

July 22, 2026

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

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Amanda Eckart, AmberLi Jackson Emery, Brett Duvall, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, Katie Anderson, Maggie Anderson, Michelle Bianco, Neil R, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Suzanne Resch, Traci Street, Travis Sigea and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Portable Toilets Proposal. SUD Treatment and Prevention Provider(s) Designation. Commissioners' Report. County Administrator's Report:

Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Christie Silva, Christy Sabo, Erica Schaefer, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Rocke Gifford, Rosalie Warboys, Rosemarie Irish, Sierra Gustin, Tony Wickham and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the July 15, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: MACo, annual membership dues \$17,473. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the Montana Association of Counties \$17,473. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc., FVCC water damage \$3,850. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the invoice from Evensen Engineering and Consulting for \$3,850. Second by Commissioner Duram. Restorations will commence Monday the 27th. No public comment. Motion carried.
Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc Eureka MT37 trail design \$612.50. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$612.50. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Portable Toilets Bid Proposal: One bid was received from JMF, Inc. for portable toilet rental and service at J. Neils Park (six units at \$155 per month per unit, serviced weekly) and Pioneer Park (one unit at \$115 per month, serviced bi-weekly). **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve JMF for portable toilet rental and service. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Substance use disorder treatment and prevention provider(s) annual designation of State-approved entities. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the State approved substance use disorder treatment prevention providers. Second by Commissioner Duram. *Maggie Anderson* discussed the potential designation of Lincoln County Unite for Youth as a prevention provider for SUD funding. She noted that Unite for Youth is a State-approved prevention provider and that Lincoln County currently has limited designated prevention services. The Board reviewed the provider designation form, which identified Unite for Youth and AWARE as approved prevention providers. The matter was **continued** to a future meeting pending additional information.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Hammons received a bid recommendation from Evensen Engineering regarding pit run material and hauling bids. The Board reviewed bids from *Noble Excavating, Inc.* and *Thompson Contracting, Inc.* for pit run material and hauling related to 2025 flood recovery. The recommendation was to award contracts to both vendors to provide flexibility for project needs. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve both bid awards. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- County Administrator's Report: Matt reported on disaster recovery coordination, 2027 budget development and intergovernmental initiatives. He announced the LOR award of a \$10,000 technology modernization grant, provided an update on the Lincoln County 2050 Strategic Framework discussion draft and reported on a tour of the County Animal Shelter to assess operations and future needs.

10:15 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Christie Silva, Christy Sabo, Erica Schaefer, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Rocke Gifford, Rosalie Warboys, Rosemarie Irish, Sierra Gustin, Tony Wickham and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Tony Wickham commended the Elections Office and election judges for the successful administration of the recent election and the favorable state audit results. He also expressed concerns regarding the reporting structure for the Election Administrator and stated his belief that it should comply with state law. Commissioner Teske directed that further discussion on the matter occur during the related agenda item later in the meeting.

10:30 AM Truck Barn Bid Announcement: Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Brett McCully, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Candice Comstock, Christie Silva, Christy Sabo, Erica Schaefer, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Rocke Gifford, Rosalie Warboys, Rosemarie Irish, Sierra Gustin, Tony Wickham and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Bryan Alkire, Health Department, was present for the opening of the sole bid received from *Thompson Contracting, Inc.* in the amount of \$800,000 for replacement of the Libby Landfill truck barn. The Board **deferred action** pending review of funding options and consideration of rebidding the project.

10:45 AM Schrieber Meadows Subdivision Plat Amendment. Montana Wild Preliminary Plat Extension. Route 56 RV Park Final Plan. Lockman Court Ordered Division-Planning: Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Brett McCully, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Christie Silva, Christy Sabo, Doug Allen, Erica Schaefer, Kristin Smith, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Richard Lockman, Rocke Gifford, Rosalie Warboys, Rose Lockman, Rosemarie Irish, Sierra Gustin, Tony Wickham and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Schrieber Meadows Subdivision plat amendment: postponed

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented a request for a one-year extension, expiring July 7, 2027, of the Montana Wild Subdivision preliminary plat. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant the one-year extension. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion included the subdivision's location near Barron Creek off Highway 37 and the project's continued progress toward completion. No further public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin presented the final plan for the Route 56 RV Park located south of Troy, noting all conditions of preliminary approval had been satisfied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the final plan for the Route 56 RV Park. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin presented the Lockman request for a court-ordered division under a state law exemption. Planning found no evidence of evasion and recommended sending a letter of support to the court. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to send an approval letter to the court. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **SRS Election & Allocation. Resolution Appointing County Administrator Acting Election Administrator. Resolution Specifying Monthly Treasurer Report to Commission:** Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Christie Silva, Christy Sabo, Erica Schaefer, Jennifer Brown, Jennifer Nelson, Jesse Haag, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Rocke Gifford, Rosalie Warboys, Rosemarie Irish, Sierra Gustin, Sedaris Carlberg, Suzy Rios, Tony Wickham and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Commissioner Teske introduced a discussion regarding SRS funding allocations. *Jennifer Nelson*, County Forester, explained the current three-year authorization and Title I, II and III funding allocations, noting the potential need to request changes during the authorization process. *Jennifer Brown* discussed the opportunity to submit a reallocation request and noted the proposed changes would be considered with future authorization. The Board discussed the process for requesting changes through the Governor's Office and Congress. Matt will **follow up** with contacts to clarify the process and determine the appropriate timing for submitting a reallocation request.

Matt Williams, County Administrator, read Resolution 2026-19 appointing the County Administrator as Acting Election Administrator during any period in which the appointed Election Administrator does not discharge the duties of that office. Discussion of this being reviewed by the County Attorney, the need for continuity of election administration, statutory reporting requirements and training responsibilities. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-19. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Duram noted this resolution addresses a continuity issue in governance and ensures continued election administration.

Rocky Gifford addressed allegations regarding his candidacy for Public Administrator, stating he was not recruited and that he independently sought information about available elected positions. He also commented on election ballot concerns and expressed his belief that the new County Administrator would improve election operations.

Tony Wickham discussed HB 293 and expressed concerns regarding the Election Administrator reporting structure, potential conflicts of interest during an election cycle and the need to ensure the county has a certified individual available to administer elections. He questioned whether the resolution fully addressed these concerns and recommended reinstatement of the Election Administrator. Commissioner Teske clarified that the resolution is intended to ensure continuity of election administration and provide training for the County Administrator.

Matt Williams explained that without an acting Election Administrator, the County cannot complete the required access process for election administration training and certification. He noted the resolution establishes a continuity plan for election administration while maintaining the statutory authority of the Election Administrator.

Commissioner Duram stated that both the County Administrator and Election Administrator positions report directly to the Board of County Commissioners. He clarified that the resolution is intended to provide continuity of election administration during an absence and does not replace or remove the Election Administrator.

Rosalie Warboys questioned the status of the Election Administrator and expressed concerns regarding her absence from the position. Commissioner Teske explained that the matter involves an ongoing personnel process and this resolution is intended to address continuity of election administration.

Rose Irish expressed concerns about the public perception of the resolution, stating it appeared to be replacing one individual with another seeking the position. She noted the recent election was successful and questioned the timing of the action. Commissioner Teske clarified that the resolution is intended to ensure continuity of election administration and establish a process for filling the role when needed.

Christie Silva recognized the dedication and hard work of election staff and judges, noting the significant time commitment and limited compensation involved in supporting elections. She expressed concerns about the impact of the Election Administrator's absence and the importance of leadership and continuity within the Elections Office.

Ann German stated that the appointment of Mr. Williams as Acting Election Administrator does not change or expand the role of the Clerk and Recorder's office in the election administration process and that existing roles and responsibilities remain unchanged. No further public comment. Motion carried.

Matt Williams, County Administrator, read Resolution 2026-21 establishing a monthly Treasurer's report and cash reconciliation review. The Board discussed revisions to the resolution, including implementing the requirement beginning August 2026, scheduling reviews for the fourth meeting of each month, and allowing flexibility for scheduling changes. The resolution was postponed for revisions and will be brought back for consideration.

Sedaris Carlberg, Treasurer, presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. The Board discussed the variance and ongoing reconciliation efforts. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:30 AM **West Kootenai Rural Fire District:** *Postponed* as an internal review found the public hearing notification insufficient and the process will be reset to ensure compliance with both statutory mailing and publication requirements.

11:44 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board