

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

April 02, 2019  
Courthouse Commissioner Room  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Mic VanDeVere, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Rick Hamer, Corey Sik, Mic VanDeVere and Jack Vizecky. Commissioner Drietz arrived at 9:20 a.m. and Attorney Glen Petersen arrived at 10:00 a.m. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve the consent agenda which included March 19, 2019 minutes, and April 02, 2019 agenda. All (4) voted in favor.

John Hovland, Veterans Service Officer, gave an update on the following items:

- Was able to help a Korean War Veteran.
- On March 28, 2019, the district meeting was held in Luverne.
- On April 4, 2019, a WebEx will be held on grant money and how to use it.
- On May 13 - 17, 2019, Hovland will attend the stage 2 training in St. Paul at the Whipple building. He will then receive his VSO accreditation.
- Has been setting up appointments and doing home visits.
- Will be speaking in Tyler at the school on Veteran's day.
- Will be taking the van to parades this summer.

Information only.

Rosanne Lasnetski, ACE, thanked the County for supporting the program and introduced a couple volunteers that were present. Lasnetski informed the Board that Lincoln County is number one at this time for volunteer hours. Commissioner VanDeVere thanked Lasnetski and the volunteers for the hours of service.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to pass Resolution No. 19-2019 County Day Proclamation. All (4) voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 19-2019  
County Day Proclamation  
Lincoln County**

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's Counties are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities, from educating students for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to fighting the opioid epidemic, to responding to natural disasters, to supporting veterans and military families; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 50,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, more than 14,000 Minnesota Senior Corps Volunteers provided more than 1.8 million hours of service in 2018. Lincoln County was served by 325 Senior Corps RSVP volunteers in 2018. The Senior Corps RSVP volunteers perform their volunteer service work under the guidance of A.C.E. of SW Minnesota – Lincoln County office. These volunteers provide vital support to county residents and improve the quality of life in Lincoln County, and

WHEREAS, as a County Commission, we work hard every day to make life better for our constituents, and strengthening the spirit and commitment of the volunteers who serve our county is just one of our many goals. We are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these citizens who are helping make our great county stronger, safer, and healthier, and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with local leaders nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and local leaders across the country for National Service Recognition Day on April 2, 2019.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2019, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community, to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

ATTEST:

---

Mic VanDeVere, 2019 Board Chair

---

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Joe Wilson, Lincoln County Engineer presented project updates. They were as follows:

- Continuing to work on 2019 project plans.
- The water retention structure is failing on Dead Coon Lake. We have an agreement between Lincoln, Lyon and Redwood County to maintain this. We may need to hire a contractor and will then charge Lyon and Redwood County for their share.
- There have been some engine issues on the oldest road grader.

Wilson requested approval to advertise for the 2019 road widening, gravel crushing and road striping projects. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve advertising for the 2019 road widening, gravel crushing and road striping projects. All voted in favor.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- There has been some water over the roads.
- Grading gravel roads
- Crack filling on paved roads.
- Plan to start disking the shoulders on paved roads.

- Will be getting quotes for rollers for one of the graders and a TAC tank. Will bring numbers to the next meeting for approval.

The updated document for the Development Agreement for Blazing Star 2 Wind Development Project should be received within the next week. Information only.

Wilson requested approval for a resolution to support the gas tax increase. After discussion Commissioner VanDeVere asked for a motion to pass the resolution. No motion was made. Due to lack of support, the resolution was not passed. Information only.

Danell Herzig and Brittany Bruce were present from Nextera to give an update on the Buffalo Ridge Wind Tower Project. Due to the towers being decommissioned in 2017, Nextera is hoping to develop new towers in the same area. Nextera operated the previous wind farm that consisted of 26.9 megawatts for the last 20 years. There will be 40 new turbines put up. The permitting will start in June of 2019 and the hope is to have it up and running in June of 2020. There will be a road agreement put in place. The landowners are very supportive of the project. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that he has been approached by Lyon County to cost share an intern that would be used for the AIS related duties. The counties that would be involved in the cost share would be Lincoln, Lyon and Jackson. The cost would be about \$5,000 - \$7,000 per county. Lyon County would pay the intern through their payroll and we would get a bill for our share. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to enter into an agreement with Lyon County for a shared intern position to work with AIS at an approximate cost of \$5,000 - \$7,000. All voted in favor.

Olsen presented information regarding changes in the AgBMP program. Currently the program is used by the County to finance loans to landowners for septic systems. Although AgBMP is a good program, Olsen is concerned that the funding could be taken up by other projects and we would not have a guarantee that we will receive the proper funding needed. Olsen would like to use the MPCA program as another source of money to fund the loans. Olsen recommends requesting \$500,000 in funding from MPCA. The County would be charged 0% interest and repayment of the funds would not start for 3 years. The landowner can only be charged 1.5% interest. A letter of obligation would have to be drawn up and approved at a later meeting. Dale Sterzinger was present and commented on the changes to the AgBMP program. The funding requests will need to go through Dale at Soil and Water. Once Dale receives the people's names and amounts to be loaned, he can request those funds from AgBMP and have it set aside to be used for septic systems. After Olsen had talked to Richard Gruenes with the AgBMP program, he is not confident that he will be able to receive the funding necessary to fund all septic loans. Olsen is not recommending the AgBMP funding option be dropped but would like MPCA be used as an additional source of revenue and asked for approval to move forward with the paperwork and application process. Motion by Hamer, seconded by Drietz to approve moving forward with the paperwork and application process for septic funding through MPCA. Commissioner Hamer, Sik, VanDeVere and Vizecky voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Olsen presented the Score report for approval. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve the Score report. All voted in favor.

Dallas Cornell, Lincoln County Environmental Tech, presented the 2018 feedlot report for approval. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hamer to approve the 2018 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report. All voted in favor.

Olsen presented a photo of the highway building and presented an ongoing problem with the drainage that needs to be corrected. If we decide to move forward with fixing the drainage, Olsen presented some other items that could be done at the same time. The items included were changing the curb and access for ADA individuals, putting a driveway access on the north side of the parking lot, and extending the parking lot further east. Olsen recommended contacting Bolton and Menk to engineer the proposal and have that proposal at a future meeting to present to the Board. Olsen would also like to access the capital improvement funds to pay for the project and would like the building committee to review. Commissioner

Sik mentioned that he would be more comfortable advertising for proposals. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to advertise for proposals to draw up plans and accumulate costs for the Highway Building drainage and parking lot improvement project and use some of the survey work previously done by the Highway Department. All voted in favor.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, asked the Board to accept a donation from Lyon Lincoln Electric Operation Round Up. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to accept the donation from Lyon Lincoln Electric – Operations Round Up of \$1,000.00 to be used towards load bearing vests for the Sheriff's department. All voted in favor.

Amber Scholten, Emergency Management Director, would like to contribute dollars from the safety budget to cover the remaining expense for the load bearing vests for the Sheriff's office. Information only.

Meester informed the Board that the monthly generator tests have come up with an issue. When the power goes from the generator to regular power, it trips a breaker. Meyer is working on the issue and will determine if it is a faulty breaker or a generator issue. Information only.

Dale Sterzinger, SWCD Manager, informed the Board that SWCD is going to be purchasing a no-till drill and would like a commitment from the County on how much they would like to contribute. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Vizecky to put \$15,000.00 towards the no-till drill to be paid out of the buffer funding. Commissioner Drietz, Hamer, VanDeVere and Vizecky voted in favor. Commissioner Sik abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

Sterzinger also gave an update on ongoing items and projects. They were as follows:

- The SW Prairie TSA Technician in the Lincoln SWCD office has resigned. The TSA will provide other technicians until a new hire is up to speed.
- Wetland Conservation Act –
  - Approved a mitigation plan for Blazing Star 1. This is due to Excel impacting wetlands permanently.
  - Community Wind North will also be affecting the wetlands due to the crane path.
  - Approved a Lincoln County bridge project between Drammen and Verdi Twp.
  - Issued an exemption for a road crossing.
  - Blazing Star II development wants to put the bases and roads in at the same time as Blazing Star I.
- Farm Bill Position – we receive \$40,950.00 for one of the SWCD positions – trying to get that dollar amount increased.
- Submitted an MPCA grant for a landowner.
- Cost Share projects are being worked on.
- Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan – requesting dollars for a list of projects.
- Received RCPP funds from the federal government.
- Missouri Watershed – comments are in for the One Watershed One Plan.
- LacQuiParle Watershed – Working on water quality projects.
- Redwood Watershed – TMBL study is completed.
- Dale recommends that the County does not stop using the AgBMP plan dollars.
- Soil and Water Districts may have dollars cut due to the local capacity dollars not being included in the Governor's budget. The push is to get those dollars back into the budget.
- Soil and Water Districts are trying to get levy authority.

Information only.

Rick Drietz, Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor gave an update on the following items:

- A maintenance visit for the generator has been scheduled.
- Would like to sealcoat the Sheriff's parking lot. Drietz will check into the cost.

- Looking at quotes to replace some chunks of stucco that has fallen off.
- The Tommy gate on the back of the maintenance truck has seized up. Drietz does not feel it is worth repairing but would like to use the parts to convert the current trailer into a dump trailer.
- Looking at purchasing 3 large flower pots from The Slope and have them plant and maintain for the first year at a cost of \$150 each.
- Would like to put a wall in the new shed and insulate an area so that it can be heated for projects. Drietz is looking into the cost.

Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – CPT, Emergency Communications Board, SWCD  
 Hamer – None  
 Sik – SWHHS, SWHHS Commissioner Training, Plum Creek Library, HRA  
 VanDeVere – SWHHS, Southern Prairie Community Care, Solid Waste Recycling  
 Commission, Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Western Mental Health, United Community  
 Action, UCAP Transit,  
 Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #9905 - #9954 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$40,510.78, Road & Bridge - \$20,168.06, and Ditch - \$3,205.54. Commissioner Hamer, Sik, Vizecky and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained due to an Ivanhoe Service Center bill. Motion carried by majority vote.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Frontier Precision Inc. - \$3,707.10, H & L Mesabi - \$6,420.00, Bill Moldestad - \$3,205.54, Petersen Law Office PLLC - \$23,145.00, Ramsey County - \$6,215.00, Schaeffer Mfg. Co. - \$2,129.08, Tyler Oil Co - \$2,641.44 and 43 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$16,421.22.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented a letter from Wendy Rost letting the Board know that she is retiring as Court Administrator. It is a State hired position. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to adjourn at 12:34 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

---

Mic VanDeVere, 2019 Board Chair

---

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer