



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

July 9, 2021  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Friday, July 9, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Zoom Meeting; <https://zoom.us/j/93074418758>.

### **Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Tom Rolfe was present. Commissioner Hunthausen was out of the office on personal leave. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Alexa Noruk, Rocky Infanger, Kevin Wright, Nicho Hash, and Misty Edwards, Recording Secretary.

All attendees were present via Zoom.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

There were no consent action items.

### **Resolution 2021-57 Establishing Stage One Fire Restrictions. (Roger Baltz)**

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the resolution to establish stage one fire restrictions. The resolution prohibits the following items: building, maintaining or using a fire or campfire unless noted in the exemptions; and, smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. The following are exemptions: campfires on private or public property if they are within an improved fire ring; persons with a permit; all land within a City boundary; persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned off; persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written notice; and, other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe. Mr. Baltz added that the restrictions will go into effect on July 10, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

Rocky Infanger, Wolf Creek/Craig Fire Chief, stated that all surrounding counties have recently enacted Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. The main reason for the restrictions is current and forecasted weather patterns, the potential lack of resources to fight fires, and fuel moistures are quickly going down. The Northern Rockies reported 48 new fires this morning. The Lewis and Clark Rural Fire Council supports moving into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, with the exception of the Lincoln fire area. The Lincoln area is on the west side of the continental divide and they currently still have wet, green grass and more moisture. Mr. Infanger read a memo from Zach Muse, Lincoln Fire Chief supporting this and noted that Bill Cyr

with Montana DNRC also supports leaving Lincoln out of the current restrictions. Mr. Infanger recommended using the Continental Divide as the line.

Kevin Wright, Sheriff's Office Captain, stated that Sheriff Dutton, who is also serves as the Fire Warden, does support these restrictions.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rolfe to approve the resolution with amended language to exempt the west side of the divide and enact the restrictions on private and public property on the east side of the divide. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion passed 2-0.

**Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Andy Hunthausen, Chair

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Jim McCormick, Vice Chair



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Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:



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Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board