

July 15, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 15, 2015, in the Eureka Annex of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Commissioner Cole **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM **MSU Extension:** Present were Svea Jorgensen and Nikki Maija Meyer.

Svea is currently works half time for county 4-H and other youth development activities and programs. Svea expressed that it would be beneficial to the county if she increased her hours to become a full time agent. This would allow her the time to incorporate and provide programs she feels would be beneficial to community. Svea said she has been receiving more people asking about agricultural and pest control questions wanting knowledge about vineyards, orchards, and small farming. Svea mentioned that as a full time agent, she would conduct a needs assessment.

Commissioner Cole asked if she would have to pick up more training. Svea said she would have to become certified for hay testing and pesticides, but it would not increase her travel budget now that a county car is available to Eureka employees.

Commissioner Cole said the commission is currently reviewing FY 15/16 preliminary budgets and will take this under advisement.

**Motion** by Commissioner Larson to sign agreement between Montana State University Extension and Lincoln County, Montana for FY 14/15. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. It has come to the Commissioners attention that the agreement was approved, but was never signed.

10:00 AM **EPA Update:** Present were Rebecca Thomas, Mike Cirian, Lisa DeWitt, Christina Proggess, Nick Raines, Dania Zinner, Tom Stoops, Deb McKean, Nikki Meyer, and Bob Henline.

Rebecca updated the commission on the EPA Proposed Plan. The public comment period has been extended through August 7. ARP will be hosting a workshop tonight to discuss the results of the interviews his department has been doing. A complete draft is anticipated by end of August for internal review by EPA and DEQ. EPA is hopeful to have a Record of Decision by end of this calendar year. All properties are considered protective and EPA will not have to go back to any properties for removal but will still be conducting investigations. All properties are considered protective.

Dania said she is working alongside the Port Authority to come up with IC's specific to the Port property. In August Dania will be doing some video highlights in Libby with interviews about the work that has been completed over the years with a positive focus. She asked the Commission for any thoughts or ideas for this.

Mike Cirian said about 400 postcards have been sent out to the public to encourage participation in the clean up/removal program. EPA received approximately 100 positive responses and they will continually be sending out more to reach as many people as possible. Commissioner Peck suggested that reporter, Bob Henline do an article to support and encourage public participation in the clean up/removal program. Mike Cirian thought it would be better if the commission did their own support Letter to the Editor. Mike Cirian announced there have been around 300,000 man hours worked for each contractor without one lost time accident. The commission commended EPA on this achievement.

Christina said there will be more information and data she will share about the results of the test burns that have been completed at their next regular EPA update with the commission. The Draft Remedial Investigation review will begin September 3. Christina said the feasibility study for forested areas is being moved to the front burner to analyze vegetation and fire, but will take one to two years to complete. The Remedy (ROD) is expected Fall/Dec. 2015.

Commissioner Peck said there should be an organized appreciation for all the clean up/removal employees.

10:30 AM **Administrive Issues:**

- The Commission signed the renewal contract agreement between Lincoln and Annie's Professional Cleaning Service, LLC. Contract is good through July 31, 2017.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Resolution 939 that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Yaak Fire Hall located at 74 Shooting Range Rd, Troy, MT to receive protests and comments relating to the amendment to the rate schedule. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. The present fee is \$25 per year dated August 30, 1995 by Resolution 375C. The proposed fee is \$60 per year for Class 1 – Single Family Residences.
- Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson asked if the commission if they want to public notice board vacancies when members resign midterm. The commission agreed that all board vacancies will be public noticed.
- The commission read the minutes for July 8, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes for July 8, 2015 with one correction. Second by Commissioner Larson, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

11:00 AM **Bryan Donner, Rexford/Fortine District Ranger:** Also present were Don Truman, Scott Mattheis, and Kurt West.

Bryan said the entire ranger district is fully staffed, including seasonal employees. About 120 people participated in the orientation. Arrangements are currently being made for the unveiling of the new ranger district name and logo. CSKT elders and leaders are participating. The Tobacco Valley public, including local leadership will be invited. The ranger district is working with Robin Haidle coordinating efforts for use of the Murphy Lake Compound.

The current large planning projects are Ten Lakes Management (Environmental Assessment will be about one to two months before it goes out to the public), Galton Vegetation and Fuels Management (draft environmental statements will be made public in about one month), and Pinkham-Meadows Vegetation and Fuels Management (currently working on a scoping document). Commissioner Peck asked if the Ten Lakes Travel Management Proposal submitted by the Snowmobile Club and Montanans for Multiple Use North was considered. Bryan said all comments and submissions were considered but could not give any details at this time.

Prescribed burning this spring was very successful due to cooperating weather. It has been the best spring burning results in years; goals were accomplished. Five Creeks timber sale sold to FH Stoltze about two weeks ago, and there are no impediments for this moving forward. There are nine other large timber sales in various states of completion. Only four are currently hauling logs right now based on contract periods.

There is some timber hauling on Deep Creek Road. Lime Creek Road is a Forest Service road that the county maintains. There are no problems with the Forest Service for the county to take over. Commissioner Cole will visit with Eureka Road Supervisor, Tim White and will do follow up. Commissioner Cole will help coordinate efforts to set up a meeting regarding Law Enforcement Center Security.

11:30 AM **Cookie Haidle/Domestic Violence:** Also present were Barbara Guthneck and Micki Carvey.

Cookie apologized to the commission for seeming critical of the JP Office. It is a reflection of her passion about domestic violence and her concerns regarding service to the victims. Cookies expressed her desire to figure out a way to make it smoother for domestic violence victims to get the help they need. According to the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission, of the number of intimate partner homicides logged in Northwest Montana since 2000, more than a third of them occurred in Libby. With a grant of less than \$24,000 from the Department of Public Health and Human Services combined with community donations, Lincoln County Crisis Solutions provides three crisis lines; one in Libby 293-3223, one in Eureka 291-2715 and one 800 number toll free from anywhere 1-877-493-7139. All crisis lines are answered by volunteers 24/7/365. Lincoln County Crisis Solutions offers two shelters in Libby and one in Eureka. Barbara Guthneck expressed the need for one in Troy and feels there is a strong need for improved communication between all agencies to serve the victims of domestic abuse to the best of our ability.

Commissioner Larson suggested that it would be beneficial to outline all the organizations and agencies involved and define roles and responsibilities. Commissioner Cole expressed his appreciation for the services and hard work provided by the volunteers and questioned the best way to approach this and all come together? Commissioner Peck commented that we cannot separate the economy and mental health factors in this issue.

Cookie asked if the county would be willing to back us on grants to bring people and professionals together. The commission agreed they would need to review the grants. Commissioner Peck said the professionals need to work together regardless of whether grants are available or not.

Commissioner Cole suggested a county wide conference with all agencies to coordinate and communicate how they can all effectively work together, define roles and responsibilities. Matt Dale from the Montana Department of Justice's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is coming to Libby July 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Libby's Little Theatre. This may be a good time to discuss and begin that effort. Micki Carvey was thanked for putting the meeting together as an opportunity to learn, hear and share ways to prevent domestic violence homicides in the future.

1:15 PM **Rita Collins, Sunburst Foundation:**

Rita works with the Sunburst Community Service Foundation, Libby office. Sunburst also has an office in Eureka and one in Thompson Falls. Sunburst works with Mental Health, and CPS providing services for at-risk families with children in Lincoln County. The State Department of Health and Human Services is looking at a change that would have DPHHS employee service all of Lincoln and Sanders Counties. Rita expressed her concerns about services being compromised feeling that it would be very difficult for one person to serve both counties. Currently there are two people in Libby, one in Eureka and one in Thompson Falls providing these services. Rita submitted a letter for the commission to sign asking the Department of Health and Human Service to reconsider this matter. Commissioner Larson said he would check with DPHHS on the proposed changes. The commission will take this under advisement.

1:30 PM **DNRC-County Co-Op Agreement:** Present were Wyatt Frampton, Dan Cassidy, Steve Frye, Doug Turman, and John Hannay.

Wyatt Frampton announced that DNRC is gifting a new fire engine with a 500 gallon tank to the Eureka Fire Department. The County Co-Op Program is state funded and is about 40 years old. Its purpose is to assist in providing fire suppression assistance and equipment to Montana counties. In return, counties provide qualified wild land fire fighters and maintains the equipment. About 246 pieces of equipment is out in the field right now from the County Co-Op Program. The success of the program speaks of the positive relationships and partnerships between DNRC and Montana Counties. Commissioner Peck mentioned that without the Fire Co-Op, we would be on our own financially to purchase equipment and other wild fire related costs. Sincere appreciation was expressed by John Hannay, Assistant Fire Chief of the Eureka Fire Department. The meeting ended with everyone going outside and looking at the new fire truck.

1:45 PM **Public Comment Time:** None

2:00 PM **Visit Ten Lakes Area:** The commission took a trip to visit the Ten Lakes Area site.

The meeting was adjourned.

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board