

August 6, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 6, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram and Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox.

Zoom participation: Chanel Geer, Traci Street, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, Solomon Alcain, Beth Archer

09:45 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Public Notice of Intent to Donate Property to the Town of Eureka. Norgard Trail Lincoln County DNRC Easement Application. Letter of Support - SRS (Secure Rural Schools) funding. Board Updates: Present were Tony Petrusha

- Approval of the minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the July 30, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: **Freemyer & Associates** invoice totaling \$3595.50 was reviewed, Commissioner Teske reported that the agreed amount is currently over budget. He stated that he would follow up with an email providing additional information and addressing the budget concerns. Commissioner Duram made a **motion** to pay the invoice in the amount of \$3,595.50 from PILT funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried
- Public Notice of Intent to Donate Property to the Town of Eureka: Commissioner Duram described the history of property proposed for donation. The Clerk and Recorder, Corrina Brown, will arrange the public notice as required.
- Norgard Trail – Lincoln County DNRC Easement Application:
Commissioner Teske provided background information on the project. Tony Petrusha, representing the Libby Park District, requested approval to submit a preliminary easement application to DNRC. He explained the process and noted that the request is for an easement of 0.6 acres. The application will be resubmitted to the Commissioners for final approval. Tony Petrusha stated all surveys complete. Tony Petrusha stated that the surveys are complete and provided a brief history of the project, which began in 2018 and was previously included on the agenda at that time.: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the preliminary submittal to DNRC. Second by Commissioner Duram. Commissioner Teske opened the discussion. whereas, Tony Petrusha mentioned that the maintenance agreement addresses all sections of the trail. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Letter of Support – SRS (Secure Rural Schools) Funding:
Commissioner Duram reported that the SRS funding bill has passed through the House, but has not yet reached the floor. He noted that supporters are seeking additional letters of support to send to congressional representatives. The SRS program provides approximately \$3,000,000 to Lincoln County. Commissioner Teske ask if all were in favor of submitting a letter of support for continued SRS funding.
- Commissioner Duram reported on a discussion with HDR, an engineering company exploring trash-to-energy and biomass energy proposals. HDR is currently drafting a concept and proposal.
Commissioner Teske mentioned a past biomass study, and Commissioner Duram confirmed he has reviewed that study, noting that HDR's focus is specifically on the engineering of the proposed device. Commissioner Duram also noted he will attend a meeting in Helena regarding the selenium issue. Commissioner Teske discussed the EPA superfund meeting at Ponderosa the previous evening, where a 5 year study was reviewed and input to addendum of the mentioned study. Commissioner Hammons reported that bids for the college roof replacement will close on Friday, and provided an update. He also noted that three bids have been received for the resurfacing of the Troy Airport Fitness Trail. Commissioner Duram requested an update on the Kootenai Vista project. Commissioner Hammons provided a status update. Commissioner Duram also mentioned an upcoming meeting in Trego on Sunday regarding increased garbage rates, which he plans to attend.

10:15 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were NONE

10:30 AM EPA Superfund Site Update on Groundwater: Present were Beth Archer, Jason Rappe, Melody Kraayeveld
A PowerPoint presentation was given summarizing the Seventh Five-Year Review, finalized in July, as required by EPA statute. The review evaluates the performance of the remedy and addressed three key questions related to remedy effectiveness. Findings and recommendations were presented, along with a discussion of the Protectiveness Determination categories: *long-term*, *short-term*, *deferred*, and *not protective*. The EPA is currently working on an addendum and outlining next steps. Commissioner Teske asked about the location of the CAMU. Jason Rappe responded that it is located next to the land farm. Commissioner Teske also inquired about how the EPA would detect PFAS contamination. Jason Rappe indicated they expect to find PFAS presence in the groundwater. Commissioner Duram raised concerns about wells drilled on Port Authority property and whether these wells aid in the EPA's determination of a remedy. Jason explained that while the wells impact analysis, there are currently no plans to drill additional wells. Commissioner Teske discussed city boundary inconsistencies and questioned how jurisdiction is determined. Jason Rappe stated that the DNRC is responsible for boundary determinations and he will coordinate with them. Commissioner Hammons asked if there were any findings in the test wells across the river. Jason reported that nothing has been found at this time. Commissioner Hammons also asked about future plans to test areas outside the plume. Jason responded that testing wells are available if needed, and the EPA intends to continue investigating the aquifer.

11:00 AM Opening of Sealed Bid for County Vehicle: Present were NONE

County Vehicle Bid Review: Commissioner Teske presented two submitted bids for the surplus county vehicle: Park City Auto Parts: Bid submitted at \$1 more than the maximum bid, up to \$5,500. Brian Berreman: Bid submitted at \$550. Commissioner Teske questioned whether Park City Auto Parts' bid is legally valid, given the conditional nature of the bid. The board agreed that a legal opinion from counsel is required before proceeding. No action was taken. The matter will be postponed until legal review is completed.

11:15 AM Jail Study Proposal: Present were Darren Short, John Hyslop, Rich Siddons, Rebecca Guerra, Gayle Malloy and Kevin Peck

Jail Facility Assessment Discussion: Darren Short addressed the Commission regarding the current jail facility, describing it as outdated and too small. He has initiated efforts to obtain an external assessment of the jail's condition. Rich Siddons,

of RS Security, provided a brief overview of his qualifications, noting his recent work on the Flathead County Jail assessment and planning. He began with a summary of the current conditions of the Lincoln County facility and outlined his proposed process: Begin with an evaluation of the existing facility, including concerns, liabilities, and a basic “pass or fail” determination. Move into planning and programming, incorporating population projections and demographics. Provide guidance on how to present proposals to voters. Address short-term and long-term mitigation strategies for known code and compliance issues. The floor was opened for questions and discussion: Commissioner Teske asked about the correlation between prior peer reviews and the proposed assessment. Darren Short clarified the differences, highlighting that this proposal includes a more intricate, professional review with a structured planning phase. Commissioner Teske also noted that previously identified issues had seen minimal or no action, and emphasized the need for real progress. Rich Siddons discussed methods for determining facility needs and projections, as well as potential setbacks in the planning process. Darren Short emphasized that the purpose of this presentation was to initiate a formal discussion on constructing a new jail or expanding the current facility. Rich noted that the initial assessment is budgeted at just under \$19,000, and explained how the process can be streamlined for efficiency and cost-effectiveness, including strategies for engaging the public. Commissioner Hammons acknowledged the long-standing need for a new facility and expressed support for moving forward with the assessment. Commissioner Duram asked for clarification on the evaluation process and timeline. Rich indicated the assessment would require approximately 100 hours, and he would follow up with a more precise timeline. Commissioner Duram also expressed the need for an assessment that clearly defines current-day needs and how those would be addressed in the final recommendations. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to move forward on Facility Evaluation and funded through PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:50 AM **Resolution 2025-28 Establishing the Method of Levying Voted Mills per HB231 and SB542 Passed in the 2025 Montana Legislature:** Present were NONE
Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2025-28, which establishes the structure for how Voted Mills are calculated. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to adopt Resolution 2025-28. Second by Commissioner Duram. Open for discussion. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:58 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Nikki Fox, Administrative Assistant