

April 22, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 22, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Adam Stephenson, Alaena Woody, Beth Archer, Brian Berreman, Brittany Savage, Bryan Alkire, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, DJ Welch, Harrison Dewhurst, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, Jonathan Jameson, Kathi Hooper, KS, Matt Arno, Melanie Howell, Omar Al'Shafie, Scott Shindlecker, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Approve Keeler Bridge Change Order. Commissioners' Report:** Present were Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe, Jesse Haag, Ray Stout and Travis Sigea.

- Approval of the April 14, 2026, special commissioner meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approval of the April 15, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the April 15th minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Kootenai Surveyors, Inc \$250. Right-of-way survey conducted to determine boundary between county and private land due to potentially hazardous cottonwood trees. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay \$250 to Kootenai Surveyors. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approve change order for Keeler Bridge project to extend temporary bridge length by 20 feet after relocation downstream to avoid future construction conflicts. Cost increased by approximately \$190,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the temporary bridge assessment change order. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske noted that project costs are expected to be reimbursed through state emergency funds. No public comment. Motion Carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Duram advised of Tobacco Valley Industrial District meeting discussed tenant follow-up and area cleanup plans. He advised the Fairgrounds sewer project completion is anticipated soon.
- Dallas Bowe, Human Resources Director, advised that health insurance enrollment will transition to a new online system, with open enrollment moved to June. Hands-on meetings with provided computers and training will be available and employees will be responsible for logging in to enroll and manage updates moving forward.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jeff Koskela, Kate Stephens, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Tony Penfold and Travis Sigea.

Jeff Koskela advised that a landfill truck involved in a rollover is insured at \$35,000, which is significantly below its estimated replacement value of approximately \$135,000, noting that the truck and attached equipment are not fully covered. He questioned how values are determined and expressed concern over underinsurance. Commissioner Teske noted the matter will be addressed with the insurance company.

Adam Stephenson addressed the commission regarding lack of awareness of a library meeting, raising concerns about discussions and plans made without consulting the library board or city. He expressed frustration with the process and requested an apology, greater transparency and a commitment to support the library without further cuts.

10:45 AM **Present Election Judges to Commission for Approval:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jeff Koskela, Kate Stephens, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Tony Penfold and Travis Sigea.

Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, presented a list of 83 certified election judges in accordance with MCA 13-4-102, noting all will be utilized. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the list. Second by Commissioner Teske. Discussion noted lower participation compared to prior years, encouraging involvement. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Preliminary Plat Extension Request and Condition Amendment- Tamaracks at ACM. Preliminary Plat Approval Riedlinger - Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Boyd White, Byron Sanderson, Chelsea Sanderson, Ed Greiberis, Jeff Koskela, Jesse Haag, Kate Stephens, Kristin Smith, Melody Kraayeveld, Ray Stout and Tony Penfold.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented a request for a two-year preliminary plat extension for Tamaracks at ACM, including removal of Lot 20, reducing the subdivision to 19 lots and proposed amendments to conditions of approval. Discussion addressed condition #12 requiring a five-year performance bond for road maintenance and condition #10 related to developer maintenance responsibilities. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to agree with the planning board and deny the request and remove condition #12. Second by Commissioner Teske. Kristin, Jesse Haag and Byron Sanderson discussed redundancy, developer burden, timing of responsibility transfer to lot owners and impacts from dust on ACM Road. Commissioner Duram **amended** his **motion** to deny the removal and amend condition #12 language to developers shall post a performance bond for a period of 5 years or until 100% of the lots are sold to cover maintenance of the roads including ACM road and 125% of the projected cost adding 10% per year for inflation contingency with the review prior to release of the bond. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to remove condition #10 based upon the change to condition #12. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the two-year extension. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin presented preliminary plat approval for the Riedlinger Subdivision, a five-lot residential subdivision on Highway 56 south of Troy (approximately 44 acres), proposing four new lots served by individual wells and septic systems with access via an upgraded Twin Creek Drive. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant preliminary plat approval to the Riedlinger Subdivision subject to the 18 conditions and based on the staff report. Second by Commissioner Teske. Discussion included extending a 60-foot access easement to the west property line for future development access. Commissioner Duram **amended** his **motion** to include a 19th condition requiring the 60-foot easement extension. Brian Berreman noted

lack of cell service (Zipty Fiber does provide land line services to the area) and potential school district impacts. Jesse noted a cell tower is planned for the new fire hall. No further public comment. Motion carried.

11:28 AM **MT DES – ED Greiberis:** Present were Boyd White, Beth Archer, Brian Berreman, Dania Zinner, Ed Greiberis, Jeff Koskela, Jesse Haag, Kate Stephens, Maggie Ogden, Melody Kraayeveld, Ray Stout and Tony Penfold.

Ed Griebert, Montana DES Field Representative, outlined his role as a liaison between county and state emergency operations. He emphasized early implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the importance of cost tracking, noting he can fill roles if local resources are unavailable. Commissioner Teske requested more regional, specialized ICS training (finance and Public Information Officer [PIO]). Ed noted FEMA training availability is uncertain; however, the state can provide local, non-certified courses and plans to support county PIO training and exercises.

11:30 AM **EPA Update on Libby Asbestos Superfund Site:** Present were Beth Archer, Brian Berreman, Dania Zinner, Jeff Koskela, Kate Stephens, Maggie Ogden, Melody Kraayeveld, Ray Stout and Tony Penfold.

Dania reported that five of the eight operable units (OUs) have been fully or partially removed from the Superfund list, with OU3 (shared between W.R. Grace and the Forest Service) remaining as the primary cleanup site. She recapped the recent five-year assessment, noting the public health emergency will remain in place until OU3 remediation is complete and current remedies along with the Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program (ARP) are functioning effectively. Updates included ongoing public health studies (cancer and non-cancer) and a literature review on autoimmune impacts, which did not change existing findings on asbestos risk. EPA plans to coordinate further discussions with stakeholders. W.R. Grace submitted a draft feasibility study outlining cleanup options for OU3 and agencies are considering expanded community engagement efforts, including public meetings and open office hours.

11:51 PM **Break**

01:30 PM **Review County Administrator Job Applications:** Present were Dallas Bowe and Jeff Koskela.

Dallas Bowe, Human Resource Director, presented ten applications for the County Administrator position. The Commission accepted the applications for review and will establish an interview panel and determine the number of candidates to interview at a future meeting. Discussion of applicants will occur in a closed session due to confidentiality with a follow-up meeting will be scheduled to continue the hiring process.

02:00 PM **Waste to Energy Update - HDR:** Present were Brian McCully, Doug Yeager, Jeff Koskela, Pat Stoken, Scott Shindledecker and Zach Maassen.

Zach Maassen (HDR) provided an update on the biomass feasibility study, noting that the Eureka county site is constrained due to existing uses and costly transmission upgrades, while the former Plum Creek mill site in Fortine is better suited due to existing infrastructure. Lincoln Electric will perform a modeling analysis of system sizing and interconnection, with the potential for a waived fee if the county formally requests it. Discussion included coordination with Flathead Co-op and PNGC, strong interest in renewable energy credits and the importance of project economics in determining power pricing. He outlined preliminary technology options (modular systems, traveling grate/reciprocating grate) and recommended the Libby Port site as the preferred location due to infrastructure, access and traffic advantages, supporting a co-mingled MSW and biomass facility, while Eureka would remain biomass-only. Estimated scale is roughly 200 tons per day of feedstock, with biomass contributing about 30–35% waste fraction from timber operations. Attendees discussed funding opportunities, long-term Forest Service agreements, hauling distance limitations (approx. 150-mile radius), labor availability and the need for stable long-term fuel supply contracts. The project was supported as a long-term regional strategy dependent on final RFP results, cost of power and transportation economics.

03:18 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board