

**November 20, 2024**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 20, 2024, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Teske and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Crystal Denton, Darren Short, Feleisha Storkson, Jen Bernosky, John Hyslop, Kathi Hooper, Kathleen Sheffield, Katie Davis, Melanie Howell, Michael Huck, Michelle Byrd, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, Sherry Turner and Sierra Gustin.

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

10:15 AM **Heritage Museum Tourism Grant – Shay Locomotive Restoration**: Present were Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Sherry Turner, from the Heritage Museum, advised they are applying for a \$2 million over five years Department of Commerce tourism grant. She noted the grant would enable completing the restoration of the 1906 Shay #4 steam locomotive as a key tourist attraction, along with other tourism projects within Lincoln County. She emphasized the need for strong advocates and requested a letter of support for the grant application. Sherry also highlighted their collaboration with the County Port Authority and Planning Department, as well as ongoing communications with a Shay restoration company. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve a letter of support to the museum for the Heritage Museum tourism grant. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Approve Evergreen Disposal Contract / Resolution 2024-34 Annexation of Lake Creek Ranch Subdivision into Troy Rural Fire District / Resolution 2024-35 Establishing the Eureka Parks and Trail Board / Resolution 2024-36 Conveyance of Fee Strip to USFS**: Present were Noel Duram and Traci Street.

- Minutes of November 13, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the November 13, 2024, regular commissioner meeting minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Canvass meeting minutes of November 18, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the canvass minutes from November 18, 2024, of the federal general election by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approve Evergreen Disposal Contract: Kathi Hooper, Health Department, presented the restated and amended agreement for service of solid waste container sites for the next two years.

Site	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU
Libby Creek	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Troy Ballpark	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Hecla	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Upper Yaak	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Yaak Hill	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Glen Lake	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Fisher River	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Trego	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Fortine	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
West Kootenai	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Rexford (Closed)	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey

CLOSED	Grey
OPEN	Green

Lincoln County Green Box Collection Rates		
Duration	Yearly Total	Monthly Payment
Year 11 (2024-2025)	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 33,333.33
Year 12 (2025-2026)	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 35,000.00

**Motion** to approve the restated and amended agreement for service of solid waste container sites by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Teske explained to the public that adjusting the schedule was the only viable way to ensure the sites remain open for the next two years. Commissioner Letcher added that this will also allow for future improvements. No further comments. Motion carried.

- Resolution 2024-34 Annexing Lake Creek Ranch Subdivision into Troy Rural Fire District: Commissioner Hammons read the resolution. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2024-34. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Hammons confirmed to Noel Duram there is no longer a requirement for a cistern as TRFD has the needed water. No further comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-35 Establishing the Eureka Parks and Trail Board: Commissioner Letcher read the resolution. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2024-35. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-36 Conveyance of County-owned Fee Strip of land to USFS: Commissioner Teske read the resolution. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2024-36. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske acknowledged receiving an email from MACo regarding the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding, which has been approved by the U.S. Senate. The email included a request for a letter of support for S.2581 to be sent to the House Representative. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve signing and forwarding this letter of support from Lincoln County to Representative Zinke. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion Carried.

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

Kathleen Sheffield, Victim Witness Advocate, noted that 11 million people in America lose their driver's licenses annually. She emphasized the lack of adequate public transportation in Lincoln County and proposed forming a committee to represent all interested countywide parties to explore potential solutions. Commissioner Teske referenced his meeting with Area 6 on Aging, where senior transportation was identified as an ongoing concern and expressed his willingness to join Kathleen's efforts.

11:00 AM **Montana State Fund Dividend Check – Mac Kirk:** Present were Noel Duram, Mac Kirk and Traci Street.

Mac Kirk, from the Montana State Fund, explained the state fund operates as a quasi-state entity and discussed its dividends and distribution process. He highlighted Lincoln County received \$43,069 in 2023 dividends and recognized the county for having the best E-mod statewide, attributed to a strong safety program. Commissioner Teske suggested establishing a dedicated safety committee fund for such resources rather than the general fund. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to start a safety committee fund and deposit \$10,000 of the \$43,069.63 received from the MT State fund. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of financing the safety incentive and security. No comment. Motion carried.

11:15 AM **USFS – Seth Carbonari:** Present were Noel Duram, Seth Carbonari and Traci Street.

Seth Carbonari, USFS, provided an update on various projects. He reported on the recent bid opening for timber sales related to the East Fork fire salvage, with another bid opening for Barry Road scheduled next week. He also mentioned ongoing small sales; Pinkham, Thirsty Frank, Rocky Top, Castle Edna out of Edna Fortine and plans for Glen Sinclair project sales planned next spring. Seth highlighted continued fuel reduction work, which has enabled significant local contracting last year, resulting in over 2,200 acres treated. He noted the district experienced 24 fires of about sixteen acres this summer, describing the season as relatively mild. In recreation, he reported an average, smooth season with improvements to campground signage and trail switchbacks. He added that efforts to finalize details for the "over the snow" collaborative are ongoing. He stated the Young Creek Road washout project has been completed and is open. He advised of continuing collaboration with the Lookout Association to update lookouts. Commissioner Teske highlighted Lincoln County's new Master Stewardship Agreement with KNF, discussing the advantages this offers. Seth concluded by noting they are operating under a continuing resolution and prioritizing land and people.

11:30 AM **Hall Family Transfer – Planning Department:** canceled

11:31 AM **Adjourned**

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

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

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