

LINCOLN COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 – 5:30PM
LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – LIBBY | NORTH ANNEX VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

☒ <u>John Damon</u>	☒ <u>Veronica Bovee Anderson, Chair</u>	☒ <u>Paul Johnson</u>
☒ <u>John Boyke</u>	☒ <u>Roberta McCanse</u>	☒ <u>Jim Gibson</u>
☐ <u>Kurt West</u>	☒ <u>Scott Mattheis</u>	☐ <u>Doug Fryer</u>

STAFF: Kristin Smith, Alisha Osborne

PUBLIC: Mark Schiltz, Garrett Titus

AGENDA

- Meeting called to order at 17:30.
- Approval of May 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
 - J. Damon comments on the incorrect year on the agenda.
 - S. Matthias motions to approve.
 - J. Damon seconds the motion.
 - All in favor, motion carries.
- Conservation Easement (Williams)
 - K. Smith explains that comment from the Planning Board is required per state law prior to filing the easement. There are requirements from Montana Land Reliance (MLR). The subject property is 132 acres in Trego. There are advantages to conservation easements, including tax credit and prevention of development. She clarifies that this is not an action item, only comment.
 - V. Bovee-Anderson says per Montana Code Annotated 76-6-206 there is a ninety (90) day review period in which to add comments.
 - K. Smith confirms we are in that timeframe.
 - The board discusses the history of conservation easements and effects and benefits of implementing them.
 - G. Titus explains the conservation easements are voluntary, and they are intended to preserve the riparian areas, ecosystems and land in their natural state forever.
 - R. McCanse asks if wildlife is protected under the easements.
 - M. Schlitz explains that there are variations and each easement is unique.
 - The Board discusses the effects of conservation easements on taxes.

- V. Bovee-Anderson asks if there are questions. Hearing none, she asks if there is a boilerplate letter needed.
- P. Johnson makes a motion to write a letter stating no comments.
- J. Damon seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carries.
- Exploring the Role of the Planning Board in Other Planning Duties
 - K. Smith explains that in other counties, the Planning Board is more involved in the planning process. She asks if the board would be interested.
 - The board discusses what the proposed additional involvement would entail.
 - V. Bovee-Anderson asks to add this to the next meeting agenda.
- Growth Policy 5-year Review (Postponed)
- Planning Staff Update
 - K. Smith says the regulation updates are on the schedule for next week to be approved.
 - A. Osborne says there is a lot of work and it is overwhelming.
- Adjournment at 18:23
 - P. Johnson motions to adjourn.
 - J. Damon seconds the motion.