Lincoln County Port Authority
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2026 @ 3:30 PM
LCPA Conference Room

216 West 9th Street, Libby, MT

The Lincoln County Port Authority Board met on June 15th, 2026, in the LCPA Conference Room, Libby, MT.

1. Roll Call: Board members present were Chris Bache, Rob Delmas, Jerry Bennett, Tony Petrusha, Kevin Peck, and Brent Teske, with Director Jennifer Brown. Members of the public were Matt Williams, Chris Noble, and Ray Stout. Nick Sovner was present via Zoom.

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Matt Williams introduced himself as the new County Administrator.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items: No public comment was made.

4. Approval of Minutes - May 18, 2026: A motion to approve the May 18th meeting minutes was made by Brent and seconded by Kevin. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Approval of Financials: A motion to approve the May 2026 financials was made by Tony and seconded by Brent. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

6. Old Business:
   a) **Award 580 CASE Backhoe Bids:** Discussion was held regarding the sale of the CASE backhoe. It was reported that no bids were received. Jerry explained that the Port had been offered $26,500 as a trade-in toward the purchase of a skid steer but had hoped to sell the backhoe through a private sale for a higher amount. Moving forward with the trade-in would require the Port to contribute additional funds toward the skid steer purchase.

      Jennifer advised the Board that a grant opportunity is expected to become available this fall that could potentially help fund the purchase of a skid steer. The Board discussed the available options and agreed to revisit the matter once additional funding opportunities have been explored.

   b) **2023 Chevy Tahoe:** Jennifer informed the Board that the Chevrolet Tahoe requires repairs. Because the vehicle will be offered for bid, Jennifer sought Board approval on whether to invest Port funds in any repairs. She explained that the vehicle was scheduled for diagnostic service, but the cost of any necessary repairs was not yet known.

Jerry stated that addressing this type of matter did not require Board approval. Kevin asked if repair costs proved to be significant, would the Port want to invest additional funds in the vehicle or consider selling it as-is.

c) **ARP Stockpile Storage Property:** Kevin stated that there are two options regarding the soil stored on Noble's property. The Port could retain ownership of the property and continue to maintain it while potentially receiving a rental payment, or the Port could convey the property to the County, allowing the County to make arrangements with ARP for the soil storage. This transfer will provide a long-term storage solution and guarantee that the property remains available for public benefit and community use into the future. Brent noted that any rental payment received would reduce the remaining life of the project. He also stated that a boundary line adjustment may be an option and that the County would be responsible for any costs associated with completing the boundary line adjustment.

   A motion was made by Kevin to convey the property to the County with no additional costs to the Port. The motion was seconded by Tony. Jerry recommended adding weed control and maintenance stipulations to the conveyance agreement. Kevin stated that the conveyance process should specifically follow the requirements outlined in MCA. Brent noted that the County routinely conveys property with the U.S. Forest Service and other entities and that this type of transaction is not uncommon. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

d) **FHW License Agreement & Brownfields Assessment**: The First Amendment to the License Agreement expires on June 30, 2026. A Second Amendment has been drafted to extend the agreement through December 31, 2026. The extension will allow the parties, at the Licensee's sole cost and expense, additional time to pursue funding opportunities and evaluate the need for an environmental assessment and potential cleanup activities.

   Kevin made a motion to approve the Second Amendment and extend the negotiation period through December 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Rob. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

e) Flood Damage

   (i) **Diversion Channel Repair**: Repairs to the diversion ditch were discussed. The estimated total cost of the repairs is $110,500. The Port owns approximately 60% of the water rights, with Noble owning the remaining 40%, resulting in the Port's estimated share of the repair costs being approximately $66,300.

The Board discussed that if the project is determined to be eligible for FEMA funding, FEMA would cover 75% of the eligible costs, the State would cover 10%, and the remaining cost to the Port would be approximately $10,000. It was also discussed that because Chris Noble is a co-owner of the water rights and the Port's portion of the project cost is below the $80,000 threshold, the Port would not be required to complete the RFP process. Noble would be able to proceed with completing the repairs.

A motion was made by Brent to proceed with the repairs identified in the Diversion Ditch Dredging and Repair Estimate from Evensen Engineering. The motion was seconded by Tony. Jerry added that the final LCPA portion of the project cost is anticipated to be approximately $10,000. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

(i) **Repairs for various slope failures on Libby Creek:** Evensen Engineering provided estimated repair costs for various slope failures associated with the flood damage. The estimated cost for the Primary Site 1 West Bank Repair is $387,420, the Secondary Site 2 Repair is $95,300, and the Tertiary Site 3 Repair is $21,820. Evensen Engineering previously provided a quote of $33,000 for survey and detailed site plans necessary to complete the repair work.

Chris stated that Site 1 needs to be addressed. Brent noted that without repairs, continued erosion will occur. Tony commented that the property is an asset that needs to be maintained.

Chris made a motion to approve moving forward with Task B of Evensen Engineering's Flood Repair Permitting – Scope and Fee Proposal, which includes work related to Primary Site 1, Secondary Site 2, and Tertiary Site 3. The motion was seconded by Brent. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

(ii) **Flood debris removal**: Debris removal and monitoring costs were discussed. The estimated cost for the work is $84,000. The debris is located within the park area and the waterway. LCPA's share of the costs is anticipated to be 15%, with FEMA and the state covering the remainder. A motion was made by Tony to approve proceeding with debris removal and monitoring. The motion was seconded by Rob. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. The board requested a quote for permitting.

f) **Boundary Line Adjustment**: Jerry reported that both Noble and the Port own portions of property extending from Industry Way to Nomad's boundary line. He stated that the three parties should meet to discuss a potential boundary line adjustment that would allow Nomad's property to extend to the road.

Chris noted that any proposed boundary line adjustment should provide an equitable and fair exchange of value to the Port. A motion was made by Chris to move forward with negotiations with Nomad regarding a boundary line adjustment between Industry Way and the Nomad property. The motion was seconded by Tony. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

7. New Business:
   a) **FY'27 Budget**: The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed fiscal year budget. Following discussion, Brent made a motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Tony. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

8. Director Updates: Jennifer provided an update to the Board. She reported that the Port has successfully relocated to its new office on the Port property.
   Jennifer also informed the Board that the Rexford Bench Project has been advertised for quotes. The project consists of approximately 11 acres of hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation work on U.S. Forest Service lands.
   In addition, Jennifer reported that the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has invited the Port to apply for a Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant. The grant opportunity would support the Port's ongoing wildfire mitigation on private lands.
   Jennifer also distributed a copy of a discovery request to the Board for their review.

9. Unscheduled Matters: None

Adjourn 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2026

LINCOLN COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Jerry Bennett

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: Jennifer Brown

Jennifer Brown