

**March 25, 2026**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 25, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Brett Duvall, Brian Berreman, Bryanna Jahn, Chanel Geer, Darren Short, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Josh, Kristie Wilson, Melanie Howell, Nicholas Lynn, Ray Stout, Sam Scheer, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street, Travis Sigea, Tyler Reed and Wendy Drake.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons for Commissioner Duram to preside over today's meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

**10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Approve Fair Board Bylaws. Commissioners' Report. Kootenai Falls Concession Bid Approval:** Present were Bobbie Becquart, Boyd White, Brenda Boswell, Jacob Pinard, Jeff Koskela, Jesse Haag, Robin Blumberg and Morgan Castilla.

- Approval of special meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the March 16, 2026, special meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the March 18, 2026, regular commission meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt \$1,050 Forest Service regarding master stewardship agreement. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the claim to Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt for \$1,050 from PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approve Fair Board Bylaws: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the bylaws for the Lincoln County Fair Board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
  - Commissioner Hammons reported that, following prior approval contingent on funding last week, the state has agreed to fund the temporary Keeler Creek Bridge. He noted the county will pay upfront costs using PILT funds with reimbursement from the state within a few weeks. Funds will be placed into the emergency fund for project expenses. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the funding of the Keeler Creek temporary bridge out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - Commissioner Duram noted that a letter of support was requested for Stillwater Post and Pole in connection with a grant application to the U.S. Forest Service. The company is planning to expand operations into the Eureka area to strengthen market opportunities.
- Kootenai Falls concession bid approval: Commissioner Duram advised that three bids were received. The evaluation considered health compliance, site maintenance responsibilities and potential building modifications, with the main goal of ensuring proper upkeep of restrooms, garbage and grounds. Discussion focused on the Health Department's review of the Kootenai Falls concession stand bids. Considerations included water and wastewater compliance, menu complexity and building use. Kingdom BBQ was noted as fully self-contained, licensed and ready to operate. Cut Above Lawn Care had a simple, prepackaged menu with lower health risk but would require a food license and wastewater plan. Main Street Perk & Pub had a complex menu and would also need licensing and water/wastewater compliance. Any building modifications would require commission approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Cut Above Lawn Care for the bid at the Kootenai Falls. Second by Commissioner Duram. Discussion focused on health and operational considerations for the concession. Cut Above Lawn Care offered prepackaged items with minimal equipment and no onsite food prep, while Main Street Perk & Pub advised of a more complex menu but designed for simple, one-person operation with pre-prepared items. Discussions included safe food handling, proper temperature control, water and wastewater management and building improvements. Commissioner Duram noted a preference for a concessioner with established food service experience, citing Serve Safe compliance and community engagement. No further public comment. The motion to approve Cut Above Lawn Care failed unanimously. A new **Motion** was made by Commissioner Hammons to approve Main Street Perk & Pub for the Kootenai Falls concession bid. Second by commissioner Duram. No further public comments. Motion carried.

10:15 AM **ARP Updates:** canceled

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Jeff Koskela and Jennifer Nelson.

Jennifer Nelson, County Forester, addressed the Commission regarding recent wind events and resulting debris across Lincoln County. She noted the landfill lacks capacity and equipment to manage the volume and that there is currently no comprehensive plan for debris removal, transport, or disposal. She raised concerns about impacts to infrastructure, increased wildfire risk from additional fuel loads, access issues and potential beetle infestations. She recommended including a countywide damage assessment under the existing emergency declaration, exploring grant funding for landfill upgrades and cleanup efforts and considering a contract for clearing county rights-of-way. She also noted potential emergency declarations from electrical cooperatives and encouraged keeping all response options available.

Boyd White, EMA, confirmed that electrical cooperatives have been in contact with the state and damage is currently being assessed to determine if it meets criteria for an emergency declaration. He noted that if the threshold is met, the county may be able to participate in available assistance.

Jeff Koskela agreed with the assessment, noting additional tree loss on his property and expressed concerns about the lack of locations for stockpiling debris. Commissioner Duram noted potential use of firewood banks through the Port and in Eureka. Jeff emphasized the need for solutions to manage, transport and utilize the excess timber.

Jeff Koskela inquired about potential funding changes for Highway 37, specifically regarding reports that pavement funding may have been pulled. Commissioners indicated they had not received any official communication on the matter.

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM **Bid Opening for Airport(s) Improvements:** Present was Jeff Koskela.

Commissioner Duram unsealed and read the following bids which will be sent for evaluation.

<b>Eureka Airport pavement maintenance project</b>	<b>Schedule I</b>	<b>Schedule II</b>	<b>Schedule III</b>
Hi-Lite Airfield Services, LLC	\$238,601.20	\$22,400	\$4,860
Hardrives Construction Inc.	\$210,195.92	\$8,680	\$5,070
C.R. Contracting, LLC	\$208,391.00	\$11,200	\$11,640
Road Products LLC	\$201,985.00	\$30,380	\$4,500
<b>Libby Airport pavement maintenance project</b>	<b>Schedule I</b>		
Hi-Lite Airfield Services, LLC	\$280,534.04		
C.R. Contracting, LLC	\$231,231.00		
Road Products LLC	\$229,571.00		
Hardrives Construction Inc.	\$244,190.87		
<b>Libby Airport access road rehab project</b>	<b>Schedule I</b>	<b>Schedule II</b>	<b>Schedule III</b>
Excav8 LLC	\$353,875.00	\$170,550	\$7,500
Noble Excavating Inc	\$117,500.00	\$52,225	\$4,000
Thompson Contracting, Inc	\$110,564.00	\$64,350	\$1,500

11:15 AM **Public Hearing – Resolution 2026-10 Rescinding Previously Adopted Resolution 2026-07 Special Purpose District Election for the Libby Park District:** Present was Jeff Koskela.

Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2026-10, rescinding Resolution 2026-07, which had authorized a special purpose district election and the Libby Park District subsequently notified the county that it no longer wished to proceed with the election. He then opened the public hearing. Jeff Koskela expressed appreciation for the decision. Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, advised the election department is fine with this. No further public comment was received. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2026-10 rescinding Resolution 2026-07 authorizing running of a special purpose district election. Second by Commissioner Duram. No additional public comment. Motion carried.

11:30 AM **Butler Lakeshore Application (Bull Lake) Swanson Lodge Buildings for Lease or Rent Application:** Present were Alisha Osborne, Jeff Koskela and Jesse Haag.

Alisha Osborne, Planning Department, presented the lakeshore application for Don and Lynn Butler to replace a storm-damaged dock on Bull Lake, including a variance request for increased dock size. The Planning Board recommended approval with ten standard conditions. Discussion included easement access across a neighboring property. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Lincoln County Planning Boards recommendation to grant a variance and approve the Butler Lake Shore construction on Bull Lake with ten conditions. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, introduced a Buildings for Lease or Rent application and Alisha Osborne presented the Herman Family Holdings project near Savage Lake in Troy. The proposal included adding three two-bedroom, two-bath rental structures to the existing Swanson Lodge, along with a new access loop road. The Planning Board recommended conditional approval with eight conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the building for lease or rent for Swanson's Lodge based on Lincoln County Planning Board recommendation, subject to eight conditions. Second by Commissioner Duram. Jesse noted that the proposed long-term rental units support housing supply, aligning with growth policy goals, particularly in the Troy area where housing is limited. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:44 AM **Adjourned**

## **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Noel Duram, Chairman

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