

April 9, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 9, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Brandon Hansen, Crystal Denton, Darren Short, Davis, Deb Burrell, Feleisha Storkson, HR, Jeffery Irish, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Josh Letcher, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Tony Wickham and Traci Street.

Commissioner Teske opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

09:00 AM **Resolution 2025-12 Amend Voting Precinct Boundaries Based on City of Troy Records:** None present.

Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2025-12. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pass Resolution 2025-12. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Clerk and Recorder, Corrina Brown advised that during the course of county addressing, annexations, and election boundary updates using GIS, these parcels were identified as needing updated. There was a discussion regarding the ongoing review of this type of information. No public comments. Motion Carried.

09:15 AM **Set Public Hearing Date: Petitions #314877 and #314878 Troy Rural Fire District Petitions for Annexation:** Present were none.

Commissioner Teske presented property owner petitions, recorded as documents #314877 and #314878, requesting annexation into the Troy Rural Fire District. Upon review and confirmation that all requirements were met, the Commission scheduled a public hearing for **May 7, 2025, at 11:30 AM** for Little Bear Flats Subdivision Lots 1–12 and six tract parcels.

09:30 AM **Set Public Hearing Date: Petition #314876 Troy Rural Fire District Re-Annex a Parcel on Bull Lake Hwy from the Bull Lake Fire District:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag and Mike Bradeen.

Commissioner Teske introduced recorded property owner petition #314876 requesting re-annexation from Bull Lake Fire district to Troy Rural Fire District. The Commission scheduled a public hearing for **May 14, 2025, at 11:30 AM**. Jesse Haag, Planning Director, advised he will ensure the Bull Lake Fire District is notified.

09:45 AM **Seasonal Workers Pay Grade Increase – Mike Bradeen:** Present were Andy Evensen, Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe and Mike Bradeen.

Mike Bradeen, Weed Director, presented a request for a pay grade increase for seasonal workers. He noted that grants are becoming more competitive and that the required skill set, including GIS mapping, ESRI and Heritage programs, justifies the increase. He also stated that the six-month position is grant-funded. Dallas Bowe, HR, confirmed he is operating within his grant funding, has maintained his budget, and expressed no concerns with the request. **Motion** for a grade increase for Rush Skeleton Weed and Tansy Ragwort Coordinator by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

Mike proposed changing the status of Short Term Weed Control Employees from 90-day temporary to temporary employee, allowing for a longer duration of employment as needed. He provided a job description and discussed the employee duties, emphasizing the need for de-escalation in confrontational situations and addressing the workflow. He confirmed this request involves an increase from Grade 5 to Grade 6, with two positions being grant-funded and one under the 2141 budget. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to increase the Temporary Weed Control Employees from a grade 5 to a grade 6. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comment. Motion carried.

Mike requested approval to add a temporary employee as a fill-in, particularly for late fall when grant work is needed, utilizing his 2840 or 2141 as the budget allows. There was discussion regarding funding variables, with this year's expenses being covered by the grant budget. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve an additional temporary employee for the weed department. Second by Commissioner Duram. Dallas noted no HR concerns with this fill in. Mike confirmed the Weed Board approves these changes. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Award Contract for MCR Grant. Acknowledge 2025 County Run School Elections Letter. Fairgrounds Update-Andy Evenson. Resolution 2025-13 US 93 Walking Trail. Pedal Tracks Project Approval. Environmental Certifying Official Designation Letter CBDG Grant:** Present were Andy Evenson, Boyd White, Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe, Jesse Haag and Joe Nagle.

- Approval of the minutes from April 2, 2025: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Award Contract for MCR Grant: Jesse Haag, Planning Director, reported receipt of the Montana Community Reinvestment Grant for just under \$24,000, focused on Affordable Housing. The subdivision revision project is estimated at \$29,618, requiring about \$5,600 in matching funds from Lincoln County, including staff time. An RFP was issued, and three proposals were received—from Hyalite Engineers, Bozeman, KMR Consulting, Libby, and IMEG, Missoula. A selection committee (Planning Director, Assistant Planner, Land Specialist, and Health Department Director) used eight criteria and a scoring matrix to evaluate the proposals. KMR Consulting was unanimously recommended. Commissioner Teske confirmed there was no conflict of interest related to an existing Planning contract. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the award of contract to KMR Consulting.

Second by Commissioner Duram. Jesse noted they did receive unsolicited letters of support from the community for the project. No comments. Motion carried.

- Acknowledge 2025 County Run School Elections: Corrina Brown, Clerk and Recorder, notified the Board of Commissioners that the Clerk and Recorder’s office will administer the Libby and Troy 2025 school elections.
- Fairgrounds Update – Andy Evenson: Andy advised that designs for the school wastewater collection system tying into the Town of Eureka is at DEQ, with a tentative review date of May 3rd. He noted that the town’s capacity will be updated with future flows. Once DEQ approval is received, they can move forward with issuing bids. He added that the project construction timeline is estimated to be 3–4 weeks.
- Resolution 2025-13 US 93 Walking Trail: Andy provided an overview of project, funding, and costs, including MDT changes of curb and gutter, presenting three scenarios with separate phases. The goal is to provide a safe route from 11th Street to Montana Hwy 37 tying in with existing trails and in town sidewalks. He noted that the maximum grant award is \$1.5 million with a 15% local match. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.33 million. There was discussion about this being an every-other-year grant and the strategic plan for the entire corridor, using incremental phases. Phase one will address school safety decreasing local match, and phase two, which can connect later. This will be more expensive but result in a lower out-of-pocket cost for the county. Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2025-13. Commissioner Teske noted this is for applying for phase one of the grant, with an estimated project cost of \$1.47 million with a county match of \$198,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2025-13 with phase one option with the county match from PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Hammons inquired whether grant funds were available for the county match. Andy advised that Fish, Wildlife & Parks has a grant that could be used as a match; however, the county had already utilized this option on a previous project, making it unavailable this time. No comments. Motion carried.
- Environmental Certifying Official Designation Letter CBDG Grant: Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2025-14. Commissioner Teske advised this is a grant requiring the designation of an environmental certifying official for Lincoln County with will be Kathi Hooper. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2025-14. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Pioneer Park Pedal Tracks Project Approval: Continued to the next meeting due to time constraints.

10:15 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Andy Evenson, Boyd White, Brian Berreman and Joe Nagle. None.

10:30 AM **Penthouse Boiler HVAC Replacement – Maintenance:** Present were Boyd White, Brian Berreman and Joe Nagle.

Joe Nagle, Maintenance Director, presented an updated quote of \$143,885 from Comfort Systems USA and provided background on the boiler replaced last year for drinking water. He explained that the remaining 1970s-era boiler, which controls the building's HVAC, also needs replacing. He suggested breaking down the bid to purchase the boiler now, accounting for lead time, and install it later to aid budgeting. There was discussion of labor mobilization and spreading costs. Joe will obtain a detailed quote, seek local bids, and provide further information.

10:45 AM **Mountain Top Contracts -Update for the EMA Office –:** Present were Boyd White and Brian Berreman.

Boyd White, EMA, reported that the Distribution Management and Emergency Response Plan was reviewed. A representative from DES reviewed the plan, found it adequate, and will proceed with posting it publicly for comment. EMPG Grant: MT DES is expecting a 50% reduction from last year’s allocation. A Distribution Management Plan is now required He noted that the previous budget of \$101,000 covered both his salary and the Code Red system. SHSG Grant (Libby EOC Generator Project): An application is in progress to replace the generator and expand coverage at the Libby EOC. The project was ranked #2 by the LEPC and has an estimated cost exceeding \$190,000, which will require a bid process if awarded. Boyd also reported that both the Troy Volunteer Fire Department and Troy Volunteer Ambulance were presented to the LEPC, with the ambulance receiving a higher ranking due to limited current resources. Power Outage Work Group: Continues to meet with the Health Department. He emphasized ongoing efforts to identify and track individuals needing assistance. A support letter for SHSG applicants was requested from Zach. County Radio Systems: Ongoing work and monitoring. He visited Yaak Mountain to replace batteries. MT Sky has cancelled their contract; rent will no longer be paid. DOT contracts are ready, and efforts are ongoing to bring Lincoln Electric on board for Black Butte. The Black Butte building has sustained water damage—local contractors will be contacted for repair estimates. Training & Exercises: He attended ICS 300 training in Helena and will participate in Hazard Mitigation Training next week. He noted that the Homeland Security Exercise Training is scheduled for June in Helena, which will help meet grant and FEMA exercise management requirements. He also mentioned that the Hazard Mitigation Plan remains under review at FEMA. The IPAWS system is now fully operational. Sheriff’s dispatch and several supervisors have completed Code Red training. The system was successfully used in a recent incident and discussed the role of carrier services. Emergency Response Plan: Completed and approved by the Safety Committee. He is seeking feedback on distribution to department heads. The plan is customizable, with a recommendation of two documented trainings per year per department. LGDIM & Debris Management Plan: State progress is slow on these plans. **Motion** by commissioner Hammons to approve the building tower lease agreements for King, Blue, and Pinkham for the Montana Department of Transportation. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board