

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

July 18, 2017  
Courthouse Commissioner Room  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair, Richard Hamer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Joe Drietz, Richard Hamer, Corey Sik, Jack Vizecky, and Mic VanDeVere. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from July 05, 2017 and the agenda for July 18, 2017. All voted in favor.

Vince Robinson, Executive Director of Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corp., requested approval for Resolution 30-2017 Appointing Certain Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County MN. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution 30-2017 Appointing Certain Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County MN. All voted in favor.

**Resolution No. #30-2017  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.428, Subdivision 1, authorizes the governing body of a county to appoint Commissioners of a Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Lincoln County, Minnesota:

1. John Lichtsinn of Lake Benton is hereby appointed as a Commissioner of the Lincoln County HRA for a term of office ending July 11, 2021, from and for County Commissioner District 1.
2. The Board finds that the terms of office of the other HRA Commissioners are scheduled to end as follows:

Julie Hogie of Hendricks, From and for County Commissioner District 3.	July 11, 2022
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Todd Dressen of Arco, From and for County Commissioner District 5.	July 11, 2019
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Jaime McKenzie of Ivanhoe, From and for County Commissioner District 4.	July 11, 2020
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Jennifer Nordmeyer of Lake Benton From and for County Commissioner District 1 (Commissioner District with Greatest number of public housing units)	July 11, 2018
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Marilyn Powell of Lake Benton  
From and for County Commissioner  
Distric1 1 as an At-Large Board Member

July 11, 2022

ADOPTED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

ATTEST:

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Richard Hamer, Lincoln County Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor

Robinson gave an update on the regional designation for County parks. After receiving a final budget and doing an environmental update, the paperwork will be ready to submit. Grant funds will be available next July that we could be eligible to apply for if we receive the regional designation. Information only.

Robinson discussed the county home initiative program that is available in some of the other counties. This initiative is to encourage new development but can be drawn up in different ways. The Commissioners would determine what incentives would be included. Robinson will put something together for the Commissioners to consider. Commissioner VanDeVere requested information on what other counties are offering. Robinson will gather some data on that as well. Information only.

Robinson presented information on the broadband study. The feasibility study is underway but there is a need for additional funding. \$2,000,000.00 in grant funds have been set aside for broadband but the deadline has been moved up and Lincoln County's feasibility study will not be completed in time. Some of our current legislatures are in favor of getting additional funding for the broadband project. A meeting will be held at the Lyon County Government Center in the administrative conference room on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and our state officials will be present to hear comment. Information only.

Robinson also stated that the LCEDC is under a budget strain and they may need to request additional funds from Lincoln County. Robinson also encouraged the board to seriously consider their budget request which will be presented in August. Information only.

Robinson asked for authorization to seat the commissioners for LCEDC. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to authorize the seating of Karen Lichtsinn, Robert Wolfington and Cricket Raschke as LCEDC commissioners. All voted in favor.

Dave Halbersma, Lincoln County Highway Engineer, presented project updates. They were as follows:

- Waiting for an updated Bond from EDF.
- Will have EDF come in and give the Commissioners an update on the wind project.
- The funding letter was received so advertising has begun for the box culverts with a bid opening of August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.
- Verdi blacktop project has been reseeded and the in slopes have been pushed up but due to heavy rain it may have to be redone. If needed, it will be done towards the end of summer.

Halbersma presented the draft Multi Year Road and Bridge Plan. Halbersma will bring back at a future meeting to adopt the plan after the board has a chance to review. After it is adopted, it will be posted on the County website. Information only.

Halbersma mentioned need to redo the intersection of County Road 7 and 15 due to safety issues. This project could be eligible for safety grant dollars. Information only.

Halbersma presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- The Tyler shop project has begun. Foundation has been dug for the footings. The footings will be poured once things dry up.
- There was hail damage at the Hendricks shop. A claim has been submitted to MCIT.
- The Highway department is finishing up at the Guida pit.
- Have been building up part of County Road 101 north of trunk highway 14.

- Have been doing some ditch cleaning.
- Have been doing some blading where rain has been received.
- The invasive weed species of wild parsnips has been identified in Lincoln County. Will try to eradicate it.
- Labor management meeting is coming up.

Several township officials were present to express their concerns about a future road transfer from county to township roads. Hansonville Township has passed a resolution against the transfer. Hendricks Township submitted a letter to the Commissioners against the transfer. Other townships were also present and expressed verbally that they were also against the transfer. After discussion and consideration of all comments, the Boards consensus was to not move forward with transferring county roads to the townships. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that the LSLID held their annual meeting. The meeting was well attended. They set the district bylaws, the annual meeting date as the second Saturday in July, the per diems, the official newspaper, the levy at \$25,000.00, and the special assessments at \$5,000.00. The DNR has denied the permit that the district applied for to treat the weeds. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that the LBLID held their annual meeting. The meeting was well attended. They elected officers and Sam Hedge and Dean Lueck were nominated to the Board. A discussion on full lake treatment for Curly Leaf Pond weed was held. They passed a resolution to set the levy at \$50,000 and to set special assessment levy at \$10,000 which is an increase to build funds for a whole lake treatment. The whole lake treatment is proposed to be in 2019. They would do a whole lake treatment for 3 years and then begin management practices. The increase in the levy would increase the amount of tax to the property owners to \$180 per \$100,000 of value. Previously the effect to the property owners was \$135 per \$100,000 of value. Information only.

Olsen stated that both Lake Improvement Districts would like to talk to our legislators about having more control over their lakes. They feel the DNR has a lot of management control of the lake but no financial responsibility. Information only.

A Public Hearing will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The items to be discussed are a permit for the Lincoln County Highway department for gravel mining, a permit for Tom Sterzinger for gravel mining and a permit for EDF Renewable Energy for three meteorological towers. Information only.

Olsen is still checking into options for the Hendricks recycle area. The EDA is holding a meeting today and may come back with a proposal for a new spot for the recycling area. Information only.

Olsen informed the board that he has hired a part-time landfill employee and he will be taking safety training soon. Information only.

Robin Sterzinger, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, was present for an initial budget discussion with the department heads. Information only.

Dan Kuss, Veteran's Service Officer, announced that Lincoln County was chosen as the recipient for the disability van to be used to benefit our veterans. Kuss was present for the donation during the Patriot Ride Celebration on July 8, 2017. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to accept the Van donation from Newgate School to be used primarily for the Lincoln County Veterans. All voted in favor.

Dale Sterzinger, SWCD Conservation Technician, was present to give an update. Items covered were as follows:

- SWCD has received a \$40,000 cost share grant from the clean water funds for the buffer program to be used for individuals that are out of compliance. Application deadline is 12/31/17. Anything that isn't allocated by March 1, 2018 will be returned to the state.
- The CREP 3 program is the only available program for landowners to receive payment on the buffer strip at this time.

- SWCD has passed a summary of other waters resolution. Lincoln County will need to pass a similar resolution by June of 2018. SWCD's resolution was presented for review.
- SWCD has completed a grade stabilization project in Verdi Twp. and will be working on another grade stabilization project in Lake Benton Twp.
- Tile has been installed in 5 basins throughout the county. Engineering for these projects is shared with Southwest Prairie and Area II.
- 15,000 trees have been planted this year.
- About 3,000 acres have been seeded this year.
- Redwood River WRAPS will be interviewing consulting firms on August 10<sup>th</sup> to write the WRAPS report. Grant dollars can be used for this.
- One Watershed One Plan Yellow Medicine River Policy Committee meeting will be held July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 25 in 25 meeting will be held August 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 at SMSU in Marshall.
- SWCD is requesting \$138,000 for their appropriation this year. The base amount is \$120,000 with an additional \$18,000 which will be matched by the state and bring additional funding to SWCD.
- NRCS EQIP sign up is taking place now.
- Landowners that are interested in CRP should get their offers in at this time. Lincoln County has 1761 CRP contracts which encompass 32,319.8 acres and creates payments of \$5,398,239.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRCA and Area II

Hamer – HRA, LCEDC, Hendricks City Council, Hendricks Township

Sik – None

VanDeVere – DOT in Slayton, SW Reg. Dev

Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hamer to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #5306 - #5384 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$109,664.80, Road & Bridge - \$18,941.64, Ditch - \$2,212.50, Solid Waste Task Force - \$860.00 and LSLID - \$21.29. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A & C Excavating LLC - \$2,212.50, Clifton Larson Allen LLP - \$3,800.00, The Computer Man Inc. - \$7,652.05, Computer Prof Unlimited Inc. - \$14,984.96, Fidlar Companies - \$5,507.57, KISD Radio - \$2,000.00, KJOE Radio - \$2,000.00, KLOH Radio - \$2,000.00, Lyon Co Auditor – Treasurer - \$4,226.88, MN Dept. of Transportation – St Paul - \$3,178.08, Petersen Law Office PLLC - \$15,130.66, Prairie Pride Cooperative - \$10,684.18, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$18,183.00, SW Sanitation Inc. - \$4,290.35, Waste Management of WI-MN - \$10,392.50, WM of Southern Minnesota MA 1 - \$6,705.30 and 63 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$18,752.20.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor, requested that a partial payment of \$12,000.00 be made to Joshua Behnke Construction for the SWHHS remodel. The final item before finalizing the project is to install a lock that has been backordered. If the \$12,000.00 partial payment is made, it will leave a final balance of \$4,198.00. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to authorize a partial payment of \$12,000.00 to Joshua Behnke Construction for the SWHHS remodel project. All voted in favor.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to adjourn at 12:02 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

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Richard Hamer, 2017 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor