

**JUNE 10, 2015**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 10, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

**9:30 AM Troy Dispatch Board Appointment:** Present are Gerald Wallace, Paige Bothman and Bob Henline. Notice of Troy Dispatch Board Vacancies was advertised and letters of interest were due to the Clerk and Recorder's Office May 27, by 5 PM. There are two vacancies, one being a city position and one being a county position. Both terms are for 3 years. Two letters of interest were received. The letter of interest for the city position has been mailed to Troy Mayor Darren Caldwell for review and appointment. A letter of interest submitted by Gerald Wallace was received for the county position and read by the Commission. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to appoint Gerald Wallace to the Troy Dispatch Board. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board. The Commission thanked Mr. Wallace for his interest in serving on the Troy Dispatch Board.

**10:30 PM DNRC & USFS/Preparing for Fire Season:** Present are Doug Turman, Lisa Oedewaldt, Chris Savage, Dan Rose, Steve Frye, Greg Poncin, Paige Bothman and Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via Vision Net. Commissioner Peck requested this meeting to provide opportunity to hear and discuss management of the upcoming fire season. Mr. Poncin explained that fires are local and there are local jurisdictions that respond first. Based on the escalation of fire, other agencies will be called in as necessary. The county needs to determine who it is that really provides oversight and direction. Those select people and agencies, including the Commission should get together early in the fire season to discuss on the ground action, command center activity and other related responsibilities to build relationships and understanding.

Mr. Frye said that we are drier this year at this time then we have been for many years noting that it is better to have frequent small level rainfalls then to have infrequent heavy downpours.

Commissioner Cole asked about aircraft availability. Mr. Poncin said the availability is better than it has been in years, and briefly explained this process and how aircraft and tankers are on national contracts. Mr. Rose explained the various types of helicopters/tankers and local availability in Kalispell, Missoula, Coeur d' Alene and other local areas.

Commissioner Larson asked about the process? Mr. Turman said there is a notification process depending on location and fire type based on severity. Commissioner Peck said most teams that come in during a wild land fire will link up with local government; fire departments, sheriff department, and county commission combined with a liaison officer to handle the communication to provide public information. Mr. Poncin expressed to the Commission its authority to voice expectations, concerns and interests to any firefighting team and agencies. Mr. Savage agreed that it is a shared responsibility.

Mr. Poncin explained a new program used by pilots that utilizes an electronic map by using an app that pinpoints lightning strikes. Pilots will be able to communicate which strikes have smoke as a means to help with early fire detection. Commissioner Peck discussed the sequence of events, and how the county is notified for briefing. This is how the liaison officer coordinates with the county and it is a very structured process and allows the Commission to express how they want to be updated and informed of any situation or issues.

Mr. Poncin said the key to firefighting is being ready which is why 90% of the resources are about preparedness.

Mr. Savage said we may see greater restrictions this year regarding camping, contractors, hoot owl hours, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July restrictions to name a few, depending on future weather. Commissioner Peck suggested that it may be good to get some information out to the public now, that restrictions may become effective. There are no restrictions confirmed at this time. Commissioner Larson asked about timber after a fire and its utilization. Mr. Savage said the biggest change on the fire salvage side is that we just don't have the helicopter logging we used to in past years which contributes to salvage and its access.

A meeting has been set up tomorrow evening at 6 pm in the Ponderosa Room with all local agencies that would be involved in an incident. Commissioner Peck said the best firefighting response is the initial attack and agency connectivity. Discussion will be focused on roles and responsibilities and how to come together quickly to manage and respond to an incident.

**12:00 PM Lunch with the Lincoln County Weed Department and Weed Board.**

**1:30 PM Planning Department:** Present are Lisa Oedewaldt and Deb Blystone.

The Planning Department would like to assemble a committee of professionals as well as selected community members who would be interested in reviewing changes in the upcoming lakeshore, subdivision and floodplain policies and regulations. The planning department would like to extend the invitation to engineers, developers, surveyors, realtors and residents to examine the regulations and offer their expertise and opinions in the revisions that are needed every 3 to 5 years. A draft application was submitted and Lisa said selection would be based on qualifications. Public advertising will be done by the Planning Department. Commissioner Peck stated that he is in favor any time community people are brought into the county decision making process. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to approve moving forward with formulating a Lincoln County Planning Working Group. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

**2:00 PM Ric Kesling, IT Director:**

Ric submitted a new Lincoln County Technology Use Policy draft. It has not been updated since 2012. Commissioner Cole asked about use of phones and computers and stated the use has been for work related as well as some personal use. Commissioner Peck understands the difficulties monitoring phone and computer use; however, we need to protect the county with a policy that is understood. Ric said the policy is to protect equipment from spam, password protection, increased security, and decrease computer viruses and hacking. Ric will contact MACo for further assistance and also

contact elected officials and department supervisors as a courtesy to attain their input. Ric will bring more information to the Commission meeting next Wednesday. Upon approval and implementation, the IT Department will conduct employee training to educate and answer any questions.

**2:30 PM Port Authority:** Present are Tina Oliphant, Brett McCully, Peggy Williams and Paige Bothman. Tina wants to update the Commission on the Port Authority property and redevelopment at the Kootenai Industrial Park. Tina shared a brief history of the property the county inherited from Stimson Lumber and what has transpired over the years. Buildings and infrastructure was approximately 67 years old at the time of the proposed gift of the mill property to Lincoln County Port Authority in 2003. Tina discussed the EPA cleanup and improvements as well as former and current benefits and obstacles related to the site. Now the question is how to leverage the assets to attract business investment. There are opportunities and choices in planning for long term vision. How do we attract businesses to the port site when there are multiple location options to the business owners who may be considering Libby as an option? Brett presented maps of the port site showing all 400 acres and shared minimal annual costs for bare bones operations and maintenance to the property. Brett shared costs associated with former and current improvements. A video presentation was shown related to active improvements; the fish pond, roads, possible land swap with the museum and other development ideas and activities as well as showing underground infrastructure, rail lines, BNSF main line switch, and the re-load facility. The port has its own switch engine locomotive and Brett also showed plans for future rail system and development. Brett and Tina shared their ideas and vision, future improvements for the Kootenai Industrial Park to make it a viable location for business and recreation. The Port is trying to prioritize next steps to accomplish its plan and vision and would like a group of people looking into this. Commissioner Peck said the site is a county asset and the Commission should be involved in the critical thinking and long term planning strategy. Commissioner Cole suggested meeting more often for collaboration and updates. Brett invited the Commission to tour the Kootenai Business Park site.

**3:30 PM Grizzly Bear Delisting Discussion:** Present are Allan Payne, Paige Bothman, and Bob Henline. Allan gave a history of the request by the county asking his help to determine if there is an opportunity for the county to submit a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist grizzly bears as an endangered species. Allan presented a petition that first establishes the grizzly bear as its own distinct population, secondly delisting the grizzly bear from the endangered species list. The petition states that now is the time to recognize that the best available science establishes that the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem population of grizzly bears is healthy, increasing, self-sustaining, and fully recovered, and Lincoln County petitions the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare a small victory in the important fight to recover the species by issuing a rule delisting the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem population. Upon receipt of the petition, there would be 90 days for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give a response or ask for more time for review. Allan will make some wording changes to the affect that if the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service deems the grizzly bear as its own distinct population, and then delist the grizzly bear from the endangered species list.

**3:00 PM Administrative Issues:**

- The Commission read the minutes for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> as amended. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board..
- **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to sign letter in support of the Tobacco Valley Industrial District's application to the RBDG program through USDA-Rural Development. The application will assist the Industrial District in building a new facility to house Glacier Peak Holistics. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.
- Commissioner Larson committed \$2,000 of Troy Economic Development funds to support the folf tournament held in Troy, MT.
- The **Libby Rod and Gun Club** will be hosting the fifth annual Safari Rifle Challenge competition on Sunday, July 12, 2015. The shoot is open to the public; however, the ranges will need to be closed to general recreational shooting.
- Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson informed the Commission that the **Audit Report** for FY ended June 30, 2014 has been received. Robin also notified the Commission that the audit report recommends the county to hire an actuary for FY 15.
- Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson stated the **preliminary budgets** have been received and entered into the Budget Prep system. She is requesting a time to meet with the Commission and present preliminary FY 15/16 reports. The Commission set a date next Tuesday, June 16, 9:30 AM.

3:45 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

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