February 25, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 25, 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: Alena Woody, Andy, Dallas Bowe, DJ Welch, ER Assist, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Kirk Sullivan, Michelle Dodson, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street, Tony Wickham and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Board Appointments. PILT Claims. Commissioners' Report:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jonathan Jameson, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

- Approval of minutes. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve February 12, 2026, commissioner meeting minutes for the Stoltz tour. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approval of regular commissioner meeting minutes. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram motioned to approve the February 18, 2026 minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims; Noble Excavating, Inc $1,474. Fairgrounds additional water line repair. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
  Kootenai Surveyors, Inc. $500. Champion Haul Road access survey to define a property line near—but not on—the Bache property. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the $500 to Kootenai Surveyors. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of refund due to the Libby Creek flood. No public comment. Motion Carried.
- Board Appointments:
  - **Fair Board**: One vacancy with one applicant, Courtney Hubbard. The Fair Board recommended her appointment, noting she would be a great fit. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to appoint Courtney Hubbard to the Fair Board. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Approved unanimously.
  - **Lincoln County Port Authority**: One vacancy with two applicants, Travis Sigea and Jonathan Jameson. The board recommended holding off on new appointments due to the current climate. No action taken.
  - **Weed Board**: One vacancy with two applicants, Jonathan Jameson and Noah Pyle. The board recommended Noah Pyle. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Noah Pyle to the weed board per board recommendation. Second by Commissioner Duram. Jonathan provided public comment regarding his background and interest. No further public comment. Approved unanimously.
  - **County Tax Appeal Board**: Two vacancies with no applicants. Alternate positions remain open.
  - **Eureka Parks and Trails Board**: One vacancy with two applicants, Chris Neill and Keyla Butts. The board recommended Chris Neill. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to appoint Chris Neill as a Eureka Parks and Trails board member. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Approved unanimously.
  - **Troy/Lake Creek TV Board**: One vacancy with one applicant, Andrew Maling. The board recommended approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to accept Andrew Maling to the Troy/Lake Creek TV board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Approved unanimously.
  - **Tobacco Valley Industrial District Board**: Five vacancies with one applicant, Arthur Walters (re-applied). **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept Arthur Walters and ask for more candidates in the future. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Approved unanimously.
- Commissioners' Report:
  - Commissioner Duram reported on the MACo Conference, noting a positive overall tone and discussion of legislative issues affecting Lincoln County, including property taxes and EMS. He participated in discussions with the National Forest Council and Public Lands Board regarding the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and Equal Access to Justice Act changes. He highlighted the Master Stewardship Agreement, supporting collaboration between the county and state to assist with management of National Forest lands.
  - Commissioner Hammons clarified that the county is not selling the building occupied by Flathead Valley Community College. A lease agreement is being finalized and will be returned for approval. He confirmed the county continues to complete repairs and has invested significant funds into the building in recent months.
  - Commissioner Teske announced a public meeting regarding Lincoln County winter storm recovery assistance and resources. The meeting will be held February 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ponderosa Room at City Hall. Lincoln County Disaster and Emergency Services, along with Montana DES and state and federal partners, will be available to answer questions and provide information on available recovery assistance and grants. Community members, especially those with impacted property, were encouraged to attend.

10:15 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items**: Present were Brian Berreman, Darren Short, Jonathan Jameson, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Jonathan Jameson stated that he shared a letter from the college on Facebook regarding concerns about the building and lease. He encouraged improved communication between the county and the college, noting the importance of timely coordination for class planning and emphasizing the value of higher education to the community.

Tony Wickham emphasized the importance of public awareness regarding upcoming road and bridge repairs, noting their significant impact on residents' travel. He encouraged regular updates through local newspapers and online platforms to answer questions and keep the community informed. Commissioner Teske referred attendees to the winter storm recovery public meeting tomorrow at the Ponderosa Room and will email the flyer to Tony for distribution.

Stuart Crismore, Chair of the Fisher River Valley Fire Service Area (FSA) and Ambulance Service Board, reported that the recent fishing derby was successful despite concerns about the ice. He noted ongoing efforts to secure funding for operations and emphasized a need to increase membership, particularly younger, to support the fire service.

10:30 AM **Proposal Opening for Solid Wast Hauling:** Present were Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Boyd White, Jonathan Jameson, Kathi Hooper, Stuart Crismore, Travis Sigea and Will Lawson.

Commissioner Teske presented the sole emailed bid from Evergreen Disposal for solid waste hauling: $465,000 for 2026, with 5% annual increases over five years, reaching $565,210 in year five. Discussion noted that the bid did not break

down coverage days or sites and the current contract is $413,000. Tony Wickham and Stuart Crismore raised concerns about the 5% annual increases and potential negotiation points given expected lower fuel costs. Jonathan Jameson highlighted that the proposal represents a 37% increase over the current $413,000 budget. No action was taken; the bid will be reviewed and revisited at a future meeting.

10:45 AM **EMA Update- Boyd White:** Present were Brian Berreman, Boyd White, Jonathan Jameson, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Boyd White, Emergency Management Director, provided an update on ongoing activities and recent incidents. EMPG grant funds remain unreleased due to litigation, while the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been updated with the state and the Quartz Creek scoping project grant submitted to address long-term bridge and roadway needs. The Black Butte building repairs are complete, Lincoln Electric will pay monthly rent for generator power and the annual inspection is planned. Training for EOC roles and volunteer management is scheduled. Exercises are planned in coordination with LARP, DEQ, EPA and Montana DES. IPAS and Code Red alert systems are back online. Recent incidents included a tanker rollover on Highway 56 with minimal fuel loss and flooding and wind events causing infrastructure damage, which were mitigated with road crews and mutual aid. He noted some access issues remain on King and Blue Mountain and emphasized a public meeting on February 26 at 6 p.m. in the Ponderosa Room to address community recovery questions and resolve rumors.

11:00 AM **Final Plat Review and Decision: Stevenson & Cole Bell Acres - Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jonathan Jameson, Kristin Smith and Travis Sigea.

Kristin Smith, Planning, presented the Stevenson subdivision requesting the lifting of an agricultural covenant. The single-lot subdivision, created through an exemption process, has met all conditions of approval. Staff recommended granting final plat approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Stevenson subdivision final plat. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin presented the Cole Bell Acres subdivision, noting that all thirteen conditions of approval have been met. The large agricultural parcel is being subdivided into a smaller lot. Staff recommended approval of the final plat. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the Cole Bell Acres subdivision final plat. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:15 AM **Decision of Proposals for Disaster Debris Monitoring Service. Decision of Proposals for Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Service:** Present were Brian Berreman, Boyd White, Bryan Alkire, Jonathan Jameson, Matthew Stull, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Commissioner Teske introduced the request for proposals for disaster debris monitoring services, noting three proposals were received. Nikki Fox, Administration Assistant, advised based on the information presented in the proposals, the review committee recommended Rostan Solutions. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Rostan Solutions to represent Lincoln County in disaster monitoring services. Second by Commissioner Duram. The board discussed the evaluation procedures, noting that the review panel held multiple meetings and followed established scoring criteria. This is required by FEMA to ensure proper documentation for reimbursement filing. No public comment. Motion carried.

Nikki reported that the review committee recommended canceling and reissuing the RFP with a clearer scope that reflects project needs and permitting requirements to ensure fair and comparable bids. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept their advice and cancel and reissue the RFP's. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion focused on next steps for debris removal following the need for a more specific RFP. Commissioner Teske noted the importance of attending tomorrow's meeting and understanding project scope, which will be defined once the declaration is received. Jonathan Jameson asked how the community can assist; Commissioner Teske advised affected property owners can attend tomorrow's public meeting for information. Stuart Crismore received confirmation that the original RFP was drafted by ER Assist and approved, however, new, more specific RFP is being developed to clearly define the scope of work. However, until a formal declaration is in place, the project scope may change. No further public comment. Motion carried. The board will move forward with reissuance of the RFP once the process and scope are better defined.

11:30 AM **Mayorga Lakeshore Application – Planning:** Present were Alisha Osborne, Brian Berreman, Jonathan Jameson, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Alisha Osborne, Planning, presented the Mayorga Lakeshore application for a 20 × 38 ft floating dock at 2130 Old Railroad Grain Road on Island Lake, Libby. The Planning Board recommended approval with six conditions. The project is under 400 sq. ft., seasonal and outside the loon area of concern. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the lake shore permit with six conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:34 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____
Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board