

September 18, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 18, 2024, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Anna Nollan, Beth Archer, Brett McCully, Boyd White, Chanel Greer, Crystal Denton, Dania Zinner, David Gibson, Feleisha Storkson, Jason Rappe, Jesse Haag, Kirstin Smith, Linda Gibson, Melanie Howell, Melody Wunderlin, Noah Pyle, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, Wendy Drake and Zach Sherbo.

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

10:00 AM Libby Asbestos and Libby Groundwater Superfund Sites Update: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Beth Archer, EPA, advised of the partial deletion of OU5, noting that five of the eight units have now been cleaned up with no additional work anticipated. She forecasts next year, following the five-year review, they will consider partially deleting OU4 and OU7. She noted OU3 is currently in the feasibility study stage, with targeted outreach to follow. Commissioner Hammons questioned the use of the term "partial." Beth clarified that, if any issues arise, the EPA has the authority to address any unanticipated concerns, yet it's removed from the priority list. Dania Zinner, EPA, confirmed they are still involved in the operation and maintenance process. Commissioner Teske raised concerns related to LARP. Beth mentioned a plan to refresh communication preparedness exercises this coming spring. Jason Rappe, EPA, provided an update on the Libby groundwater project, noting that 36 injection wells have been installed in OU2, north of the central maintenance building on Port property with the goal of inhibiting the contaminant breakdown. He stated that a significant amount of groundwater sampling will be conducted over the next couple months. He advised of drilling 48 new wells in OU1 by next fall. Beth advised asbestos has been a major focus in Libby and this year the attention has shifted toward raising public awareness regarding groundwater issues.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Approval of LASOC MOU / Approval of Childhood Lead Local Partnership Project Task Order- Zach Sherbo: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

- Review of September 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes: **Motion** to approve the September 11, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Letcher abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approval of LASOC MOU: Commissioner Teske read the renewal agreement to provide necessary support to LASOC and execution of statutory duties. He advised Amanda Harcourt, ARP, has approved this agreement. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the MOU with DEQ and LASOC. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approval of Childhood Lead Local Partnership Project Task Order – Zach Sherbo: Zach, Health Department, presented the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Local Partnership Project and discussed grant specifics. Commissioner Letcher clarified this grant will fund existing employees. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Childhood Lead Local Partnership Task Order. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske presented a proposed land conveyance that has been reviewed by legal for commissioner review. He highlighted the conveyance includes federal land at the Troy Airport, Yaak Community Hall and the Libby Shooting Range to be turned over to Lincoln County for use as described. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the transfer of ownership of certain federal lands to Lincoln County, Montana for community and public purposes as proposed. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher noted receipt of a will serve letter from the Town of Eureka for the fairgrounds project along with some conditions to include extending a main line about 100 yards north along highway 93.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time– Non-Agenda Items: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Noel Duram initiated a discussion regarding the requirements for including the fire station at West Kootenai in a future transfer of ownership of federal lands in Lincoln County for community and public purposes.

11:00 AM Public Hearing– Ivar Amended Lot 2 Subdivision: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Kristin Smith presented the Ivar Amended Lot 2 Subdivision advising the Lincoln County Planning Department recommends approval with twenty conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to grant preliminary approval to Ivar Amended Lot 2 subdivision subject to the twenty conditions and based on the findings of the staff report. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

11:15 AM Public Hearing– Resolution 2024-25 FY24 Budget Amendment: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Commissioner Letcher read the notice of public hearing for FY 2023-24 budget amendment. No public comments.

11:30 AM **EMA Update– Boyd White:** Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Boyd White, EMA, provided a report with the following updates: Pinkham Creek tower replacement is complete as quoted. The Sheriff's Office is preparing to upgrade Black Butte to the 700 MHz band, creating dispatch redundancy. Once this system is complete, it will allow removal of the Crown Castle trunking system antennas saving approximately \$12,200 annually. Marston has been approved to install local government and law enforcement repeaters, enhancing emergency communications in north Lincoln County. Gold Communications diagnosed and mitigated interference and tuning issues, improving communications in the Troy and Bull Lake areas. State disaster emergency services acceptance is pending Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) approval, which will aid Code Red in mass communication coordination through FEMA. The draft hazard mitigation plan has been updated as noted on the county webpage. He also requested the commissioners' approval to seek a grant through Rural Communities to update AEDs in multiple county offices, with a 20% match. He provided a quote from Stryker, which is already used by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to move forward with the grant for AEDs with the match coming out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. no comments. Motion carried.

11:44 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board