

April 1, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 1, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Chanel Geer, Jake Ganieany, Jessica Jenson, Jesse Haag, Jonathan Jameson, Kathleen Sheffield Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Traci Street, Travis Sigea, Tony Wickham and Vanessa Williamson.

Commissioner Duram nominated Commissioner Hammons to chair today's meeting and Commissioner Hammons seconded.

10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Airport Improvements Bid Selection. PILT Claims. Commissioners' Report. LEC Fairgrounds Easement Approval. Approve Recommendation for Yaak Community Hall Project. Resolution 2026-13 Appointing a Special Deputy County Attorney: Present were Brian Berreman and Jeff Koskela.

- Approval of March 25, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Airport Improvements bid selection: postponed, pending engineering review
- PILT claims: none
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Duram reported on plans for a weed burn at the Eureka sports complex, coordination with the local fire department and ongoing MOU discussions, to be scheduled for a future agenda.
- Lincoln Electric Company Fairgrounds easement approval: Commissioner Duram reported that an easement approval is needed to install underground electrical service at the fairgrounds as part of system upgrades, including bringing power from a new location and adding transformers. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the Lincoln County Fairgrounds easement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approve recommendation for Yaak Community Hall project: The Yaak Community Club board unanimously recommended accepting (TCI) Thompson Contracting's bid for the community hall, grant funded, renovation project. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept Thompson Contracting for the Yaak Community Hall project. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2026-13 appointing a special Deputy County Attorney: Commissioner Duram read resolution 2026-13. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-13. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.

10:15 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were Brett McCully, Brian Berreman, Byron Sanderson, Chelsea Sanderson, Jeff Koskela, Jennifer Brown, Melody Schrader, Steve Schrader and Tony Petrusa.

Jeff Koskela raised concerns about the lack of public updates on an officer-involved shooting; the Commission advised that the matter falls under the Sheriff's Office and that information is released upon completion of the investigation.

Tony Wickham questioned the lack of visible progress and planning under the master stewardship agreement to address fuel reduction, noting public safety concerns.

Tony Petrusa, representing the Libby Outdoor Recreation Association, stated the group is ready to provide volunteer labor for recreation projects but is facing barriers due to lack of inclusion in the county's workers' compensation program and requested assistance from the Commission.

10:30 AM Preliminary Plat Extension Request – South Yaak Subdivision. Schraeder Family Transfer- Planning: Present were Brett McCully, Brian Berreman, Byron Sanderson, Chelsea Sanderson, Jeff Koskela, Jennifer Brown, Kristin Smith, Melody Schrader, Steve Schrader and Tony Petrusa.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented a request to extend the South Yaak subdivision preliminary plat approval by two years, recommending granting the request with a new deadline of April 12, 2028. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the two-year extension request for the South Yaak subdivision. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin Smith presented a family transfer request from Melody and Steve Schrader to divide their 15-acre property into three five-acre parcels for their children. Kristin provided factual findings and three recommended conditions if approved. The Schrader's requested timely approval to proceed with building plans. Byron Sanderson, Kootenai Surveyors, emphasized this is a standard family transfer consistent with past practices, with no intent to circumvent regulations. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant the family transfer with three recommended conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of new access providing a fire break. No further public comment. Motion carried.

10:45 AM Port Authority, MTDEC Emergency Funding: Present were Brian Berreman, Chris Noble, Jeff Koskela, Jennifer Brown, Kevin Peck, Tina Oliphant and Tony Petrusa.

Jennifer Brown, Port Director, requested the county sponsor the Port Authority to apply for Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) funding to address flood damage affecting water supply, recreation and industry. Jake Ganieany, Montana DES Chief of Recovery and Mitigation, explained that in order for the Port Authority to be eligible for state emergency funding, the county must act as the sponsoring applicant. He noted that current appropriations are available for emergency work related to the December flooding event, including protective measures and temporary repairs, while additional appropriations may be required for permanent repairs. He confirmed that sufficient funding is presently available for identified emergency work. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to apply for approximate \$432,000 in state DES funding for the Port Authority. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion focused on the Port Authority's

role in Lincoln County, clarification of the county as sponsoring applicant and questions regarding project scope, transparency and funding timelines. Tony Wickum asked how scope, public visibility and progress and expenditures would be tracked. Commissioners and the Jennifer emphasized partnership, public oversight and that updates would be available. Discussion of emergency funding and potential future reappropriations. Jake clarified that the county, Port Authority and city should proceed with necessary repairs without waiting for federal assistance and that additional state appropriations will be requested if needed. Sufficient funding is currently available for identified emergency work. No further public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Fairgrounds Power Proposal**: Present were Brian Berreman and Jeff Koskela.

Commissioner Duram presented a proposal from Northwest Electrical to restore power at the Fairgrounds following last year's outage, addressing safety issues and system upgrades. He noted the \$33,525 proposal, under the bid requirement threshold, covers installation once the new power is in place, with completion needed by mid-May to early June. Commissioners discussed safety and timeline considerations before moving forward. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to contract with Northwest Electric for their quote of \$33,500 paid out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:04 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jim Hammons, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board