

February 4, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 4, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Commissioner Duram, Brian Berreman, Chanel Greer, Dallas Bowe, DJ Welch, Feleisha Storkson, Jonathan Jameson, Josh Letcher, Ray Stout, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street, Travis Sigea and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Commissioners' Report:** Present were Brian Berreman, Mike Fantasia and Travis Sigea.

- Approval of special meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the January 27, 2026 minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.  
Approval of regular meeting minutes **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the January 28, 2026 meeting notes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: HDR Engineering Inc \$21,688 biomass feasibility study. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay out of PILT as listed. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion regarding a need to seek clarification regarding the status of grant funding. No public comment. Motion carried.  
Freemyer & Associates, PC \$711 land conveyance from the Forest Service. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the bill from Freemyer & Associates for \$711 out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public Comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
  - Commissioner Teske provided an update on discussions with federal and state permitting agencies regarding debris removal from creeks and streams, noting increased cost, complexity and coordination with multiple private property owners. Due to these constraints, the scope of work from the Port to Hammer Cutoff may be scaled back to limited areas near infrastructure.
  - Commissioner Duram reported on visits to HDR biomass facilities and emphasized the need for a long-term approach to waste management and biomass, noting higher upfront costs but potential long-term savings. He discussed federal policy considerations, transportation challenges and a public-private model with facilities on county property operated by contractors under county oversight. Emissions were described as minimal, with negative air flow addressing odor concerns. Discussion included potential products, the need for the feasibility study, investor partnership and plans to tour the Stoltze biomass facility next week.

10:15 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Judith McKay, Mike Fantasia and Travis Sigea.

Mike Fantasia discussed impacts from disaster damage along Hammer Cutoff, noting unresolved private property impacts, loss of pastures and the need for cleanup assistance and grant funding. Commissioner Teske outlined meetings with federal and state agencies, emphasizing regulatory limitations, particularly regarding wood debris and the need for engineering and funding to address priority infrastructure areas from Hammer Cutoff downstream and the bridges on the Port, 5<sup>TH</sup> Street, Granite and Keeler.

Judith McKay stressed the importance of a complete, watershed-wide approach—including upstream areas—to prevent further damage, the use of 310 permits for individual properties, coordination with the conservation district, EMA, Planning WWC Engineering and pursuit of state and county grants. Discussion included balancing emergency response with long-term planning, legislative involvement and ensuring property owners are not left unaddressed.

10:30 AM **Notice Calling for or Canceling Special Purpose Election:** postponed

10:45 AM **Preliminary Plat Review/Decision- Lodgepole Flats Minor Subdivision – Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Kristin Smith and Travis Sigea.

Kristin Smith, Planning, presented the preliminary plat review for the Lodgepole Flats Subdivision, a three-lot residential subdivision near Pipe Creek. Planning staff recommended granting preliminary plat approval with fifteen conditions, based on findings in the staff report. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve preliminary plat for Lodgepole Flats subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings of fact. Second by Commissioner Duram. Discussion of fire protection being provided and annexation possible in the future as the area develops. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:59 AM **Break**

01:30 PM **Solid Waste Transport Discussion:** Present were Bryan Alkire, Kathi Hooper and Matt Stull.

Kathi Hooper, Health Director, provided an overview of solid waste transportation data and advised that the current landfill hauling contract expires November 9, 2026. She inquired how to structure the bid process given unknowns, including whether bids could be requested for North Lincoln County, South Lincoln County, or the entire county. A condition of bidding would require haulers to be licensed with the Public Service Commission; currently, only one licensed hauler exists. Discussion followed regarding potential hauling entities in the region and advertising bids in North Idaho and the Kalispell area. The Commission discussed issuing **one bid package with three options: countywide, North Lincoln County only and South Lincoln County only**, to encourage competitive options while noted the need to establish a fair evaluation. It was agreed to proceed without limiting bids and to encourage multiple approaches.

Site Locations and Schedule to Be Included in the Bid:

- **Eureka / North Lincoln County:** County Shop, Fairgrounds, Law Enforcement Building, Annex, Glen Lake, Trego, Fortine, West Kootenai
- **Troy Area:** Hecla, County Shop, Ballpark, Yaak Hill, Upper Yaak
- **Libby Area:** Courthouse, Rifle Range, Animal Shelter, Road Shop, Fisher River, J. Neil's Park, Kootenai Falls, Libby Creek.

Happy's Inn is currently hauled by the County using a 40-yard container; similar options were discussed for Libby Creek as Libby Creek and Troy Ball Park represent the highest number of container pickups (approximately 23 dumpsters).

Discussion that recycling is currently part of the Evergreen contract. Cardboard and aluminum cans are recycled, with recycling at Libby Creek and Troy Ball Park. The Commission agreed **recycling should be included as an optional bid item**, including clarification of where materials would be deposited and if county ownership of a baler would be required.

A contingency option was discussed in which the County could assume hauling responsibilities if acceptable bids are not received. This would require roll-off containers (estimated at approximately \$15,000 per 40-yard container with lid plus freight) and would significantly alter site configurations. Kathi noted cost drivers related to distance, particularly Hecla and West Kootenai and discussed container size differences (40-yard roll-offs versus 4-yard cans). Special use permits for certain sites may require updates to conditions to allow roll-offs. Lack of compacting capability and increased fuel, labor and mileage costs were noted.

Kathi also advised the Forest Service and Corps of Engineers do not pay refuse assessments, despite using the landfill. She will research how other counties address this issue and explore legal options. No public comment was received. The Commission agreed to move forward with issuing bids for solid waste transportation as discussed.

02:06 PM **Adjourned**

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

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Brent Teske, Chairman

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