

January 14, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 14, 2026, 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: Alaena Woody, Andy Evensen, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Jesse Haag, Jonathan Jameson. Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson and Traci Street.

09:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Advance Roofing Annual Maintenance Warranty Contract. PILT Claims. Safety Incentive Program Update. Commissioners' Report: Present was Mike Fantasia.

- Approval of the January 7, 2026 minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the January 7, 2026 minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Discussion of Advanced Roofing maintenance agreement: 1/6/2026-1/6/2028, \$450 per annual service visit. Commissioner Hammons **motioned** to approve the annual roof maintenance requirement for the warranty for the college to be paid out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Freemyer & Associates, P.C. \$1,273.50 federal land conveyance. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay from PILT \$1,273.50. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Safety Incentive Program for 2026. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Lincoln County Safety Incentive Program for Year 2026. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Teske reported that the Lincoln County Port Authority met and placed the Noble easement request on hold pending legal review. Lease rates were established for various entities using Port property. Flood damage was discussed, including impacts to the pocket park, trails and water intake for the fish and swim ponds, with an engineer to be consulted. The swim pond project remains on hold pending Parks District funding and the Port Authority entered into a contract with ER Assist to facilitate FEMA paperwork.
 - Commissioner Hammons attended the Board of Health meeting, noting year-end program summaries, the hiring of Kelcy Meyer as Behavioral Health Specialist and the Health Department's response to flood and wind damage.
 - Commissioner Duram noted that the Board of Health discussed the Evergreen contract, early planning needs, mitigation efforts and annual fees. He advised of higher-than-expected costs for the fairgrounds sewer project and provided updates on electrical improvements, including donated equipment and plans to pursue support from Lincoln Electric and place lines underground. He also noted a June fairgrounds event and his plan to attend WMCC and HDR meetings; therefore, next week's commission meeting will be held in Libby.

09:45 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present was Mike Fantasia.

Mike Fantasia, a property owner on Farm to Market Road, addressed the Commission regarding significant flood damage to his property and neighboring areas along Libby Creek. He described discussions with multiple local, state and federal agencies and requested that the County take a proactive role in pursuing a comprehensive Libby Creek watershed study. He emphasized extreme weather impacts, noted that while private property owners cannot apply for certain resilience and mitigation grants the County can and encouraged coordination with agencies such as DEQ and the Forest Service. He requested public engagement with affected landowners and long-term planning and funding for holistic mitigation efforts to reduce future weather impacts, protect fisheries and harden properties.

10:00 AM Resolution 2026-06 Amending Boundaries Based on Town of Eureka Annexation Records: Present were Melanie Howell and Mike Fantasia.

Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2026-06, acknowledging the annexation of Creekside Mobile Home Park by the Town of Eureka and directing updates to county records, including maps, GIS data and voting precincts, to reflect the revised municipal boundaries. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-06. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:15 AM Elections Update to Wage Increase for Election Judges: Present were Melanie Howell and Seth Carbonari.

Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, requested election judge wage increases to match the 2026 \$10.85 state minimum wage: Election Judges \$10.85, Chief Judges \$11.35, and Election Managers \$11.85, noting budget provisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:30 AM USFS Updates: Present were Dave Kemmerer and Seth Carbonari.

Seth Carbonari, U.S. Forest Service, provided an update on the Three Rivers Ranger District, noting that Julie Hopkinson is ranger for the next four months. He reported impacts from recent blowdown, flooding and mudslides on roads, bridges and timber sales in areas including Granite Creek, Upper Libby Creek, Ross Creek, Spar Creek and the Montanore Mine area. He outlined plans for temporary and replacement bridges, road repairs and salvage operations, noting coordination with Libby Road Foreman Jerry Regh and Montanore Mine representatives. He advised of FY2025 accomplishments: 69 million board feet sold (74 million including firewood), 30,000 acres of fuels work (including 5,000 acres under Good Neighbor Authority) and management of 149 fires totaling 2,800 acres. He discussed ongoing projects, including the Libby Exploration Project, Pine Phlats and Rexford Bench fuels work, Teeters, Deep Trouble (Granite Creek) and After Midnight sales, Stormin Norman and Norman McCedar road work, Fleetwood Jack access, Mitchel Jackson road work, the Ripley environmental assessment finalization and the Lincoln County Port Authority completion of 55 closure devices. He addressed upcoming RAC committee recruitment, SRS funding, litigation updates (including Knotty Pine and Black Ram) and encouraged local engagement in public comment periods.

11:00 AM **Public Hearing: Resolution 2026-05 Establishing Days/hours of Operation for County Offices:** Present were none.

Commissioner Teske opened the public hearing on Resolution 2026-05 and Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2026-05 establishing official days and hours of operation for county offices. No public comment was received. **Motion** to approve by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:15 AM **Dirty Shame RV Park Extension Request. Yoder Family Transfer. Ivar Final Plat Decision:** Present were Alisha Osborne, Jesse Haag and Ken Davis.

Alisha Osborne, Planning, presented a request from Evensen Engineering to extend the preliminary plat approval for Dirty Shame RV Park for two years due to pending DEQ approval and required design revisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the two-year extension of the preliminary plat for the Dirty Shame RV park. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Alisha presented a request from Davis Surveying on behalf of Roy and Cory Yodor to split a 4.482-acre parcel in West Kootenai using a family transfer exemption. She advised planning recommended denial due to limitations on repeated use of the exemption, potential unchecked development and the need for subdivision review to ensure proper sanitary and land-use standards. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to deny this based on planning’s advice and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Ken Davis, Davis Surveying, noted the family transfer exemption is sufficient for this minor split and that subdivision review is unnecessarily burdensome. He noted the exemption should apply since the current owners are not related to those in the original family transfer. The discussion included subdivision review to ensure proper planning, sanitation and long-term oversight. No more public comment. Motion denying the request carried.

Alisha presented Ivar Amended Lot 2 final plat, dividing 19 acres into four residential lots with a new internal road and installed utilities. She noted all conditions of approval were met and recommend approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the final plat. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:35 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board