

August 12, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 12, 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, Amy Fantozzi, Bree Dahm, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Danielle Faris, Jeff Koskela, Jessica Jenson, Katie Anderson, Maggie Anderson, Ray Stout, Robin Blumberg, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street, Tyler Reed and Wendy Drake.

09:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claims Approvals. Commissioners Report. County Administrator's Report. Five-Year Airport Engineering Consultant Selection for Lincoln County Airports (Libby, Eureka, and Troy). Five-Year Airport Planning Consultant Selection for Lincoln County Airports (Libby, Eureka, and Troy):** Present was Brian Berreman.

- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the August 5, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. Torgison \$5,639.28; **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay \$3,933.96. Second by Commissioner Duram. Commissioner Duram **amended** his **motion** to the current billing of \$5,639.28. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. Magnolia \$184.60; **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to the current billing of \$184.60. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Claims Approvals: Commissioners discussed the claims review process and frequency. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the claims. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners Report:
 - Commissioner Hammons discussed the Yaak School District levy that was approved by voters but not placed on the tax rolls. He recommended allocating the missed year's levy amount across the remaining four years and placing it on the tax rolls. The matter will be placed on a future agenda for formal approval.
 - Commissioner Teske updated the West Fisher Creek Road reroute project, noting the partnership with Green Diamond and completion of engineering and required cultural resource work. Construction is anticipated to begin after September 1 due to Yellow-billed Cuckoo nesting restrictions. Champion Haul Road is nearing completion, with paving expected next week.
 - Commissioner Duram reported on the Board of Health meeting, including discussion of a letter regarding kratom, the CARD Clinic closure, alcohol tax funding for prevention versus treatment, RV-related environmental health concerns and an EPA update on the asbestos plan.
- Administrator's Report: Matt reported on HUD grant administration, budget preparation, election activities, public records requests and the upcoming online records portal, FAA procurement compliance, wildfire conditions and coordination for next summer's cycling event. He provided updates on county mental health mapping, veterans' mental health services and proposed legislation related to access to mental health counselors for veterans.
- Five-Year Airport Engineering Consultant Selection for Lincoln County Airports (Libby, Eureka, and Troy). Commissioner Hammons noted the Airport Board's recommendation to retain Morrison Maierle as engineering consultant for Lincoln County Airports for the next five years. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to move forward with the airport Planning board recommendation of Morrison Maierle for their contract engineer for the next five years. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Five-Year Airport Planning Consultant Selection for Lincoln County Airports (Libby, Eureka, and Troy): **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter a five-year contract with Morrison and Maierle for planning consultant. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
 - ❖ Administrator Williams reported that Morrison Maierle had proactively sought an FAA planning grant on the County's behalf for an updated Eureka Airport Layout Plan. Tyler Reed discussed the grant and requested Commission approval to apply and authorize the Chair to sign the application. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve applying for the FAA grant for Eureka. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried. Commissioner Duram noted a planned survey and boundary line adjustment to allow septic installation for the airport hangar parcels.

10:00 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Doug Allen and Kathi Hooper. None.

10:15 AM **Health Department:** Present were Ann German, Brandon Holzer, Brian Berreman, Byron Sanderson, Cheryl Allen, Doug Allen, Feleisha Storkson, John Damon, Katie Davis, Gloria Avants, Veronica Bovee-Anderson and Zach Sherbo.

Zach Serbo, Public Health Manager, reported on a new position to help address the CARD Clinic closure and raised concerns regarding alcohol tax fund distribution and local treatment services. Katie Davis discussed the impact of treatment services on Treatment Court and long-term recovery. County Administrator Williams confirmed with the state that the Commission may reallocate alcohol tax funds at any time.

Zach provided updates regarding a \$25,000 Montana DPHHS wildfire smoke grant, establishment of clean indoor air centers at county libraries, PurpleAir monitors and outreach through the Kootenai Climate Group, and coordination with senior centers. The Commission discussed having a new landfill manager and ongoing debris removal, as well as animal shelter efforts, including placement of all but four recently seized dogs and community donations supporting site improvements. Zach reported that the Health Department is exploring ways to discourage local businesses from distributing kratom products and is currently focusing on public education and prevention efforts while monitoring potential legislative action.

Traci Street, of the *Tobacco Valley News*, asked about the community health survey. Zach explained that the online survey is open through September, after which the Health Department will work with community partners to develop an implementation plan.

10:30 AM **Planning Board Request re. Communications Towers *Growth Policy Update Memo from Planning Board * Streamside Estates Subdivision Final Plat Review and Approval *Peace Ridge Acres Subdivision Condition Amendment:** Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Byron Sanderson, Cheryl Allen, Doug Allen, Feleisha Storkson, John Damon, Kristin Smith, Gloria Avants and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

The Commission discussed concerns raised by the Lincoln County Planning Board regarding the lack of standards for cell towers in residential areas, including setbacks, height, visual impacts and property values. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to direct planning staff to develop a standard for cell towers for residential and scenic areas and bring the plan to the commission for review. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Planning Board Chair Veronica Bovee-Anderson reported that the Board’s five-year review concluded a wholesale update to the Lincoln County Growth Policy is not warranted at this time. The existing goals remain consistent with the County’s needs, but implementation accountability and outdated pre-COVID demographic data should be addressed. The Board will review the implementation table again in one year.

Streamside Estates Subdivision final plat review and approval: Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented the final plat, noting the subdivision was previously approved as the Avants Subdivision. She reported that all 18 conditions of approval have been met, including required irrigation easements. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant final approval for Streamside Estate Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Peace Ridge Acres Subdivision condition amendment: Kristin explained that the subdivision was approved under prior regulations requiring professional engineer review of road construction. Due to updated regulations, the Planning Department recommended amending Conditions 4 and 13 to address driveway construction standards, documentation, and Eureka Volunteer Fire Department approval of driveway locations and grades. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the recommended conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **NRDP Project Workshop Announcement:** Present were Anthony Jenson, Brandon Holzer, Brian Bartkowiak, Brian Berreman, Darren Short, Kevin Peck, Rich Siddons and Sydney Stewart.

Sydney Stewart, NRDP, announced a project workshop Wednesday, August 12, 2026, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the Ponderosa Room in Libby City Hall to discuss \$3–4 million in available funding for aquatic, terrestrial and recreational projects. She provided updates on the seven initial projects, including the Norgard Trail, FWP fish screen and redband trout projects, Libby park improvements and the City gravel pile parking lot. Libby Creek remains paused due to data gaps, flooding and debris concerns, with potential DEQ coordination for debris removal.

11:15 AM **Jail Study Presentation:** Present were Anthony Jenson, Brandon Holzer, Brian Berreman, Darren Short, Jeff Koskela, Joe Nagle, Kevin Peck, Patty Rambo and Rich Siddons.

Rich Siddons of RS Security, LLC presented the Lincoln County Detention Facility study, noting the facility operates beyond its intended capacity, with safety and compliance risks largely managed by staff. Recommendations included addressing deficiencies, establishing a community jail working committee, developing 10- to 20-year population projections with periodic updates, conducting a facility needs assessment and master plan, and identifying funding and design services. It was agreed to establish a community jail working committee to evaluation the county’s detention needs and help determine a practical path forward.

11:49 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board