

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for April 17, 2025

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 Troy McCue, Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, to provide an update
- 9:30 Kevin Stansbury, Lincoln Community Hospital CEO, to provide an LCH report
- 10:00 Meredith Burcham, Executive Director for County Technical Services, Inc., to provide updates regarding the County Health Pool
- 11:00 Kelly Lowery, Lincoln County Attorney, to present a report via Microsoft Teams
- 11:30 Wayne Miller, CSU Extension Director, to provide a CSU report

-To be completed as time permits-

1. Approve the minutes from the April 7, 2025, meeting
2. Review March 2025 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff and County Treasurer
3. Review March 2025 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for County General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge and Individual Road Districts
4. Review the March 2025 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool
5. Review and act upon a County Credit Card request for Shalynn Richardson
6. Review and act upon a letter of support for the Hugo Fire Protection District regarding a Community Project Funding Grant
7. County Commissioner reports
8. County Attorney's report
9. County Administrator's report
10. Old Business
11. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on April 17, 2025. Chairman Wayne Ewing, commissioner Terry Jaques, county administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended. Vice chairman Robert Safranek arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order and asked Economic Development Executive Director Troy McCue to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Jaques said a short prayer.

Mr. McCue reported on USDA program funding, Hugo Mainstreet and downtown Limon activities, SBDC client volume, EDC Housing Committee actions, Genoa Wonder View Tower progress, and the upcoming EDC annual meeting. Potential development in south Limon, expansion of Wausau Supply, and four Limon restaurant openings were also topics of Mr. McCue's report.

Lincoln Health CEO Kevin Stansbury arrived as Mr. McCue noted that Lincoln Theatre needs a \$30,000 digital projection system upgrade for which he's completing an El Pomar grant application. Lastly, Mr. McCue informed the Board that Jacob Herrera took the position of president of the Limon Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McCue left, and the Board met with Mr. Stansbury at 9:35 a.m. He provided the February financials, noting that cash on hand was down but not yet critical. While he updated the commissioners on the Anthem shortfall, County Technical Services, Inc. (CTSI) Executive Director Meredith Burcham arrived for her 10:00 a.m. appointment. Mr. Piper introduced her to Mr. Stansbury. Ms. Burcham said the regional president told her negotiations were going well. Mr. Stansbury said they were not; Anthem's payments are sixty to eighty percent below market. However, they offered a five percent increase because anything more would stretch their budget too much. Mr. Stansbury told Ms. Burcham that if Anthem would pay the average and bring their payments up to speed, the hospital wouldn't have to write off sixty percent of its charges continually. He'd also learned that Anthem consistently underpays Eastern Plains hospitals, not just Lincoln Health.

Ms. Burcham said CTSI contracts with Anthem for administrative services but wasn't opposed to going out for a bid if necessary; they'd done it a couple of years ago. It was the first she'd heard of Anthem underpaying; Mr. Stansbury noted the company's actions also impacted Washington, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne counties.

Mr. Piper asked Mr. Stansbury when the contract ended; he said it was up at the end of the year. Ms. Burcham informed the group that it is CTSI's standard protocol to pay in-network costs for pool members if something happens and the hospital doesn't renew the contract for some reason.

Mr. Stansbury continued his report, stating that the Hospital Revitalization Act discussions were going well and had good support. Cuts to Health and Human Services were the biggest threat, so they planned to send a letter to the congressional delegation; he promised to send the commissioners a copy. Senate Bill 290 is new and would provide assistance in accessing interest

in the unclaimed property fund. Since it wouldn't use money from the General Fund, the bill mainly had support.

Mr. Jaques returned to the financial report and asked about the cash on hand that Mr. Stansbury mentioned. Mr. Stansbury responded that their bond covenants required cash on hand of forty-five days—they were at thirty-two. Although they'd received waivers in the past, Mr. Stansbury said he didn't worry until they went below thirty days. They should start seeing it recover in April with IRS employee retention credits, receiving the 2024 Medicaid underpayment, and 340B monies catching up.

Mr. Ewing asked if Anthem was still paying the hospital; Mr. Stansbury said it was, and while it increased the lab payments, it reduced payments elsewhere to keep within the five percent increase they'd promised.

Mr. Stansbury left at 10:05 a.m., and the Board met with Ms. Burcham, who provided information regarding the County Health Pool (CHP), the County Workers' Compensation Pool (CWCP), and the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool (CAPP). Lincoln County joined the first two pools in 1990 and the latter in 1986. The pools are self-insured, non-profit, and wholly owned and operated by Colorado counties. All are running smoothly, but Ms. Burcham noted that they all have ups and downs based on nature and the factors impacting them. She repeated that Anthem only manages their administrative services and promised to research the situation with Lincoln Health. As for predicting 2026 costs, Ms. Burcham said they wouldn't know much before August.

Ms. Burcham gave a brief overview of the CWCP; Mr. Ewing asked if it used the same pool of physicians as the health pool. Ms. Burcham said the healthcare providers for Workers' Compensation were different. CAPP had seen a five percent decrease overall for property claims; Ms. Burcham explained that they had to purchase excess coverage as national occurrences such as wildfires and hurricanes affected it. She foresaw a good property renewal for 2026, stating that they keep on top of negotiating coverage. Ms. Burcham said they have a group of CAPP attorneys approved by the CAPP board, including ADA attorneys, and continually explore additional carriers. She mentioned the difficulties of providing coverage for the volatile law enforcement arena and that they offer Public Officials Error and Omissions coverage.

Mr. Jaques said the county was replacing the courthouse parking lot and might need guidance regarding ADA requirements. Ms. Burcham said the commissioners could contact the CAPP attorney.

Before she left, Ms. Burcham said she hoped they could reach a resolution with Anthem, which claimed to be committed to caring for rural communities and hospitals.

Mr. Safranek moved to approve the meeting minutes for April 7, 2025. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the March 2025 reports from the Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer.

County Attorney Kelly Lowery joined the meeting via Teams at 11:00 a.m. She had discussed meeting options with Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill regarding the property north of Limon; he had sent the landowner a letter. Mr. Safranek commented that the landowner had started moving things to the back of the property to keep it out of sight but that he also had to put in a road. The group agreed it was best to wait and see what happened.

As for the Rule 106 action, Miss Lowery said they were waiting for third-party objections until April 25. After that, they can file a motion to dismiss; they have until May 12. She noted that she would not communicate with Xcel Energy on other projects until after the dismissal.

Miss Lowery said the most important item she wanted to mention was the BAA hearing. She asked if the commissioners wanted her to join that meeting virtually from Sterling or come to Hugo to be with Renita Thelen when she testifies. The Board felt Miss Lowery didn't need to travel and could do what she needed from Sterling.

There was no further news on the Bovina Cemetery matter, and Mr. Piper said the only other item regarded the county deeding property to the Genoa Tower. Miss Lowery asked if there was a survey; Mr. Piper said it might be in Stan Kimble's documents. Miss Lowery said she would look for it, and Mr. Piper said he'd see if he could obtain an electronic version.

Mr. Piper disconnected the call with Miss Lowery at 11:10 a.m.

The commissioners reviewed the March 2025 statements of revenues and expenditures for the General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge funds, individual road district reports, and the March 2025 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool reports.

CSU Extension Director Wayne Miller arrived at 11:25 a.m. He reported Lincoln County 4-H enrollee, volunteer, beef market, and youth participation numbers and then provided information for the August 4 through 9 Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo. The theme is Brands and Barns, and the Grand Marshalls are Harold and Linda Yoder.

When Mr. Miller mentioned allowing the public the time to view the livestock on Saturday instead of starting cleanup, Mr. Ewing said it was more of a question for the Fair Board. Mr. Safranek noted that there used to be a parade of champions during the rodeo, which he would like to see again, possibly during the rodeo Friday night.

Mr. Miller asked the commissioners if they wanted him to meet with them quarterly; if so, he would be available in the first part of July. He also wanted Kelly Lowery to review the superintendents' and judges' contracts, which the Board felt was a good idea.

Mr. Miller provided requests and information for new poultry and rabbit cages, windscreens, and sheep and goat pens. Darrel Phillips provided a \$2,153.11 quote for the windscreens; the other items would come from KW Cages and Big R. KW Cages quoted \$8,806.86 for thirty-six unassembled, stackable chicken/duck/game fowl cages with cleaning trays and two sets of assembly clip pliers. Mr. Safranek commented they only needed one set of pliers. Ten dog kennel style geese/turkey/peafowl cages from Big R were \$7,995.50; Mr. Miller said all cages came unassembled and broke down for easy storage. New cages would replace old, unsafe, nonfunctional ones and be appropriately sized for various species, providing animal safety and comfort and better functionality and safety for exhibitors. Mr. Miller said the same reasoning applied to the request for new rabbit cages. The KW Cages quote for ten unassembled, stackable rabbit cages with “drop/clean” trays was \$1,609.20.

The Extension Office had been asking for new sheep and goat pens; Mr. Miller’s information noted that the number of exhibitors has increased over the past few years, although the number of swine, goats, and beef remains consistent. Still, they are at panel capacity, and some of the non-matching (old) pens do not latch properly and are somewhat of a safety hazard. Additionally, end gates helped provide “alleyway” options for animal containment, movement, and loading and unloading. The Big R quote for three sets of ten pens was \$24,049. If the commissioners approved the purchases, Mr. Miller said they would hopefully have them in time for this year’s fair.

Mr. Piper said there was over \$31,000 in the Capital Projects Fund for fairgrounds improvements and close to \$60,000 in the Conservation Trust Fund. However, something would have to cover the new HVAC units, which were around \$30,000. Mr. Jaques wasn’t comfortable approving Mr. Miller’s requests without discussing them with John Palmer; he also felt the Fair Board should be involved in the decision.

Mr. Miller said that if they couldn’t do everything, which totaled \$44,577.67, Christine Schinzel preferred they get the geese, turkey, and peafowl cages and windscreens first. The windscreens were most critical, as they would provide sun, wind, and hail protection and a barrier against small children and pets on the outside perimeter.

Mr. Ewing suggested budgeting for the sheep and goat pens next year; Mr. Miller said they could do it over three years if they ordered the same style and color each time.

Mr. Piper called John Palmer, who said he could meet with the commissioners at 1:00 p.m. The group took a lunch break.

When the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m., John Palmer met with the Board to discuss the Extension Office request for fairgrounds items. He said nothing was wrong with or broken on the sheep panels they’d used for twenty years.

Mr. Piper had checked the Capital Projects Fund balance; as of March 31, there was \$31,500 left. The furnaces were close to \$31,000, but the county had not paid for them yet.

Mr. Palmer admitted the windscreens would be nice. Mr. Jaques asked the Fair Board's opinion; Mr. Palmer didn't think board members knew about the request. He noted that their twenty rabbit cages were in good shape but not what the Extension Office wanted; they didn't have the aluminum pans for easy cleaning. Mr. Palmer didn't mind the purchase if the commissioners agreed to use Capital Projects Fund money and not take it from the Fair budget. Mr. Ewing said the pens were supposed to break down for easy storage, and Mr. Palmer said he'd agree to it if 4-H or Extension cleaned the panels and broke them down for storage. He felt he might be able to sell the old ones.

Mr. Jaques asked Mr. Palmer what he wanted of the items requested; he and Mr. Safranek felt the windscreens and larger bird cages were the priorities. Mr. Palmer agreed and noted that the Extension Office should consider having the 4-H workday after the fair; Mr. Jaques said that Mr. Palmer shouldn't have to do it. Mr. Palmer also noted that the Sale Committee used to pay for gates and pens but hadn't in a long time. He felt that entities such as the Cowbelles, Sale Committee, and Stockmen should help contribute to the tent cost.

Mr. Jaques moved to purchase windscreens, poultry, and rabbit cages for the fairgrounds for \$20,528.67. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Palmer asked if he could sell the old cages, and the Board agreed. Mr. Safranek suggested letting the new club leaders know they were available. Mr. Palmer left.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve a county credit card with a \$1,000 limit for Shalynn Richardson, the new DHS employee. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

After reviewing a letter supporting the Hugo Fire Protection District's application for a Community Project Funding grant to construct a new firehouse, Mr. Safranek moved to sign the letter. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Ewing called for the commissioner's reports.

Mr. Jaques reported discussing work needed for the courthouse parking lot with Bruce Walters on April 7. On April 8, Mr. Jaques and Mr. Walters discussed roads. Mr. Jaques and Landfill Manager Allen Chubbuck addressed the need to contract someone to provide scraper work for cover dirt. On April 9, Mr. Jaques, Mr. Ewing, and Sheriff Nestor met with DA George Brauchler and his staff at the sheriff's substation, where they discussed needs and Mr. Brauchler's focus for the future. Mr. Jaques attended the CCI legislative bill review in Denver on April 10. On April 11, he attended a virtual CCI meeting regarding the status of legislative bills. He also met with staff at the annex building. On April 14, Mr. Jaques attended a get-to-know-each-other breakfast with CSU Extension Director Wayne Miller. On April 15, Mr. Jaques checked roads and met with Tony Johnson about FEMA projects. He also visited the landfill, discussed the School of Mines students' Ewing Bridge design virtual presentation with Ken Stroud, and attended the Tourism Board meeting in Hugo, where they approved funds for the Limon Rotary Club to sponsor three concerts in the park and the Run for the Wall. They also sponsored a

flyer reprint of historical sites around Hugo and the Annual Christian Ranch Rodeo. On April 16, Mr. Jaques attended the Economic Development meeting, where they completed Director Troy McCue's annual performance review and discussed this year's priorities. Mr. Jaques said he wouldn't repeat everything Mr. McCue had covered earlier.

Mr. Ewing reported discussing employees with Chris Monks on April 8. They later addressed the landfill and scraper options with Mr. Piper. Mr. Ewing talked to Troy Kelty concerning stockpiling dirt at the landfill. He and Mr. Piper discussed the upcoming meeting with DA Brauchler. On April 9, Mr. Ewing and Chris Monks again discussed employees, vacation vs. sick leave, the landfill, and roads. He attended the meeting with DA Brauchler in Limon and felt the DA was doing great things for the counties in the 23rd Judicial District. Mr. Ewing spoke with Chris Monks about the MSHA compliance training on the 15th and 16th. He attended a CCI Steering Committee meeting in Denver with Mr. Jaques, noting how discouraging it was to be ignored by legislators and the governor. On April 11, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Jaques attended another CCI Steering Committee meeting via Zoom; DHS Director Andrew Lorensen joined the Human Services portion. The final CCI steering committee meeting of the legislative session will be on May 25. Mr. Ewing signed a retirement check for a former employee. Mr. Ewing and the other commissioners had breakfast with the county's new extension director, Wayne Miller, on April 14, which he noted was enjoyable. Mr. Ewing went to the county shop on April 15, where he and Chris Monks discussed an employee, culverts, and bands. He also attended the Tourism Board meeting; they approved a Hugo pamphlet, the bible camp, and Limon Rotary Club events. Mr. Ewing felt the group did a fantastic job allocating and monitoring the tourism funds. He attended the Genoa town board meeting, where they discussed the Water/Waste Operator, Maintenance, and Code Enforcer positions and alley ruts deepened by MVEA and ESTech crews. The town decided not to participate in the county's May 10 free landfill day. On April 16, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Safranek, and Allen Chubbuck attended a meeting at the landfill with Kelty Construction; they discussed stockpiling dirt. He hoped the company would provide an estimate for the work. Mr. Ewing and Chris Monks discussed the culvert bands; they had put the tubes together and were ready for installation. Mr. Ewing attended a Bookmobile Board meeting, where he learned that circulation increased despite weather-related cancellations and bus maintenance issues.

Mr. Safranek reported discussing a landowner's cattleguard with District 3 Road Supervisor Judd Kravig on April 8; the landowner wants to move it. Mr. Safranek noted that the county's permit regulations don't specify cattleguard liability and felt the landowner needed a new permit. Mr. Piper commented that he thought the regulations included something about the county installing cattleguards, but maintenance and cleaning were the landowners' responsibility. Mr. Safranek felt the regs should be more binding and suggested having Kelly Lowery review them.

Mr. Safranek reported issues with the dumpster at the Karval shop. He missed the April 9 meeting with DA Brauchler but attended the April 16 meeting at the landfill. Lastly, he noted that the commissioners would receive a formal written complaint from a landowner.

Mr. Piper reported that the ECCOG bus driver, Cindy Valdez, would like to keep the Outback bus at her Arriba residence instead of at the fairgrounds because most of her riders are in Arriba. Mr. Piper didn't think there were insurance liability issues, but if the commissioners wanted the bus to remain on county property, they could find room at the Genoa shop.

Mr. Jaques said to try it; they could revisit the issue if it became a problem. The Board also told Mr. Piper to have Ms. Valdez service the vehicle locally instead of in Burlington.

Mr. Piper provided updates on the Hugo Union Pacific Railroad Roundhouse concrete removal project. Although the county could use the Gates Foundation grant funds to pay for the removal, it was contingent on using the \$250,000 State Historical grant for the flooring, for which there was a \$128,993 match. The county had already received \$90,000, which it would have to return if the commissioners chose not to do the flooring. Mr. Piper reminded them that the county had budgeted \$100,000 for Roundhouse restoration and \$50,000 for Roundhouse maintenance; he suggested using the latter instead of grant funds. The Blue Tick bid was \$15,399, and the maximum the archaeologist would charge was \$16,395, but that was for ten days. Mr. Piper said if Blue Tick did one bay each day, which was what they projected, they would only need seven days.

Mr. Jaques asked about the lodging fund tax increase going through legislation this year, stating that the 2% that a county could levy on the purchase price paid or charged to persons for rooms or accommodations would increase to 5%. If the bill passed, he wondered if the county could use that money to match future grant funds. When he asked what would happen if the flooring cost more than the grant funds allocated, Mr. Piper said the county would have to cover the overage. Roxie Devers had applied for a \$50,000 UP grant, and RPI has \$5,000 from El Pomar for the flooring.

Mr. Safranek moved to use Capital Projects Roundhouse Maintenance funds to pay the contractor and archaeologist to remove the concrete, not to exceed \$31,794. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Mr. Safranek and Mr. Jaques voted in favor; Mr. Ewing voted against, stating it was still taxpayer money.

The Board reviewed a \$31,612 quote from Kelty Construction to move landfill cover dirt from the new proposed cell: \$2.40 per yard for 10,755 cubic yards and a \$5,800 mobilization fee. The mobilization fee seemed high, so Mr. Ewing called Troy Kelty to discuss it. Mr. Kelty said he subcontracted it and thus had no wiggle room to reduce it.

After disconnecting the call, Mr. Jaques moved to accept the quote from Kelty Construction. He then asked if there were any other options, noting that the county could obtain other quotes. Mr. Ewing said they could try Glen Kunkle with KCI Construction near Deer Trail. He received the contact information and called him.

Mr. Kunkle did not have a price per yard and said it depended on the material type, number of yards, and haul distance. He estimated \$3.25 per yard, exceeding the Kelty Construction quote,

even without a mobilization fee. Mr. Ewing thanked Mr. Kunkle and said he'd call him back if needed.

Mr. Safranek called Roy Brossman to ask what he would charge and if he had time for the project. Mr. Brossman said he charged by the hour, not the yard, but estimated \$275 to \$300 an hour, feeling he could stockpile 2,000 to 3,000 yards a day. He said he would go by and look at it next week and provide a project price.

Mr. Jaques' motion died without a second, and Mr. Ewing tabled further discussion on the matter.

Mr. Piper had received a \$6,360 quote from Wagner for parts and service on the landfill loader. The quote didn't include an oil change but mentioned oil testing. Mr. Jaques said he didn't feel good about it because he wasn't sure what he was voting on. The group agreed to get more information before approving the quote.

Mr. Piper said that Meg McAtee agreed to replace Janelle Lausier on the Tourism Board but wanted them to take her off the Fair Board. Mr. Jaques moved to appoint Meg McAtee to the Tourism Board to replace Janelle Lausier. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Ewing requested an update on County Treasurer Ashley Erwin's finance policy. Mr. Piper said she'd met with department heads all week; he would meet with her next week. She hoped to have the policy to the commissioners by the end of May for a June 1 adoption date. Mr. Ewing asked Mrs. Lengel for the finance director's thoughts on paying bills twice monthly again. Mrs. Lengel said she had recommended the fifteenth of the month if the commissioners would come in an extra day to approve them.

Mr. Jaques and Mr. Safranek briefly exchanged information regarding gravel pits, and then Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on April 29, 2025.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman