

September 23, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 23, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: County Administrator Matt Williams, Alyssa Ruttenburg, Brent Foley, Bri Hilyer, Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe, DJ Welch, Gail Burger, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, John Boyke, Jonathan R. Jameson, Katie Anderson, Michael Miller, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Scott, Sierra Gustin and Traci Street.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claim Approvals. Easement to Annex-Elk Hill Pit Short-Term Mining Lease. Designate County Administrator as Owner's Representative for FVCC Campus. Schools Budget Approval. 96 Chase Cutoff Maintenance Agreement. West Fisher Green Diamond Easement. Commissioners Report:** Present were Charlotte Peterson, Cheri Dunbar, Jesse Haag, Marty Dunbar, Patty Rambo, Phil Soucy, Rocke Gifford, Scott Lennard, Suzy Rios and Tony Wickham.

- Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the September 16, 2026, minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT Claims: Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. \$16,944.98 Torgison. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$16,944.98. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. \$783.03 Magnolia Properties LLC. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$783.03. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Claim Approvals: none
- Easement to Annex: The Board discussed obtaining a 30' x 180' easement adjacent to the Eureka Annex for access and parking. The easement will be granted by Bruce and Cheryl Wiederspiel in exchange for the County paving the area. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter into the lease agreement for this property 30 feet wide by 180 feet long. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Elk Hill Pit Short-Term Mining Lease: The Board reviewed a short-term mining lease agreement with Green Diamond to obtain materials for the West Fisher Road project, reducing hauling distance and transportation costs. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the short-term lease agreement with Green Diamond. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Designate County Administrator as Owner's Representative for FVCC Campus: postponed
- County Schools Budget Approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the school budget. Second by Commissioner Duram. Discussion of an informational flyer, with agreement granted by the Board to use it for public education. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Chase Cutoff Maintenance Agreement: The Board discussed an agreement allowing the County to maintain flood-related bank repairs on private property along Chase Cutoff on Lake Creek Road, as required for potential FEMA reimbursement. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the maintenance for the access easement agreement for the bank stabilization. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- West Fisher Road - Green Diamond Easement: The Board discussed obtaining an easement from Green Diamond for an alternate route to relocate and repair West Fisher Road following flood damage. The easement cost is \$22,000, with the expense anticipated to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter the road easement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. The Board discussed the approximately 1,400-foot proposed road relocation and related FEMA environmental requirements. Planning Director Jesse Haag asked about public access under the existing easement. It was noted that the existing easement will return to an unmaintained status once the new route is established.
- Commissioners Report:
 - Commissioner Duram reported on efforts to resolve the open-cut mine permit and reclamation requirements for the Eureka green box sites. He noted that the Eureka Dispatch Board approved the use of contract traveling dispatchers to maintain dispatching services.
 - Commissioner Teske reported on the September 21 Lincoln County Port Authority meeting, where he was appointed chairman. The Board rejected a bid for the Port's Tahoe and reopened the bidding. He provided updates on Libby Creek trail and embankment repairs, swim pond cleanup and coordination with the Park District on future trail maintenance and headgate regulation.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Ann German, Charlotte Peterson, Cheri Dunbar, Dallas Bowe, Marty Dunbar, Patty Rambo, Phil Soucy, Rocke Grifford, Scott Lennard and Tony Wickham.

Charlotte Peterson requested an update on the completed investigation involving the Election Administrator and expressed concerns about the upcoming election. The Board stated that personnel matters are confidential and that the next step is to provide the Election Administrator with a letter and an opportunity to respond.

Tony Wickham expressed concerns regarding the length of the Election Administrator investigation and the upcoming election, requesting that the matter be brought to a conclusion. He also sought clarification regarding Commissioner Teske's appointment as Lincoln County Port Authority chairman and his status on the board after January 1. Commissioner Teske clarified he was appointed Port Authority chairman following Jerry Bennett's resignation and would need to reapply as a citizen-at-large after January 1 to continue serving on the board.

Scott Lennard reported concerns regarding the removal of chip seal from a privately owned section of Panoramic View Road. He requested that the County consider taking over the section as a county road and stated his hope for a resolution without litigation.

Phil Soucy advised that he was unaware of the County's work on the privately owned Panoramic View Road and expressed concerns about increased dust following removal of the chip seal. He requested continued dust control and noted ongoing drainage and road design issues.

Rocke Gifford commented on the candidates being considered to fill the pending vacancy in the Troy Commissioner District seat and recommended that the final selection include someone from the Troy area.

10:45 AM **Cripple Horse Creek RV Park - Buildings for Lease or Rent application review and decision. Montana Wild Final Plat Review & Approval - Planning:** Present were Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith and Rocke Gifford.

Kristin Smith reviewed the proposed 29-site seasonal Cripple Horse Creek RV Park on state trust land near the Koocanusa Marina. Discussion of the project and 13 recommended conditions addressing licensing, utilities, roads, waste disposal and site standards with approval recommended. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the Cripple Horse recreational site with thirteen conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of road access and possible future expansion. Rocke Gifford asked whether the proposed Horse RV Park would charge fees. It was clarified that the RV sites would be rented for commercial purposes and that the state trust land revenue benefits public schools. No further public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin Smith presented the Montana Wild Final Plat for approval having completed eighteen conditions of approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve final plat of the Montana Wild Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public Comment. Motion carried.

11:01 AM **Treasurer's Cash Reconciliation Report:** Present were Rocke Gifford and Sedaris Carlberg.

Sedaris Carlberg presented the monthly cash reconciliation report and noted that some funds are negative due to the seasonal timing of tax revenue. The Board discussed the unresolved Troy Dispatch fund balance and the need to coordinate with the auditor on an adjustment to resolve the deficit. Administrator Williams advised of their discussions with Raymond James regarding the County's LATCF investment account, with emphasis on maintaining adequate liquidity to address anticipated future budget deficits. He and Sedaris will develop a formal investment policy for Board consideration. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the cash reconciliation report. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:07 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board