

September 16, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 16, 2026, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram and County Administrator Matt Williams.

Zoom participation: Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown, Alaena Woody, Amie Pace, Anthony Jenson, Bri Hilyer, Brian Berreman, Boyd White, Candice Comstock, Chanel Geer, Gail Burger, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, Joe Crismore, John Boyke, John Stears, Jonathan R Jameson, Katie Anderson, KMS, Michael Miller, Patty Rambo, Ray Stout, Rocke Gifford, Roland Jorgenson, Sandra, Sierra Gustin, Steve Gunderson, Suzy Rios, Tony Wickham and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claim Approvals. Grant Approvals: Lincoln Electric Cooperative Letter of Support for LECAP Grant Application. Letters of Support: USFS Roadless Rules Recission Letter. Montana State Highway Patrol Letter Requesting Increased Patrolling or Compensation in Lieu. SUD Reallocation. Proclamations & Commendations. County Administrator's Report. Notices to Proceed. Commissioners Report: Present were DJ Welch, Mary Duram and Nikki Meyer.

- Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the September 9, 2026, minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT Claims: Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. – postponed for clarification
Leavitt Great West Insurance Services, LLC – cobra insurance \$100 total. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to Pay a \$100 claim for Levit Great West Insurance Services. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried
- Claim Approvals: none
- Grant Approvals: Administrator Williams presented for consideration a letter of support for Lincoln Electric Cooperative's LECAP grant application. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve this letter of support and get it sent out immediately. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Letters of Support:
 - Administrator Williams presented a proposed letter to the U.S. Forest Service regarding rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, including concerns related to wildfire mitigation, public access, economic impacts and local government coordination. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the letter of support to rescind the roadless area conservation proposal rule and draft environmental impact statement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Jonathan Russell Jameson spoke in opposition to rescission of the Roadless Rule, citing wildfire concerns and support for existing forest management programs. No further public comment. Motion carried
 - Administrator Williams presented a letter to the Montana Highway Patrol and Attorney General requesting increased trooper coverage in Lincoln County or state cost participation for highway enforcement, citing increased traffic violations and crashes and the County's history of Highway Patrol service and discussed state-wide recruitment needs. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to request to restore Montana patrol duty stations in North Lincoln County or the alternative request for state cost participation highway enforcement now born by the county. Second by Commissioner Duram. No additional public comment. Motion carried.
- SUD Reallocation: Discussion of reallocating 100% of the SUD funds to Oxytocin following Lincoln County Unite for Youth's withdrawal of its funding request. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve reallocating 100% SUD to Oxytocin. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- County Administrator's Report: Administrator Williams recognized Planning Director Jesse Haag for being selected as Planner of the Year by the Montana Association of Planners. He then provided updates on election preparation, county projects, constituent outreach and a working paper regarding federal land and hydropower compensation.
- Notices to Proceed/Award: Discussion of three previously approved grant applications: Libby Airport Pavement (\$229,571), Eureka Airport Pavement Maintenance (\$223,945.92) and Libby Airport Access Road Rehabilitation (\$110,564). **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to move forward with the grants awarded. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
 - Commissioner Teske reported attending the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders meeting-the upcoming Forest Fair on September 26, a presentation on forest beetles and the Libby Rod and Gun Club meeting. He reported receiving formal notification from the U.S. Forest Service that its administrative review of operational compliance complaints concerning the special use permit holder for the Libby Rod and Gun Club range was complete. He advised following their inspection and internal review, the Forest Service determined that no suspension or revocation of the special use permit was warranted at this time and that the permit holder remains authorized to operate. Commissioner Teske noted that the County can now prepare a response to the complainant.
 - Commissioner Duram reported attending the Rural Impact Forum and pursuing opportunities through USDA to bring animal processing facility back to North Lincoln County, noting the potential to retain local agricultural dollars in the county.

10:39 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were DJ Welch, Mary Duram and Nikki Meyer.

Tony Wickham commented on the 86-day administrative leave of Election Administrator Melanie Howell, expressing concerns about the length of the investigation and requesting completion of the process, her reinstatement and transparency regarding the remaining steps.

Brian Berreman commented on the Moxy event at J. Neils Memorial Park, noting it was a family-oriented event and encouraging the County to support additional community events.

Amie Pace requested County assistance regarding a removed and/or blocked cul-de-sac turnaround on property off Asarco Mine Road. She disagrees with the Planning Department's determination that the matter is civil, citing fire, emergency and snowplow access concerns and requesting enforcement action regarding having a turnaround.

Steve Gunderson referenced the upcoming election and expressed concerns about the timing of the Election Administrator review. He asked when the Commissioners would make a determination and requested that the process be completed expeditiously.

Rocke Gifford offered to serve as an election judge and assist with the upcoming election. He was advised that election judge training will be provided and that applications would be considered for any vacancies.

Patty Rambo, President of the Kootenai River Stampede Rodeo, commented on the success of the Moxy event and noted that the rodeo has invested over \$50,000 in the facility and has an interest in its continued use and maintenance.

10:49 AM **Camp Creek Culvert Replacement Bid Opening:** Present were Andy Evenson, DJ Welch, Mary Duram and Nikki Meyer.

Five bids were opened for the Camp Creek Culvert replacement project:

- **TCI:** Base bid \$56,850; Alternates 1–5: \$41,850, \$43,350, \$44,850, \$46,350 and \$3,375.
- **Rockin Z Diamond Construction:** Base bid \$51,350; Alternates 1–5: \$17,850, \$17,850, \$17,850, \$17,850 and \$41,110.
- **Noble Excavating:** Base bid \$78,950; Alternates 1–5: \$43,875, \$43,875, \$43,875, \$43,875 and \$3,375.
- **Equitable Construction:** Base bid \$145,000; Alternates 1–5: \$50,000, \$44,000, \$47,000, \$44,000 and \$2,000.
- **Top Gun Construction:** Base bid \$49,920.25; Alternates 1–5: \$34,440, \$34,440, \$31,440, \$37,650 and \$5,625.

The bids were to be reviewed with the project engineer, with a recommendation to be presented today to the Board due to project timing and environmental requirements.

- Andy Evanson, County Engineer, recommended awarding the Camp Creek Culvert Replacement contract to Rockin Z Diamond Construction for the base bid plus Alternates 1–4, providing for replacement of all five culverts and not awarding alternate 5, which would upsize the culverts. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to award the bid to Rockin Z Diamond Construction for base bid and alternates 1-4. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **County Schools Budget Presentation:** Present were Andy Evenson, DJ Welch and Nikki Meyer.

Suzy Rios, County Superintendent of Schools, presented the updated school mill levy and budget information, prepared in coordination with the Office of Public Instruction. The Commission will review the materials and follow up next week.

11:15 AM **EMA Update and EMPG Grant Approval:** Present were Andy Evenson and Nikki Meyer.

Boyd White, EMA, provided an update on EMPG grant funding, noting the prior-year reimbursement of \$22,720 and the October 9 application deadline for the upcoming grant. The Commission reviewed and signed the required application documents. Boyd reported on generator monitoring at radio sites, the Quartz Creek grant, upcoming emergency exercises, the Eureka EOC project and the transition of FEMA grant management from ER Assist to local county staff with support from Montana DES.

11:29 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board