

June 10, 2009

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 10, 2009 in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner John Konzen, Commissioner Marianne Roose, Commissioner Tony Berget, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Jill Blomdahl.

9 A.M: Commissioner Konzen **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:01 A.M: **Forest Service:** Paul Bradford and Jane Cottrell: Present are Canda Harbaugh, Brent Shrum and Peggy Williams. Paul announced that \$1.5 billion is being provided to the National Forest Service for economic recovery by the economic stimulus package. The Kootenai National Forest should receive more than \$13 million of the money available. The House and Senate are ready to pass the Flame Act which sets up a National Emergency Response Fund. Generally, money for fires comes out of the Forest Service budget and can stall programs when used for fires. Paul said a few fires having been started by lightning, one near the Canadian border of about 80 acres.

10:10 A.M: **EPA Update:** Present are Victor Kettlepper, Ted Linnert, Catherine LeCours, Michael Cirian, Dick Sloan, Michelle Smith, Mary Darling, Kirby from Senator Baucus' office and Virginia from Senator Tester's office. Mike told the Commissioners that 1120 properties have been completed. The cleanups this time are on bigger properties and they are working on 3 creek locations. Commissioner Konzen thanked them for their quick response to the cleanup for the Stinger site and is impressed with the EPA trying to be more efficient. The Corp of Engineers Representative and the Contractor used by the Corp are here to observe the meeting as they have been doing a lot of work with the EPA. The EPA would like to partner with UDIG so that if a landowner digs on their property the EPA would also be informed. Ted spoke about a program that MIT wants to bring to Libby. MIT students would study Libby for a semester, visiting the community, meeting with the Commissioners, then go back to MIT and present designs for growth, etc. There is no cost to the County and it is for the fall semester 2010. Commissioner Konzen thinks this is a great idea. Mike let the Commissioners know that the ABS follow-up will get started in August at the schools. Dr. David Berry, Toxicologist, will join the EPA in July. Catherine said the meeting in Troy last week went well. Field work started on Monday in Troy and they are adding roads and alleys into the clean-up this summer. In the fall, they will be testing the ambient air.

11 A.M: **Western States Insurance** representatives Brad Salonen and Robin Swimley: They told the Commissioners and Vic White that MACO will contract with a local insurance agent to work with the County regarding Workman's Comp claims and safety ideas. There is no cost to the County for this service. Vic stated the agent would be a great resource for the safety program. Commissioner Roose moved to accept a local agent working with the County on insurance issues and it carried.

1 P.M: **Health and Human Services:** Present are Rita Windom, LeRoy Thom, Tanis Hernandez, Brad Black and Karol Spas. On the phone are Jane Smiley, Anne Weber, Mary Simmons and Kai Ellen Bucher. The reports for FY08 need to be finalized and they set a date in July to have them done. HHS would like to renew the agreement that is already in place and hope to do so without submitting a new grant. The Commissioners recognize the difficulties caused by not having a coordinator here in the County. They hope to rectify this in the near future. They would also like a point person at HHS to help remedy the situation.

1:55 P.M: **Ed Levert and Wayne Hirst, Jump Start Programs:** Brent Shrum and Peggy Williams are present. Ed informed the Commissioners that Jump Start money cannot be used for County or City land. There is \$4.8 million for State and private lands authorized. The program is designed to reduce fire risk and the homeowner does not have to have matching funds. The Commissioners question why County land is not included when County money was used for fire wise clean up on State lands. Commissioner Roose would like to see some County wide advertising of this program so that landowners know the money is available.

2:30 P.M.: The Commissioners read the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Berget moved to approve the **minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting** as written and it carried.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Konzen, Chairman

Attest: _____
Jill Blomdahl, Deputy Clerk of the Board