

## LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 3, 2015, in the Commissioner's office at the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck, Administrative Assistant, Bill Bischoff and Assistant Election Administrator, Leigh Riggleman.

9:00 AM - Commissioner Cole **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:01 AM - **USFS Monthly Informational Meeting with Brian Donner and Chris Savage** – They had an annual meeting yesterday with Montana Wood Products group and presented their 5-Year Plan to the membership within MWP group. It seemed to be a successful meeting especially since the plan presented was long term. There are some sales that lend themselves to better opportunities of stewardship and they are looking at several of them. Commissioner Peck expressed his support of the stewardship sales to support forest health and increased local employment opportunities.

The **East Reservoir Sale** is in process and stalled in mediation process but they are still moving forward with other sales. The forest moisture indices, as of May 1, were where they are normally at on July 1. The rain in May has brought the forest back up to normal but June will be a critical month and they are watching weather patterns carefully. Next Thursday, June 11, there will be round table discussion with local response agencies to coordinate any future fire situations. Alvin Benitz asked about air support – they fly twice a day through a company in Bonners Ferry Idaho. Update on Montanore Mining process: There were a dozen or so letters that were received during the comment period, 10 of which have standing including one from the Lincoln County Commissioners who were supporting the mine, but some objected to some closures. They anticipate moving forward a bit more quickly than anticipated.

Commissioner Cole asked about the **10 Lakes Project** – comment period was final on Friday and received 193 comments. All were well written and succinct with no 'fluff'. More than half of the comments, 103 out of 193, were about mountain biking. 36 were focused on motorized vehicles, 26 were fairly general about overall management. The Forest Service categorizes and looks at the content of all of the comments and those will be added to an appendix to the final action report – which might include a few alternative plans and feel that they are still on target by the time they get to the 2015 snowmobile season. Commissioner Peck commented that he knows management is difficult and understands that the USFS is in a complex situation due to the Wilderness Study Act however, snowmobiles have been in this area for 40 years and grizzly bears are recovered, but yet the proposed plan is more restricted than when grizzly bears were listed. Even with current travel use, by their own admission, the MWA states on their website, the 10 Lakes Study Area has high wilderness integrity and the bears are recovered. Commissioners, Larson and Cole, believe that getting collected data and other information out to the general public is important.

Commissioner Cole thanked the gentlemen for the 'field trip' last week. Commissioner Peck sees the pendulum swinging back to a more reasonable forest management process that takes into account all parts and pieces, including wilderness area, wildlife, forest and water conservation. The Kootenai Forest could be used as a really great example of a balanced management.

10:30 AM – **Tracy McIntyre** – updates on ongoing projects. Tobacco Valley Industrial District board met on May 16<sup>th</sup> to reappoint Ethel White and Wayne Robinson pending approval by the Commissioners. Commissioner Cole explained the new process that they are implementing regarding advertising of board positions that come open with the hopes to generate more interest by the public.

The District working towards building a new building and working with other funding agencies to help for rural development for an incubator company called Glacier Peak Holistics. Although they can apply for up to \$500,000, they are applying for a grant of \$400,000 with the draft being finished by June 15 – remainder would be bonded and would be paid for by the lease of the vendor. The grant will be managed through the Industrial District and the building would be owned by Lincoln County.

**Procurement for selling Lot 1 of the Business District.** Rural Propane Services is looking to use it for storage facilities. The agreement is being looked at by the County Attorney and there are Covenant Requirements that

must be met. Commissioner Peck asks how this propane storage facility will impact how the rest of the industrial district. Tracy felt that there would not be any problems and that there seems to be a natural flow so that the high tech businesses are on one side and businesses like Rural Propane are gravitating to the other.

The Commissioners would like to set up a tour of the Tobacco Valley Industrial District facilities. There are 22 acres and there may be additional land that's being surveyed that used to be the old airport site.

The District is looking to raise funds to bring in a speaker, Barbara Wold. Tracy says she is a very powerful speaker and the presentation would be towards getting the community to think and shop locally. Another project is 'Come Home' campaign to develop a video series towards having companies and people come back to the area and bring their jobs with them or to start a business. Greg Dianforte is releasing a video and his business is tele-communications. The goal is to finance about \$10,000 to develop a series of 4 videos and she also wants to work towards coordinating with the state campaign and is hoping that, if the Commissioners would consider helping with the financing, it could be a County based project rather than a North County project.

A new format needs to be worked on to comply with Federal requirements. The current document needs to be reformatted. North End segment is closer to what it needs to be seen and the document needs to be shortened significantly. DOC is starting to require comprehensive planning and taking advantage of combining all communities within Lincoln County to be cohesive and tied together. Tracy wants to know WHO and HOW. Commissioner Peck suggests Tracy and Tina Oliphant from Kootenai River Development Council to get together to visit about putting together needs assessment and then draft a plan. She will send raw data for the North County needs assessment to the Commissioners and come back to the Commissioners with the draft plan.

Governor's office Innovate Small business Road Show – coming 6/23 will be in Eureka, 6/24 are doing tours and hope to visit in Libby, 6/25 in Troy. Andy Shirtliff and Daisy Madison and Liz Ching as well as one other will present Success for on-line marketing. It will be about starting small business in communities – more on value added tech and manufacturing in Eureka. More base industries are needed. The Commissioners are supportive and would like Tracy to email additional information on the visit.

11:30 AM – **Gordon Sullivan** as a citizen as technical assistance grant. Mel Parker accompanied Mr. Sullivan. In 2003, he was named the first paid technical advisor for the TAG project for 3 years and went on to be an advocate for rights to property owners during asbestos clean-up. He still reads and studies documents about where the community is right now. He's had hundreds of meetings with the EPA and has read the EPA proposed plan. His interpretation is that the EPA legally has the right to walk away from this project and the risk assessment indicates that there are concerns for minimum doses of asbestos that may still cause harm and the EPA will come up with a Hazard Index which will be conservative. The EPA will have the expectation that the community will have to implement the proposals and his comment that the community will be in charge of their own destiny and he feels that the citizens need to play a significant role in planning for the future. He met with EPA agency members and suggested that the EPA look at this in a totally different way – with an incentive program rather than an enforcement program. Commissioner Larson agrees with providing incentives for actions associated with future cleanups, both inside and outside homes. He believes the home improvement remodeling portion should be the responsibility of the homeowner. Commissioner Peck thinks there is a need for a proactive approach. EPA seems to be legitimately interested in this approach. If the institutional control is to work, public interest and education must be regenerated. What impact does this have on the community? Commissioner Peck thinks the apathy of the community is due to superfund fatigue and social behavior. Gordon believes that the EPA is our friend and not our enemy and that the key component is reenergizing the residents in the community to participate in their own destiny. He believes that it is important to develop a diverse advisory group within the area so that the community is driving the process and not a government agency that have the list of controls to be followed. He feels that there are a lot of great thinkers and ideas out there who will have workable solutions to move forward with community leadership. He thanked the Commissioners for their willingness to listen. Commissioner Cole thanked Mr. Sullivan for bringing a positive message to the Commission.

1:08 – June 2 Administrative business Approve Legal Counsel for Commissioner Peck motions to approve and initial cap it \$5000 out of PILT – Commissioner Larson seconds, Motion Carries. Commissioner Peck will provide a signed copy.

Commissioner Larson gave a summary of **Troy Park Expenditures and Economic Development Funds**.

**\$3,500** In Economic Development Funds to the Upper Yaak Fire Service Area for Fire Truck Repairs on several vehicles.

**\$6,000** In Economic Development funds to the Troy Museum for improvements to the Museum, Railroad Car and grounds.

**\$5,000** from the Troy Park budget to the Troy Archer Club for practice targets for the Libby and Troy Archery Clubs.

**June 2, 2015 Minutes** – Commissioner Larson moves to accept as amended, Commissioner Peck seconds. **Motion carries.**

**May 27, 2015 Minutes** - Commissioner Peck moves to accept the May 27, 2015 minutes as amended, Commissioner Larson seconds. **Motion carries.**

**Tansy Ragwort Project Coordinator Contract** with William Chalgren through the Lincoln County Weed Department was signed.

1:30 PM – The Kootenai River Development Council requested \$14,026, per the Management Plan with LiV Golf Cars, Inc., and the draw must be approved by the Commissioners. Commissioner Larson moves to accept the contract, Commissioner Peck seconds. **Motion carries.**

1:50 PM - Personnel Issues discussed.

2:00 PM **Meeting adjourned.**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:**\_\_\_\_\_

Leigh A. Riggleman, Clerk of the Board