

April 29, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 29, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, DJ Welch, Jessica Jenson, Jonathan Jameson, Juli Hopper, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Rich Siddons, Roland Jorgenson, Traci Street and Wendy Drake.

Commissioner Hammons **motioned** for Commissioner Duram to chair today's meeting. Second by Commissioner Duram.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Board Appointments.**

**Commissioners' Report:** Present were BreeAnna Dahm, Brian Berreman, Darwin Pluid, Kathi Hooper, Jeffery Zwang, Marcy Sturdevant, Robin Blumberg, Scott Shindledecker, Stu Crismore Sylvia Maffit and Travis Sigea.

- Discussion focused on identifying the best path forward regarding COSA approval of the county owned Fairgrounds septic system. Darwin Pluid advised the Airport Board is pursuing options, including a potential boundary line adjustment across the Airport's three parcels and will follow up with Robin Blumberg, Environmental Health.
- Approval of the April 22, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes: **postponed**
- Approval of the April 23, 2026, special FEMA disaster recovery meeting minutes: **postponed**
- PILT claims: Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. balance due \$4,607.12 Magnolia Properties LLC. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Ugrin Alexander Zadick invoice for \$4,607.12. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.  
Montana Forest Landowner Conference May 15, 2026: annual gold level sponsorship of \$500. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve sponsorship of the Montana Forest Landowners Conference gold membership of \$500. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Board Appointments:
  - **County Tax Appeal Board:** Two openings with one applicant, Jennifer Brown. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Jennifer Brown to the County Tax Appeal Board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Eureka FSA:** One opening with one applicant, Patrick Broom. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to appoint Patrick Broom to the Eureka FSA Board. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of the Eureka fire service area of coverage. Motion carried.
  - **Libby Park District:** Two openings with one applicant, Ben Scott re-applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Ben Scott to the Libby Park District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **LC Rural Fire District:** Two openings with two applicants, Thomas Erickson and John "Curt" Jones re-applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint the two sitting members to the LC Rural Fire District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **McCormick Fire District:** Two openings with two applicants, Steve Allen re-applied and Brooke Harris applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Steve Allen and appoint Brooke Harris to the McCormick Fire District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Trego/Fortine/Stryker FSA:** Two openings with two applicants, Mike Collins re-applied and Mark Spehar applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to reappoint both. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Troy Park District:** Two openings with two applicants, Kyla Grose re-applied and Jayme Anderson. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Jayme Anderson and Kyla Grose to the Troy Park District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Troy Rural Fire District:** Two openings with two applicants, Crystal Denton and MarKay Brown re-applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Crystal Denton and MarKay Brown who re-applied to the Troy Rural Fire District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Upper Yaak FSA:** Two openings with one applicant, Mandy Nelson applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Mandy Nelson to the Upper Yaak FSA, she has been endorsed and recommended by the board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  - **Bull Lake Rural Fire District:** One opening with one applicant, Daniel Pearce applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Daniel Pearce to the Bull Lake Rural Fire District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
  - Commissioner Duram advised the former Holdup Gulch sign location was confirmed at mile marker 52.9, just south of the bridge across from Boulder Creek and coordination with DOT is planned to obtain a permit for historical signage. Eureka Parks reported interest from a donor in constructing a multipurpose building and will research requirements such as a potential public hearing. The Eureka Rendezvous was well attended and successful. The National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition is seeking donations, and support will be pursued through MACo and local efforts. The Fairgrounds sewer project is nearing completion, with major work finished and tie-in expected within the week.

10:15 AM **County Dog Control Ordinance:** Present were BreeAnna Dahm, Brian Berreman, Jeffery Zwang, Kathi Hooper, Scott Shindledecker, Stu Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Jeffery Zwang, Assistant County Attorney, presented an updated draft of the county dog control ordinance proposing added definitions for agricultural operation, boarding facility and livestock operation to clarify exemptions and improve enforcement. Discussion addressed alignment with state law and the need to prevent misuse of exemptions while ensuring legitimate businesses are properly covered. The commission agreed to move the ordinance forward for a public hearing, with notice to be posted following additional review of state law consistency.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Melanie Howell, Scott Shindledecker, Stu Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Brian Berreman raised concerns about increased deterioration of county, state and Forest Service roads, attributing much of the damage to heavy logging traffic, particularly at access points to corporate-owned timber lands and questioning whether additional contributions from those operators could be pursued. Commissioner Duram noted the county maintains over 2,400 miles of roads with limited funding, no dedicated road tax and minimal fuel tax revenue based on road mileage, excluding certain Forest Service agreements. Stu Crismore questioned whether past cost-sharing arrangements with logging companies are still in place, with uncertainty expressed about current practices.

Jonathan Jameson questioned the Commission's overall goal for the proposed biomass facility, including anticipated energy production, cost and potential benefit to local rates. Commissioner Duram responded that both cost and energy output would depend on the system ultimately developed in coordination with the parent cooperative utility structure, with generated power entering the grid for purchase and distribution. He noted that while the intent is to better utilize biomass resources, energy pricing outcomes are dependent on broader market and utility factors. Jonathan inquired about the community college building and Commissioner Hammons noted public comment time is not discussion time and that a contract has been sent out. Jonathan remarked the recent Eureka Rendezvous event was very successful.

**10:45 AM Notice of Designation of Polling Locations – Canceled. Appointment of Audit Committee for Primary:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jeff Koskela, Melanie Howell, Scott Shindledecker, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, presented the post-election audit requirements for the 2026 primary election scheduled June 12 at 1:00 p.m. per MCA 13-17-504. She recommended appointing Trista Gilmore, Dallas Bowe, Sharon Craig, Brian McLaughlin and Casey Vincent (alternate) to the audit committee. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the recommendation by the Election Administrator, Melanie Howell, for the audit committee. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

**11:00 AM Approve Rostan MSA:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jeff Koskela, Scott Shindledecker, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

The Rostan MSA (Professional Services Agreement for debris monitoring services) was considered. Discussion noted the contract is a standard follow-up to a previously issued RFP and selected vendor. Due to uncertainty regarding final review by the County Attorney, approval was made contingent upon legal review and approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the agreement for professional services between Lincoln County and Rostan Solutions, LLC on the condition of approval from the county attorney. Second by Commissioner Duram. Discussion that this agreement is for debris monitoring services. No further public comment. Motion carried.

**11:15 AM RS Security LLC – Draft Report for LC Jail:** Present were Brian Berreman, Darren Short, Scott Shindledecker, Stuart Crismore and Travis Sigea.

Sheriff Short reported the Commission contracted with RS Security LLC for a jail capacity study. Rich Siddons presented draft findings identifying capacity, safety, compliance and operational limitations, noting an average daily population of about 32 inmates and frequent overcapacity conditions. He recommended consideration of major renovation or replacement, with final report and in-person presentation to follow.

**11:39 AM Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Noel Duram, Chairman

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