

October 29, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 29, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Dallas Bowe, Danielle Faris, Deb Burrell, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Kathi Hooper, Kevin Delange, Kristie Wilson, Mark Lauer, Melanie Howell, Omar Al-Shafie, Ray Stout, Robin Blumberg, Sarah Michaelson, Traci Street and Tyler Reid.

09:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Letter of Approval for 10 Lakes Snowmobile Storage Shed. Board Appointments. CRS Renewal. Proclamation. Board Updates:** Present were none.

- Approval of the minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the October 22, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Ugrin Alexander Zadick, PC Magnolia Properties LLC legal fees \$516.50. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$516.50. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, PC Torgison legal fees \$4,155.30 **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay \$4,155.30. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
OMVIG Hammer Law P.C. Glen Lake Irrigation legal fees \$1,000-invoice 1173. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Letter of Approval for Ten Lakes Snowmobile Storage Shed: Commissioner Duram presented a proposal letter of support for a Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) grant being sought by the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club. The proposal involves constructing a storage shed on county property next to the Search and Rescue building to house the snow groomer during the summer months. Discussion included ensuring that the building, when not used by the club, would be available for public use and that the county's insurance provider be notified once the structure is completed. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club to give them permission to put a shed for their groomer on the county property next to the old airport and support the letter of support. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Board Appointments: Tobacco Valley Industrial District: 4 vacancies, no applicants.
Lincoln County Fair Board: 1 Vacancy, 1 applicant-Josh Letcher. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Josh Letcher to the Fair Board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- CRS Renewal: Discussion of the renewal of the Correctional Risk Services (CRS) medical coverage agreement through MACo for inmate medical coverage from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026. Due to questions about program benefits and optional coverage, the board agreed to postpone the item for more information from the Sheriff's Office.
- Proclamation: Commissioner Duram read a proclamation officially proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month while encouraging all citizens to work toward eliminating domestic violence in the community. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Hammons announced that the bathrooms at Kootenai Falls will be closed beginning the first of November for the winter season. He noted that the county does not plow the new parking lot in that area, which poses safety concerns and that heated restrooms are available nearby at the state rest area. Signs will be posted to inform the public of the closure.
 - Commissioner Duram noted that the Riverwalk Foundation is seeking a grant from Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and requested a letter in support of their project to replace portions of the paved Riverwalk in Eureka. He also provided an update on the sewer project at the Fairgrounds, reporting that excavation has revealed unknown septic and electrical lines, which may result in additional costs. An electrician is currently assessing necessary repairs, with further electrical work planned for the spring.

09:45 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were none. No public comment.

10:00 AM **CDG Grant Discussion:** Present were Bruce Vincent, Gary Edwards, Judge Jay Sheffield, Kathi Hooper, Martin Stearns and Matt Sandal.

Commissioner Duram advised that he discussed with the state the transfer of administration of the Crisis Diversion Grant (CDG) from Justice Court to the Health Department. He presented an updated grant packet that includes a Crisis Coalition Coordinator/Behavioral Health Manager position, serving as a supervisory role within the Health Department, and maintains the Community-Based Care Coordinator position (currently vacant). The revised plan removes the former Behavioral Health Specialist position and reallocates funding to support the new manager role, which will be covered through the grant and in-kind match. Commissioner Duram noted that reimbursement for the previous 14 months of the position may be available with documentation. Kathi Hooper confirmed that employee benefits are included in the grant funding. Discussion included steps to amend the contract with the state to reflect these changes and Judge Sheffield expressed support for the transition. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept the plan and budget presented today for the Crisis Coalition Coordinator. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of grant funded positions and reporting through 2027. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:15 AM **HECLA Update:** Present were Bruce Vincent, Martin Stearns, Matt Sandal (MT PBS), Mike Satre and Scott Shindledecker.

Mike Satre, Director of Governmental Affairs for Hecla Mining Company, with Martin Stearns, Director of Environmental Operations, provided an update on the Libby Exploration Project. He outlined Hecla's corporate background, operations in Idaho, Alaska, and Canada as well as their commitment to environmental and safety standards. He summarized the Libby project's history, current permitting status and planned exploration activities, emphasizing that all work will occur on private lands with no new surface disturbance on Forest Service lands. He noted that dewatering and preparation of existing tunnels will begin under current permits, with additional permitting expected mid-next year to support full

exploration activities involving approximately 30–35 personnel. He expressed appreciation for community support during the NEPA process and highlighted ongoing engagement with federal agencies and local stakeholders.

10:45 AM **Task Order for a Design Project at Libby Airport:** Present was Gary Edwards.

Commissioner Teske introduced Tyler Reid, who discussed Task Order No. 7 for the Libby Airport Access Road Reconstruction. The task order includes grant management, design, bidding, construction and construction management services, with a preliminary project cost of approximately \$200,000. The County’s match is estimated at \$13,000, and if the Montana Aeronautics grant is approved, it could cover the match. Commissioner Teske clarified that Libby Airport is a joint airport with the City of Libby. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to move forward with task order no 7 for the maintenance of the road at the Libby Airport. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Preliminary Plat Decision Edwards II Subdivision. Preliminary Plat Decision Robinson Acres Subdivision:** Present were Gary Edwards, Jesse Haag, Ken Davis and Kristin Smith.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented the preliminary plat proposal for the Edwards II Subdivision, with both Gary Edwards and project representative Kristin Smith of KMR Consulting present. Kristin confirmed that a fire risk assessment was not required and therefore condition six—regarding a fire risk waiver—should be struck from the conditions list and suggested condition eight addressing noxious weed management plan be filed with the final plat as a separate document rather than being included in the subdivision covenants. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant preliminary plat approval subject to the conditions and based on the findings in the staff report, including thirteen conditions; amended to strike condition six and revise condition eight to be filed with the final plat at the time of recording. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No further discussion. No public comment. Motion carried.

Jesse presented preliminary plat proposal for Robinson Acres with project representative Ken Davis of Davis Surveying present. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the preliminary plat of Robinson Acres subdivision with twelve conditions. Second by Commissioner Duram. Ken advised the highway department is reluctant to issue additional approach permits, noting the property already has existing approaches and a building on site. Jesse noted a letter from Montana Department of Transportation will suffice. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:30 AM **Public Hearing: Amended Plat of lot 14a of Meadow Peak Subdivision – Family Transfer:** Present were Jesse Haag and Ken Davis.

Jesse presented the Fahland family transfer for the amended plat of lot 14A of Meadow Peak Subdivision, noting that SB158 requires a public hearing. He provided an overview of the exempt survey review committee’s findings and highlighted the subdivision’s limited water right allotment. Commissioner Teske opened the public hearing and received no public comment. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the Fahland family transfer per recommendations of planning. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:45 AM **Preliminary Plat Amendment Decision for Sugarloaf View Subdivision:** Present were Jesse Haag and Ken Davis.

Jesse presented the Sugarloaf View Subdivision preliminary plat amendment request, with Ken Davis of Davis Surveying representing the Briskin Family Trust. The request revises the original four-lot approval to a two-lot subdivision (Lots 1 and 2), as the tract containing lots 3 and 4 has been sold and is no longer part of the project. The layout is unchanged and impacts are reduced. Planning staff recommended approval, with conditions 6–9 (noxious weeds and fuels reduction) applying only to Lots 1 and 2. The property is adjacent to Camp Creek, near the Mine Road on Bull Lake. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the preliminary plat amendment to the Sugarloaf View subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:47 PM Break

02:00 PM **Biomass Project Informational Meeting:** Present were Chris Bache, Devon Yarid, Giovanni Cano, Jennifer Brown, Jennifer Nelson, Jesse Haag, Kate Stephens, Ray Stout, Tony Petrusha and Zachary Maassen.

Commissioner Teske opened the biomass project informational meeting with Zachary Maassen, Project Manager with HDR Engineering, joined by Kevin Delange and Omar Al-Shafie of HDR. Zach presented an overview of HDR’s proposed waste-to-energy feasibility project, outlining the firm’s experience with similar biomass and energy projects across North America. Discussion covered site evaluation factors, permitting and regulatory requirements, potential technologies such as gasification versus combustion and opportunities to utilize waste biomass currently being burned. Zach noted the importance of the county’s Master Stewardship Agreement and local precedent for biomass-to-power operations such as Weyerhaeuser and Stoltze, which supply power back to the grid during cold snaps. Possible project sites include Libby, Eureka, and Troy, with emphasis on proximity to feedstock, infrastructure and grid access. Phase 1 of the project is estimated at \$79,000, with potential funding through CDBG, MSE or USDA Rural Development grants. Zach advised HDR will send the county a scope document and fee sheet for county review, and if accepted, a contract would follow to begin the initial feasibility phase.

03:08 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board