

Lincoln County Port Authority
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026 @ 3:30 PM
LCPA Conference Room
216 West 9th Street, Libby, MT

The Lincoln County Port Authority Board met on April 20th, 2026, in the LCPA Conference Room, Libby, MT.

1. **Roll Call:** Present were Board members Chris Bache, Tony Petrusha, Rob Delmas, Kevin Peck, and Jerry Bennett, and Director Jennifer Brown. Board member Brent Teske was excused. Members of the public present were Noel Duram, Stu Crismore, Christy Sabo, Ray Stout, Kym and Scott Bramwell, Tony Wickham and Sandy Epps.

2. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

Tony Wickham expressed concern regarding the status of the MSA, stating that he does not see apparent action. He noted the lack of funding and suggested that the U.S. Forest Service should be funding projects. Mr. Wickham also raised concern about the separation between wildfire mitigation projects and commercial projects. He suggested pursuing self-funding projects consistent with what he viewed as the original intent of the MSA.

Noel Duram stated that he has previously raised questions that were addressed but continues to have concerns regarding ARP materials and their usability, noting that issues appear to trace back to prior decisions related to the sale of property to Noble. He emphasized the importance of rebuilding trust among partners. Mr. Duram stated that whether issues occurred by accident or intent, they should not have happened and expressed concern regarding accountability. He further suggested transferring Port property intended for material storage to the County to help prevent similar issues in the future.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** No comments were made.
4. **Approval of March 16, 2026, Minutes:** Tony moved to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes. Chris seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of April 2, 2026, Minutes:** Tony questioned whether the amount of \$4,400 for Task A was correct. It was confirmed that the amount is correct. Rob moved to approve the April 2, 2026 minutes. Kevin seconded the motion. There were no further comments. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Approval of March 2026 Financials:** Kevin moved to approve the March 2026 financials. Tony seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a) **LCPA Walking Trails:** Discussion was held regarding transferring the walking trails on Port property to the County. The Port attorney has drafted an easement proposal to present to the County for consideration.

Tony stated he agrees with the proposal as presented; however, he noted it does not include the Haul Road park or trail area. Kevin stated that this area would be subject to future easements and further designation. Tony asked whether the area around the turtle ponds is included in or separate from the real estate action. Jerry stated it is the intent to maintain the walking trails through the real estate action and that they will not be included in the sale of the property. Tony asked whether the sale documents and the trail easement are aligned.

Tony made a motion to conditionally approve the Easement Agreement as proposed in Exhibit B and to present it to the County for comment or approval, with finalization of the easement to occur in conjunction with the FHW sale. He noted that further clarification will be needed depending on whether the County agrees to accept the trails.

Chris added that, regardless of whether the property sale is finalized, efforts should continue to transfer the ownership of the trails in order to protect the investment made. Rob seconded the motion. There were no further comments. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) **2001 Case 580 Backhoe:** Four estimates were reviewed for the trade-in value of the 2001 Case 580 backhoe toward the purchase of a skid steer. Chris questioned the anticipated level of use for a skid steer. Jerry stated that a skid steer could also be utilized for snow removal and operating a brush mower. Chris mentioned the option of selling the backhoe and renting a skid steer rather than purchasing one.

Jerry noted that the LCPA could potentially receive an additional \$6,000 to \$8,000 by selling the backhoe through a public bid process rather than trading it in.

Kevin moved to sell the backhoe and pursue acquisition of a skid steer. Chris seconded the motion. There were no further comments. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Director Updates:

The U.S. Forest Service berm project has been completed.

Jennifer reported she will be meeting with FEMA on Thursday regarding flood damage.

Fence quotes for 5th Street were solicited; however, none were received. Jerry stated that installation of berms along 5th Street would address the parking issue by eliminating parking in that area.

9. Unscheduled Matters:

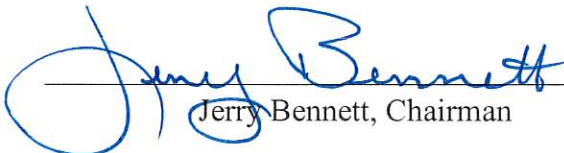
Jerry presented a map identifying the proposed location for the future LCPA office, noting the site is approximately 2 acres and will serve the operational needs of the Port. Discussion was held regarding a portion of the property where Nomad's easement does not extend fully to the road. It was noted that part of the property is owned by Noble and part by the Port. Prior discussions have included correcting boundary lines and potentially shifting them to align with the end of the right-of-way. It was noted that these adjustments could be addressed when boundary lines are formally established for the future office site. **Jerry will follow up with Noble to clarify these details.**

Kevin motioned to adjourn seconded by Tony.

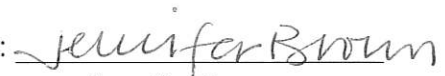
Adjourn: 4:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2026

LINCOLN COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY BOARD



Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Jennifer Brown