

LINCOLN COUNTY STUDY COMMISSION ~~DRAFT~~ MINUTES 18FEB26

17:31 Roll call and pledge, John, Jen, Corrina present, Mike, Greg, and Ernie via Zoom

Review survey results pertaining to public concerns, we agree that a County Administrator would serve us well. Note job description will (currently) be up to county commissioners. Discussion of Administrator vs Assistant, and what constitutes a qualified administrator.

Discussion of what form of government structure changes to recommend, the two seemingly plausible options discussed were Charter and Commission (our structure is currently Elected County Officials Form, aka 'ECOF'). John wanted to ensure this administrator position has funding allocation, we noted the form of government has not changed, and funding is legally in place for said position should the County Commissioners re-create this position.

Consideration of the charter form waned to placing the Commission Form Of Government, aka 'Commission', on the General Election ballot in NOV26.

Jen proposed adding a Non-Partisan elections structure as a sub-option to our ballot proposal.

Greg moved, John second, to place a vote for a change of our county government structure from ECOF (defined in MCA7-3-111, no sub options available) to Commission (defined in MCA 7-3-401-442), with no sub-options. Motion passed, Jen voted nay, wishing to include a non-partisan elections sub-option (MCA 7-3-413).

We adopted our Lincoln County Study Commission Tentative Report which summarizes our findings, including a strong recommendation (not a ballot item) that the County Commissioners reinstate the position of a County Administrator, filled by a competent, qualified, and professional administrator.

Public hearing to be held in April26 meeting

John moved, Ernie second, to adjourn at 18:51, unanimous

Taken by Mike France

 7/15/26