



PUBLIC MEETING

September 7, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Tom Rolfe was present. Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Dan Karlin, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Sarah Sandau, Jess Hegstrom, Jacob Kuntz, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Resolution 2021-80 Authorization to Submit Montana Coal Endowment Program Infrastructure Planning Grant Application. (Dan Karlin)

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented the resolution to submit a planning grant application to the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP), formerly known as the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP). If received, the grant is in the amount of \$15,000 for infrastructure planning activities, with a match of 50%, up to \$15,000, for a total project cost of \$30,000. Great West Engineering has been contracted to complete the work. Work will include updating the county bridge inventory, reviewing National Bridge Inventory Rating (NBIR) reports received from MDT for Lewis and Clark County's off-system bridges, on-site inspections of bridges identified to have critical deficiencies, assist in updating the five-year Capital Improvements Plan, provide planning level estimated costs associated with any needed repairs and/or replacements, prioritize the County's bridge needs, and assist staff in selecting a structure to nominate for MCEP funding to replace it. After step completion, Great West will prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the selected bridge, assist with public hearings, prepare the MCEP application, assist staff in responding to inquiries from the MCEP program during the evaluation process, and assist staff with legislative hearings. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

There are approximately 91 bridges in Lewis and Clark County and the long-spanned culverts brings the total inventory to about 105. He further explained long-spanned culverts. He gave a history of the federal updates that began in the late 90's when the engineering community decided an updated evaluation of bridges and road limitations on the bridges was necessary. In the last 5 to 10 years, the Federal

Highways Administration decided to evaluate the timber on the same methodology as the steel and concrete structures that led to many updates to load ratings for every state. Montana was behind the curve, and consequently, a lot of timber structures had to have a reduction in load ratings to ensure load capacities were not exceeded. The last year about 13 timber structures have had existing ratings dropped or load limits posted within the county and the process is not complete. He explained how the hauling industry has found a way to meet the federal axle formula; haul more weight, that exceeds weight limits, and still be legal. There is one bridge that the weight limit was dropped, it has been found to have two adjacent beams that suffered damage due to overload, the weight limit has dropped again to 5 tons. The lowest weight limit posting is 3 tons before a bridge must be closed.

The County has been very successful with the Treasure State Endowment Program. The capital improvement program is very important, as the Department of Commerce wants to see planning efforts when they receive applications. This grant gives the County the ability to submit for the larger infrastructure replacement grant.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for the creation of a Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team in the amount of \$28,310. This is an active postvention model. Following notification from the Sheriff's Office, the Team will respond to the scene of the suicide to provide direct support to family members and other individuals present. The responders will include suicide loss survivors and behavioral health professionals. Support will include an installation of hope connection to grief services and two free sessions with a therapist. The contract period is September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Jess Hegstrom, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, stated suicide prevention is looked at from several different phases, prevention, intervention and postvention, which she explained. This model is specifically for those that have lost someone to suicide. It takes about 4.5 years for loss survivors to get into services, mainly because they do not know the services exist. This gets the connected in 39 days. She gave an overview of the program and briefly discussed the issues that suicide loss survivors experience. Lewis and Clark County will be the first in Montana to have this model.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointments for the Fair Board and the Lincoln Parks Board. The recommendation is to appoint A Joy Young to the Fair Board to a term that expires December 31, 2023 and to appoint Dan Gallagher to the Lincoln Parks Board to a term that expires June 30, 2023.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

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


Jacob Kuntz, Helena Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, shared an upcoming project they are working on to build four homes in 10 days, September 16-25, 2021. They are working with a national group, Home Blitz Builders, a group of over 100 Habitat for Humanity volunteers traveling from across the country to assist in building the homes. This type of project has never been attempted in Montana. This group usually pick larger populated communities to build in, but having seen what Helena Habitat has been doing to increase the production of affordable homes; they wanted to be involved. They see this project as a down payment on their plan as an organization to increase capacity to be building 30 homes a year by 2030. They are currently building eight homes annually. The families have been preselected and will be buying the homes from Habitat. The homes are being built in the Red Fox Meadows Subdivision. The Governor will be out on September 23 to build with the group and they would love to have the Commissioners come out sometime during the build. There are many local groups participating as well. He distributed the partnership packet with general information.

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, stated the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds meeting will be canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Andy Hunthausen, Chair
Jim McCormick, Vice Chair
Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board