old machine and should run a long time. The burner is operational. The tub grinder was rented out last week and returned without a remote. The machine was vandalized and is currently out of service. The damage is covered under the rental contract.
  - Greenbox Site Update: Kathi advised the solar cameras do not work consistently due to charging issues and will get with IT to review back up power sources. Bryan added the Libby Creek shack is getting walls and wiring will follow. This site will be closed Tuesday-Thursday beginning the first of the year.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Oxytocin MOU Follow UP / School Equalization Payment Follow Up:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Stu Crismore and Jesse Haag.

- Review of regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Oxytocin Memorandum of Understanding: Commissioner Teske advised this MOU under legal review, postponed.
- School Equalization Payment Follow up: Commissioner Teske mentioned that he contacted MACo to inquire whether they had received any response from the governor's office regarding the request letter from the counties. Commissioner Letcher verbally shared the response, indicating that the Governor has stated he does not intend to lower the 95 mils as requested. There will be forthcoming general guidance this week and the timeline for the revised tax bill appears to be best suited for February or March.
- Lincoln County Loan Agreement with Fisher River Valley Fire Service Area: Commissioner Teske stated the FSA previously requested a county loan to settle an INTERCAP loan related to a fire engine. The FRFSA board approved the county's contract, securing a loan at a 2% interest rate, structured as 16 consecutive biannual installments over an 8-year period. Each installment amounts to \$19,391, totaling \$287,758.80, resulting in a total payback of \$310,265.39 to PILT. Stu expressed gratitude to the commissioners, highlighting an annual savings of over \$10,000 in interest payments.
- Commissioner Letcher presented installation quotes for the replacement of the Eureka Library windows. They have received a grant through Bonneville Power and Lincoln Electric, which does not cover the installation costs. They indicated the Friends of the Library or the library foundation will cover that expense. CJ Cardwell quote JW231100V7M and Old Dog Home Repair LLC quote 1002 both under \$1,000. Approval is being sought to proceed with the project. **Motion** by Commissioner to Hammons to approve the Library moving forward with the grant to get the windows replaced. Second by commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher provided an update on the fairgrounds ARPA project. They are slightly behind schedule, with construction planned for late spring. Factors such as the availability of a lift station have affected the timeframe. Consequently, they have separated the lift station acquisition from the construction. The county will handle the purchase of the lift station and materials, pushing the construction date out to September of next year. There was discussion about how this change will significantly improve the facility.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present was Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

No public comment.

11:00 AM **Cedar Creek Integrated Health – Staff review and services provided:** Present were Jordan Stow, Liz Cratty, Sarah Hines, Kayla Friss, Stephanie Shaw, Jim Driscoll, Vel Shaver and Maggie Anderson.

Kayla Friss, Cedar Creek Supervisor, provided a flyer detailing Libby services offered by their organization. During the discussion, Jim Driscoll sought feedback on the county's needs, emphasizing the importance of prevention outreach. Currently, they serve approximately 120 clients in Lincoln County, adopting a wrap-around approach that aims to provide comprehensive care. Jim mentioned opioid funding availability and expressed interest in collaborating on community outreach efforts. Commissioner Teske explained that this meeting request stemmed from the allocation of funds from the alcohol tax, intending to review the various agencies supported in recent years. Jim confirmed that Cedar Creek had absorbed both Alpenglow and Sunburst and was now taking in Many Rivers' clients due to the closure of their Libby office-shifting to tele-services from Kalispell. Commissioner Teske affirmed that Sunburst Health is now part of Cedar Creek, along with Oxytocin, Many Rivers, and the Western Montana Mental Health Center. Jim mentioned that he would respond to the county's letter outlining the scope of work provided. Commissioner Teske highlighted available funding specifically aimed at opioid treatment and prevention, acknowledging the need for a thorough review of its utilization.



108 E 9th St Ste 11  
Libby, MT 59923  
(406) 293-5284  
(406) 406-293-5806 Fax  
[www.cedarcreekintegratedhealth.org](http://www.cedarcreekintegratedhealth.org)

#### Libby Services

- Substance Use Disorders Assessments
- Level One – Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Services
- Level Two - Intensive Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Services
- Coming Soon: Prime for Life
- Mental Health Assessments and Diagnoses
- Mental Health Therapy for Children, Adolescents & Adults
- Mental Health Consultation and Direct Services to Head Start
- In School Mental Health Services in Libby Schools
- Marriage and/or Family Therapy
- Psychiatric Medication Management
- Care Management
- Community Based Personal Support Services

11:15 AM **Substance Abuse Prevention Funding:** Present were Kayla Friss, Stephanie Shaw, Jim Driscoll, Vel Shaver and Maggie Anderson.

Maggie Anderson of Unite for Youth presented MCA 53-24-108 on the use of funds generated by taxation on alcoholic beverages. Maggie outlined the current landscape of community prevention and treatment services and discussed potential improvements. She stated Lincoln County Unite for Youth has been offering treatment and prevention services since 2008, with a focus on keeping youth and families at the forefront of their efforts. Maggie emphasized the need to strategize for sustained prevention efforts as grant funding isn't guaranteed. Maggie and Vel Shaver advocated for county-level oversight to ensure the continuity of treatment and prevention services. They proposed the hiring of a prevention specialist responsible for managing these county-wide initiatives. This role, currently vacant since June, acts as a bridge connecting vested individuals, coordinating resources, providing educational programs, arranging guest speakers, and curating informational material to curb youth substance abuse, promote well-being, and expand developmental opportunities. This position aims to create an effective system benefiting families. Vel highlighted the significance of the prevention specialist as the community's liaison for treatment providers. They mentioned that the state offers training and capacity building for this certified position. Maggie and Vel committed to presenting an outline for a pilot program to the commissioners, illustrating how such a program could function effectively.

12:05 PM **Adjourned**

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

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