

July 29, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 29, 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, Bree Dahm, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, Hannah Shields, Jacob Ohonich, Jessica Jenson, John Stears, Katie Anderson, Neil R, Ray Stout, Rosemarie Irish, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Tom Lane, Traci Street and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. SRS Election & Allocation. West Kootenai Rural Fire District Petition. Resolution Specifying Monthly Treasurer Report To Commission. SUD Treatment and Prevention Provider(s) Designation. Commissioners Report. County Administrator's Report: Present were Alisha Barrows, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Deb Burrell, Jen Brown, Jennifer Nelson, Jesse Haag, Jay Sheffield, Linda Ralph, Rosalie Warboys, Sandra Epps, Solomon Alcain and Tom Maxwell.

- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the July 22, 2026, regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: none
- The commission reviewed the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) election and allocation. It was confirmed that changes to the allocation can be submitted for the next cycle. After discussion, the committee agreed on the following allocation percentages: Title I – 85%, Title II – 8%, Title III – 7%, and 0% returned to the U.S. Treasury. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the allocation as discussed. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- West Kootenai Rural Fire District Petition: Resolution 2026-20, resetting the public hearing for the proposed West Kootenai Rural Fire District due to a notice deficiency, was read. The refiled petition was found sufficient, and a new public hearing was scheduled for August 19, 2026. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pass Resolution 2026-20. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2026-21, establishing a standing monthly Treasurer's Report and cash reconciliation review, was presented with minor revisions from the previous meeting. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2026-21. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- SUD Treatment and Prevention Provider(s) Designation: The Board reviewed the updated Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention Provider Designation. It was confirmed that Lincoln County Unite for Youth was added to the service provider designation form after the state corrected an inadvertent omission. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Teske provided an update from the LCPA on flood damage repairs, potential land conveyance for ARP material storage, recreation areas and noted that a proposal will be brought to the Board for consideration.
 - Commissioner Duram reported that the Eureka Road Department has leased a John Deere excavator and is completing dust abatement on Boundary Street to the sports complex.
- Administrator's Report: Matt reported ongoing election administration coordination and training, infrastructure and transportation agreement work, and continued collaboration with county departments and partner agencies.

10:20 AM Discuss Recovery First Drop-In Center Services for LOR Grant: Present were Alisha Barrows, Brian Berreman, Candice Comstock, Deb Burrell, Jay Sheffield, Kathleen Sheffield, Linda Ralph, Ron Denowh, Rosalie Warboys and Sandra Epps.

Alisha Barrows provided an update on the LOR grant for Recovery First Drop-In Center services. The \$11,500 grant will cover a temporary funding gap for September while awaiting full grant funding. A state overpayment was identified and corrected, reducing the actual shortfall to approximately \$6,800, with remaining funds carried forward.

10:30 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Candice Comstock, Kathi Hooper, Matt Stull, Linda Ralph, Ron Denowh, Rosalie Warboys and Sandra Epps.

Ron Denowh asked about enforcement of the junk vehicle ordinance, citing concerns regarding properties along Libby Creek and Granite Creek on Highway 2 and was directed to the Health Department. He also stated that tire disposal fees may lead to illegal dumping and suggested considering alternative funding options.

Linda Ralph expressed concerns regarding the County Election Administrator and recent administrative actions. Commissioner Teske noted that the matter is under investigation and clarified that the acting election administrator appointment applies only when the position is vacant to ensure continuity of election operations.

Candice Comstock stated the Commission was acting outside the law and expressed concerns regarding election procedures and treatment of election staff.

Ann German, a registered elector and attorney, commented on concerns regarding the legality of the Commission's role in election administration. She stated her belief, based on her research and experience, that the Commission is acting within its legal authority. Commissioner Teske noted that they rely on the County Attorney for guidance on legal matters.

John Stears raised concerns regarding public access to information related to the HDR feasibility study, project invoices, and supporting documents. He encouraged public involvement and review of meeting materials, including the Lincoln Electric study, and provided comments regarding air quality, waste management and community input. He also commended the Commission's meeting process and public participation.

Jacob Ohonich read a statement regarding concerns and complaints related to the Lincoln County Shooting Complex and requested follow-up from the Board. Commissioner Teske noted he received a response from the ranger and will be meeting with him to discuss the matter. A written copy of the statement is filed in the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

10:51 AM **Resolution Approving Lease of Front-Load Compactor Trucks:** Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Candice Comstock, Kathi Hooper, Linda Ralph, Matt Stull, Rosalie Warboys and Sandra Epps.

Matt read Resolution 2026-22 approving the lease of two front-load garbage compactor trucks. Kathi Hooper, Health Department, reported that 80 green boxes were ordered, including replacements for 64 existing boxes, and came in under the estimated cost. The lease cost was approximately \$1,000 less per truck per month than anticipated. One truck will serve north Lincoln County, and one will serve south Lincoln County. Driver recruitment will begin in August, with operations anticipated to begin in October. Green box site hours will be established by the County and adjusted as needed based on ongoing evaluation. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-22. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of these trucks serving county green box sites only. No further public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board

Lincoln County Commissioners, Public Comment

Lincoln County Shooting Complex / Special Use Permit LIB277 — July 29, 2026 (via Zoom)

Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Jacob Ohonich. I have a brief prepared statement I'd like to read into the record, and I'd appreciate the chance to finish it before any response. Today I'm speaking about the Lincoln County Shooting Complex, which Lincoln County operates under USFS Special Use Permit LIB277.

Over the past month, multiple complaints have been filed with the Forest Service by individuals and by a public association. I understand separate complaints have also been filed with the Montana Attorney General's Office and the Gambling Control Division, and the IRS.

There are too many violations to cover in full today - Sixteen alone have been filed with the Forest Service, and all of them were formally delivered to Commissioner Teske. A few I'd like to highlight today are:

- Security cameras installed at the range without the Forest Service authorization required for modifications to the complex. In addition, the camera system is routed only to the club president's personal phone with no other access allowed.
- No safety inspection conducted in years. Shooting on the skeet field reportedly creates safety hazards for Trap Field 1 along with the rifle and pistol ranges per the safety guidelines of the NRA.
- Ongoing safety failures, including a range officer grabbing a shooter's loaded barrels from behind, staff telling a woman walking her dog along the outside of the pistol range to park her car there so she "wouldn't get shot at", and missing perimeter warning signs required by the permit.
- Alcohol as witnessed at an event being given out as prizes and consumed during active shooting, in direct violation of the range's own safety plan filled with the Forest Service.
- Gambling, specifically Calcuttas, which the permit expressly prohibits, specially on federal land.
- A separate organization, Scatterguns, Inc., operating the shotgun portion of the facility since December 2023, the Forest Service permit only allows LRGC to be the operator of the complex and no other organization is allowed to operate any part of the facility without the authorization of the Forest Service.
- Finally, according to a witness at the June 17 Scatterguns board meeting, the president admitted BSTA was banned for personal and political reasons—not safety—even though the permit allows restrictions only for safety reasons and only with the County's agreement.

Given these concerns, I'm here today to make sure they're on the public record, that every Commissioner is aware of these complaints, and that the County responds instead of letting them go unaddressed or buried by silence.

To that end, when Commissioner Teske spoke with me in June after receiving the first complaints, he said he would get back to me after speaking with the County Attorney. That was over a month ago, and I still haven't heard back. Then, on July 2, the District Ranger in Libby told me he would contact Lincoln County directly after the holiday and ask the County to investigate these allegations and respond.

This is a federal compliance matter involving the County's own Special Use Permit. It affects everyone who uses this range—county residents, families, children, and the general public. Most importantly, if the Forest Service suspends or revokes this permit because of mismanagement or noncompliance, the public are the ones who loses, the range must stop being treated as members personal range.

The County has a responsibility to act in the public's best interest. So today, on the public record, I have one simple question: What is this Board doing to investigate these allegations and ensure the County is complying with its obligations under Special Use Permit?

Finally, I respectfully ask that this matter remain on future Commission agendas until it is resolved with the Forest Service, and that this statement be attached to today's meeting minutes as part of the public record.

Thank you.