

February 25, 2009

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 25, 2009 in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Konzen, Commissioner Berget, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer. Commission Marianne Roose is out of town.

8:30 AM: Commissioner Konzen called the **meeting to order** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

8:31 AM: **Paul Bradford and Malcolm Edwards, USFS KNF:** Paul has submitted projects for some of the stimulus money and should know by the middle of March if they are accepted. The projects are aimed toward jobs. Forest Plan revision is underway; Paul met with Idaho Panhandle people and hopes to come up with something soon. The grizzly bear access amendment should be out within the next 30 days for public comment. At the Regional Team meeting last week they talked about a regional map to change administrative boundaries and decided that is not needed but maybe "pairing" forests instead. There was a thought that the Kootenai and Flathead forests may pair up. Paul doesn't think Flathead and Kootenai is a good pair because they are two of the largest forests. Malcolm showed the Montanore draft Environment Impact Statement for the mine project. They examined the map together. The comment period will be over in May. It will be at least a year until the comments are all addressed. Malcolm talked about all the people that worked so hard to prepare the EIS. Malcolm showed a brochure about the sampling on the forest for asbestos contamination. It is an advisory for the area. The big impact to the FS is firefighting and how they approach it

9:35 AM: **Vic White, EMA director:** Vic brought Ed Levert with him to discuss the fire steering committee role in the fire co-op. Ed thinks the CWPP (County Wildfire Protection Plan) should include the fire co-op responses as well as the feelings about the Steering Committee. Vic said it's a matter of sorting all the players and creating a balance. Ed talked about some grants that he is applying for on behalf of the County forests.

Vic talked about the AFG grant coming up. The grant goes through the Fire co-op. It will allow the County to apply for radios for Fire Departments and Ambulance Services. Through the other grants received the sheriff's department has updated radios. The grant money is about \$400,000 for radios without ambulance numbers yet. Vic is asking the Commissioners to support a match for the grant of about 5%. The Northern Tier project meetings are still going on in Havre each month. Roger Guches is very busy and would like Vic to take over for him. Bill thought that the project will go another 2 or 3 years. Commissioner Konzen doesn't feel the travel is necessary when it could be done over the phone. Vic said that he will take over Roger's position if the Commissioners want him to do it. He also mentioned that the EMA truck has over 107,000 miles and has been requiring a lot of repairs lately.

10:07 AM: **Friends of the Scotchman's Peak:** Present were Don Clark, Ed Levert, Peggy Williams, Brent Shrum, Canda Harbaugh, Bill Martin, Doug Ferrell, Charlie Clough and Tom Horelick. Charlie started with an introduction saying that they are still working on wilderness for the Scotchman's Peak area. They propose a total of 88,000 acres with a portion of it in Lincoln County, a portion in Idaho and a portion in Sanders County. Bill Martin said that they have no conflict with anyone except the snowmobilers. The snowmobilers are going in there illegally. The area has been closed to snowmobiles since 1980. Doug said that the snowmobile issues are not up to the wilderness plan; it is already decided because of the goat habitat. Doug stated that there is not a suitable acre of timber in the area. Doug feels that it's time for people to bend on issues that do not impact the resources. They are requesting that the Commissioners listen for practical reasons that people are opposed to the wilderness. Commissioner Konzen said that he agrees that people are not necessarily well informed and the word "wilderness" makes people uneasy. Commissioner Konzen explained how hard it is for Commissioners to support something if there is a group of people that are fighting it. Don had gone to DC in September to talk to legislatures about the wilderness. He has also spoken to many other groups in Lincoln County and endorsements have been received from these meetings from Libby and Bull Lake Rod and Gun club, Montana Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Doug said that most of the presentations have been received well with the exception of the Troy meetings. Commissioner Konzen talked about snowmobiling in wilderness areas and wondered if it is possible. Don said probably not. They mentioned that Inventoried Roadless Area's are not wildernesses. Commissioner Konzen said the FS told him that the IRA's are treated like Wilderness. Commissioner Konzen encourages Bill Martin to meet with the snowmobilers because there is probably more room for compromise and maybe only losing 8 acres is worth gaining the 80,000 of wilderness.

11:15 AM: **Gordon Sullivan:** Gordon wants to inform the Commissioners about a complaint that he is filing with the Office of General Accounting against the EPA. He feels that for years the citizens of south Lincoln County have made an effort to have their voices heard as they question the EPA's actions. The complaint has 6 allegations. Gordon explained in detail his complaints.

1:30 PM: **Public Hearing for amended subdivision regulations:** Present were: Brett McCully, Dawn Marquardt, Debbie Shoemaker, Ron Downey, Harold Etienne, Sam Shupe, Ken Davis, Shannon Wolleat, Karin Bache, Tim Rooney, John Vignali, Barbara Benson, Kathi Hooper, Byron Sanderson, John Damon, Del Goss, Lynn Yanak, Augusta Kickbusch, John DeLeo, Mitzi Carlson, Andrew Belski, Josh Lenderman, Ted Andersen and Don Truman. The minutes to the Public meeting are available through the Clerk and Recorder's office. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

3:00 PM: **Growth Policy discussion with the Planning Board:** Joe Kelly, Ted Andersen, Gary Larson, and Mark Romey. Joe read a letter to the Commissioners from the Planning Board requesting that Greg Larson be allowed stay with the Planning Board in order to be at the public hearings. Commissioner Konzen and Commissioner Berget agreed that was a good idea. The Commissioners and the Board discussed the many questions that the public has been asking about the Growth Policy. They talked about Growth plans in other counties that are successful and ones that have failed.

3:56 PM: The meeting was adjourned.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Konzen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board