

October 14, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 14, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram, County Administrator Matt Williams and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Brian Berreman, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Deb Burrell, DJ Welch, Gail Burger, Harrison Dewhurst, John Boyke, John Stears, Josh Miller, Katie Anderson, KMS, KS, Michael Miller, Noah Pyle, Omar Al Shafie, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Scott Shindledecker, Veronica Bovee-Anderson and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claim Approvals. Eureka Airport LEC Easement. Notices to Proceed. Grant Approvals. Letters of Support. Proclamations & Commendations. County Administrator's Report. Commissioners Report:** Present were Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe, Kristin Smith, Mike Lee and Patty Rambo.

- Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the October 7, 2026, meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
**it was noted for the record that this meeting's recording contained a brief gap due to the recording site reaching capacity and switching to a new recording. The interruption was attributed to an IT issue, with no further concerns noted.*
- PILT Claims: Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. - fairgrounds \$4,462.50. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve \$4,462.50 out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. - Hwy 37 Trail \$1,050. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve \$1,050.00 out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc. – FVCC contractor coordination \$2,800. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$2,800. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Leavitt Great West Insurance Services, LLC – COBRA for retirees \$150. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the claim for \$150 to Leavitt Great West Insurance Services. Second by Commissioner Duram. Dallas Bowe, Human Resources, explained that the charges were one-time fees of \$50 per retiree for processing COBRA paperwork. Following discussion, the **motion was amended** to approve \$100, reflecting the remaining amount due. No public comment. The amended motion carried.
Johnson Controls – second building boiler \$67,867.80. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay \$67,867.80. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion noted this was the final claim for the project and that both boilers are now updated. No public comment. Motion carried.
- The commission reviewed a Lincoln Electric easement agreement across county property to provide service to the Eureka Airport hangars, noting a corrected legal description and that contractors will cover the electrical cost. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter into the easement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Notices to Proceed: none
- Grant Approvals: none
- Letters of Support: none
- Proclamations & Commendations: none
- County Administrator's Report: Administrator Williams reported that public testing of the ExpressVote equipment and ballot tabulator was completed successfully and absentee ballots were mailed October 9. Election judge training is scheduled for October 21–23, and the Elections Office is finalizing its list of election judges. He advised of meeting with the Forest Service working group to discuss potential county involvement in fuels reduction efforts and coordination with the Forest Service and Port Authority. Mold and asbestos testing at the Flathead Valley Community College is expected within the next 7–10 days, at an estimated cost of \$10,000, to determine the scope of abatement and restoration work. He plans to continue meeting with community stakeholders regarding the county's fiscal health and plans a presentation to the Commission after the election.
- Commissioners Report:
 - Commissioner Duram reported on staffing shortages at Eureka Dispatch and noted that traveling dispatchers have been hired and operations are running smoothly. He mentioned efforts to recruit additional volunteer ambulance personnel in Eureka. He provided an update on Forest Service meetings and initiatives to encourage sawmill investment and support Montana lumber use and expressed concerns about proposed tax incentives for Montana lumber given the lack of sawmills in Lincoln County.
 - Commissioner Hammons reported meeting with Julie Hopkinson, the new Three Rivers District Ranger in Troy. They discussed the positive working relationship between the county road crews and the Forest Service.
 - Commissioner Teske announced that upon receipt of an easement from Green Diamond, the county road crew has begun construction on a new section of West Fisher Creek Road following FEMA requirements. The project will reroute approximately 1,400 feet of roadway away from the waterway to help prevent future washouts and construction is expected to take 10 days to two weeks.

10:15 AM **Final Plat Warren Subdivision - Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Kristin Smith, Mike Lee and Patty Rambo.

Kristin Smith, Planning, presented the Warren Subdivision, a three-lot subdivision along Bull Lake Highway. The subdivision corrects an existing lot configuration in which the highway runs through the lots. All 11 conditions of approval have been met. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Warren Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Mike Lee and Patty Rambo.

Mike Lee inquired about the status of the Hecla Mine permit process and litigation. Commissioner Teske clarified that public comment is an opportunity to address the Commission, not a question-and-answer session, and noted that individual meetings with commissioners are available to discuss questions.

John Stears addressed concerns regarding public access to meetings, website posting of administrative, jail and incinerator studies, and agenda formatting. He questioned the completeness of the HDR feasibility study and requested

clarification on public participation during the afternoon meeting. Commissioner Teske confirmed the meeting would be broadcast on Zoom and noted that the opportunity for questions would depend on further discussion with the contractor.

10:45 AM **Lincoln County Library Annual Report, Library Foundation Grant Proposal:** Present were Brian Berreman, Dustina Deans, Mike Lee and Patty Rambo.

Dustina Deans, Librarian, presented the Lincoln County Library annual report, including circulation, program attendance, library visits and budget expenditures. She noted that library usage remained consistent with the prior year and that Lincoln County transports more materials per capita through the statewide partner-sharing system than any other library. She highlighted the August completion of interior renovations at the Troy branch by library staff and exterior landscaping completed through the Friends of the Library.

She proposed installing a permanent StoryWalk at J. Neils Park, featuring story panels along the walking path and a book exchange, with funding anticipated through the LOR Foundation. The Commission expressed support for pursuing the project and requested updates as plans progress.

11:00 AM **Justice of the Peace Appointment Posting:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jay Sheffield, Mike Lee, Patty Rambo, Scott Johnson, Scott Shindledecker and Stuart Crismore.

Commissioner Teske noted the upcoming retirement of Justice of the Peace Jay Sheffield. Administrator Williams read the notice of vacancy and call for applications, including eligibility requirements and an October 23, 2026, application deadline. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to post the notice of vacancy and call for applications. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:06 AM **Break**

02:00 PM **Biomass Fatal Flaw Report – Feedback Meeting with HDR:** Present were Jennifer Nelson, Patty Rambo, Ray Stout and Zach Maassen.

Zach Maassen and Josh Miller of HDR presented the biomass feasibility and fatal flaws report and requested feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Teske noted the value of identifying practical options and emphasized the need to determine the financial feasibility and costs of advancing the project. Discussion focused on the County’s limited financial capacity, potential private investment and federal or grant funding, and the need to evaluate the project’s economic, environmental and community benefits. HDR recommended further financial modeling, preliminary site design and exploration of potential partnerships to support future funding applications. The Commission agreed that a financial analysis would be valuable in determining the next steps. Administrator Williams and Commissioner Duram will participate in a follow-up discussion with HDR’s recommended financial advisor and HDR will involve its grant team to explore funding opportunities. HDR also agreed to address technical questions and expand the report’s conclusions and recommendations.

02:38 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board