

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County  
Agenda for May 29, 2025

- 9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 Kevin Stansbury, Lincoln Community Hospital CEO, to provide an LCH report
- 9:30 Andrew Lorensen, Human Services Director, to present the Department of Human Services monthly report
- 10:00 Dana Foley, Senior Loss Control Representative for CTSI, to discuss the Casualty and Property Pool and County Workers' Compensation Pool
- 11:00 Travis Miller with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc., and Deepak Mangsuli with Structures, Inc., to provide updates on the Big Sandy Creek Bridge Rehab project

-To be completed as time permits-

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1. Approve the minutes from the May 19, 2025, meeting
2. Review a request for proposal and qualifications regarding the flooring project at the Lincoln County Roundhouse
3. Review an estimate for a maglock for the Lincoln County Combined Courts
4. Review and act upon a Credit Limit Change Request for Onilee Kravig
5. County Commissioner reports
6. County Attorney's report
7. County Administrator's report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Approve Payroll

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on May 29, 2025. Chairman Wayne Ewing, commissioners Robert Safranek and Terry Jaques, county administrator Jacob Piper, and clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended. Lincoln Health CEO Kevin Stansbury was there when the meeting started.

Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order, asked Mr. Jaques to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and said a short prayer.

Mr. Stansbury reported that April revenues were much better and shared the news that their contractual allowance had dropped from 45% to 37%. He hopes to achieve a 35% success rate. The hospital had \$2.8 million in cash as of April 30. Mr. Stansbury planned to present the 2024 audit to the hospital board that evening; he stated it was a clean and compliant audit showing a net income of \$2.6 million. Mr. Stansbury had nothing new to report regarding billing except to say that he owed everyone an apology for the ongoing problems. They have plans to develop new statements and expand their online efforts. Mr. Stansbury invited the commissioners to a community meeting regarding the Anthem issue on Tuesday, June 3, but they said they would be at their summer conference that week. Mr. Piper noted Administrative Assistant Casey Love would attend. Although he couldn't predict an outcome, Mr. Stansbury said that Anthem representatives were courteous and open when he explained the hospital couldn't accept less than its costs. He noted that he'd invited the county's largest employers using Anthem, as well as other insurance carriers, to Tuesday's meeting and stressed that they needed an answer by June 15. Mr. Stansbury briefly touched on federal lobbying, Medicaid cuts, and the CHAMPUS fee, a per-patient tax matched by the government.

After Mr. Stansbury left, Mr. Safranek moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 19, 2025. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Piper provided a request for proposal and qualifications regarding the Hugo Union Pacific Railroad Roundhouse flooring project, including the commissioners' requested changes. Mr. Jaques wanted to know if the county could clean out the concrete chunks and prepare the area for the contractor. He didn't think it would take long if any road crew members were available; however, they might all be busy on other projects. Mr. Safranek commented that most contractors would prefer to bid on a clean site; Mr. Jaques said they should do it before the walkthrough.

The Board directed Mr. Piper to update Section III: Project Description accordingly. Then Mr. Jaques moved to approve the Request for Proposal and Qualifications for the Lincoln County Hugo Roundhouse Rehabilitation General Construction, with changes. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a \$617.31 estimate for a Maglock for the Lincoln County Combined Courts; John Mohan hadn't yet given an electrician's bid to Mr. Piper. The Courts intended to pay for the hardware if the county would pay for the labor. Mr. Safranek asked Mr. Piper to contact Leo Hurtado about the electrical work.

Mr. Jaques moved to accept the Maglock estimate and proceed with the installation. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Human Services Director Andrew Lorensen met with the Board at 9:30 a.m. to give his monthly report. Mr. Ewing recessed the Board of County Commissioners meeting and opened the Lincoln County Board of Human Services meeting. The Board reviewed the April financial statements, the May employee timesheets, Income Maintenance, Child Welfare/Adult Protection, and the director's monthly reports.

Mr. Lorensen provided the financial presentation the commissioners had requested during their last meeting, comparing revenues and expenses among the various funds, including the County Administration, HCPF, APS, Child Care, Child Welfare, and Core Services. Mr. Lorensen said the state understood there wasn't enough money and that it tended to impact smaller counties the most. He explained that counties could "buy and sell" funds to other counties, but the state hadn't dictated which county paid the Maintenance of Effort (MOE), which was a percentage of the allocation. While many of their FY 2024 programs showed over-expenditures, some were also underspent, such as TANF (Colorado Works) and Child Welfare.

The Board thanked Mr. Lorensen for his presentation, and he left. Mr. Ewing adjourned the Board of Human Services meeting and reconvened the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 10:19 a.m.

CTSI Senior Loss Control Representative Dana Foley met with the Board virtually at 10:20 a.m. Notably, CTSI returned over four million in CWCP dollars, \$500,000 in CAPP funds, and \$975,000 in interest to counties last year. The equity distribution to Lincoln County was \$73,268 in CWCP, \$9,644 in CAPP, and \$11,611 in interest, totaling \$94,543.

Mr. Foley covered the five-year loss analyses for each pool, including trends and the number of claims. He recommended offering the Defensive Driving class to employees again this year; it had been a few years since the last one. Lincoln County's 2024 CAPP claims totaled \$99,184, while the CWCP claims were much lower at \$27,140. When Mr. Foley finished reviewing the report, he asked if the county felt it had received what it needed from CTSI. Mr. Piper told him it did but had problems with Lincoln Health properly coding the workers' compensation claims.

Road & Bridge District 1 Supervisor Chris Monks arrived at 10:45 a.m. Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill arrived at 10:50 a.m. Mr. Foley told the commissioners that if the county implemented a no-backing policy, it would spend less on claims and return more money to pool counties.

Mr. Piper asked Mr. Foley if CTSI offered drone coverage; he said they were considering adding it, noting a potential liability issue regarding injury and property damage for drone owners.

Travis Miller, with RockSol Consulting Group, Inc., and Deepak Mangsuli, with Structures, Inc., arrived at 10:55 a.m.

Before disconnecting the call, Mr. Foley stated that DOGE had affected MSHA, resulting in the closure of the Denver office and requiring staff to be in the field, providing weekly or biweekly inspection reports. He noted that one county received a citation because a new standard for silicon exposure in pits requires testing every six months. MSHA would do it for free to determine the permissible screening limit.

County Attorney Kelly Lowery called at 11:05 a.m. to give her attorney's report. She asked if the Board was aware of two condemnation acts that PSCo attorneys had served on County Treasurer Ashley Erwin, requiring a response by June 10. The commissioners and Mr. Piper said they hadn't heard about it; Miss Lowery explained that it concerned unpaid taxes on the two properties PSCo wanted to move forward with, but she felt it wasn't handled professionally and planned to inform the attorneys. Miss Lowery offered to send the commissioners the complaints she had filed, noting that it shouldn't cost anything in litigation fees except for the filing of the response; the Board asked her to send the Petition to Mr. Piper.

Miss Lowery reported that she had almost finished the Mountain View Electric Association MOU; she had questions regarding invoicing. Mr. Ewing deferred to Chris Monks, who told Miss Lowery that they would bill the company based on the last fuel load the county purchased. He noted that they keep a daily average cost until the county receives another load. The Hugo shop secretary would invoice Mountain View monthly as long as the company submitted its receipts in time for her to process and submit them to the finance director.

In reviewing the Ebba Solar Energy Project Road Use Agreement, Miss Lowery discovered that it didn't specifically mention the road supervisor. She felt it should, as the supervisor was more closely involved than anyone and needed to provide input. Mr. Monks told her that the agreement should include strong language regarding fines for damaged roads, including provisions for periodic payments. He said he filled out incident forms and met with the companies weekly in previous projects. If they didn't pay the fines promptly, the county fixed the damage and billed the company.

Mr. Jaques asked if the county could terminate the Agreement if the company didn't pay; Miss Lowery said it could. She noted that there are several ways the county could ensure the companies hold up their ends of the bargains, including using the guaranty money, fixing the road and billing the company, or implementing fines.

The only other thing Miss Lowery had to report was that she'd started researching the County Surveyor position and would let the Board know what she found.

Miss Lowery stayed on the video meeting, but Mr. Stogsdill left when Mr. Miller and Mr. Mangsuli provided updates on the Big Sandy Creek Bridge rehab project. They did not have good news; Mr. Miller said the Martin Marietta washing plant wouldn't be fixed and operating until sometime in July, meaning it would take much longer than anticipated to get the aggregate.

Mr. Mangsuli stated that On-Demand Concrete was in the process of developing a new concrete mix design; however, they required a twenty-eight-day break and CDOT approval before Structures could use it. He noted that during the original bid process, Structures received material bids from various suppliers. They went back to them, but materials were \$600 to \$900 higher, and the project was too remote. Mr. Miller said they had run into the same issue on the Boyero bridge replacement project.

Mr. Ewing asked when they anticipated starting; Mr. Mangsuli said Structures would provide a new submittal by June 20, but CDOT would still need two or three weeks to approve the concrete design. Even if they could start paving by the end of July, they would need an additional thirty days for bridge rail and guardrail installation, sandblasting, and painting.

Mr. Miller planned to meet with CDOT Limon Resident Engineer Rhianna Poss and ask if she knew of someone to contact who could speed up the process.

Mr. Ewing asked how they could increase the truck traffic flow during the upcoming harvest; Mr. Miller felt they could decrease the wait time on the detour traffic lights by a minute on each side. Mr. Ewing suggested using flaggers instead of the lights, but Mr. Miller said it would be costly in comparison.

Mr. Monks commented that Colorado had more than one washing plant and suggested Structures haul the three hundred tons of rock somewhere to wash it. Mr. Mangsuli said the cost of renting the plant for a day, along with trucking costs, would be horrendous. Mr. Miller added that it had to be the same material, which washing made stronger. He noted that the county wanted the bridge to last fifty to seventy years, and Mr. Jaques agreed that they needed to do it right. Mr. Mangsuli said that quality was essential to Structures' reputation, and while they could use unwashed rock, the short-term potential would take away the long-term goal.

Mr. Jaques asked if the commissioners should talk to CDOT, but Mr. Miller felt Mrs. Poss might be able to convince someone at headquarters to help.

Mr. Ewing asked if they had finished everything underneath the bridge; Mr. Mangsuli said they had completed the structural work, but they still needed to sandblast and paint. However, doing so would start their time clock unless the county agreed to allow them to do the work simultaneously.

Miss Lowery asked for an explanation; Mr. Miller said they would suspend the time count until Structures received the aggregate. Mr. Mangsuli added that to maintain a competitive bid, they do multiple things at once within a specified number of working days, but starting the countdown meant they wouldn't meet that deadline. If the county agreed not to count them against their working days, they would take about five days to sandblast and five days to paint.

Mr. Miller said the delay affected RockSol as well since their project engineer should have been working on other projects. He offered to help with a press release when the time came. Mr.

Mangsuli promised there would be no more delays once they received the aggregate; all other materials are readily available.

Mr. Miller wanted to discuss the Ewing Bridge, so Mr. Monks said they would start tearing out the other half of the courthouse parking lot after Tuesday's trial. He asked if the surveyor had surveyed it yet, but Mr. Piper said he wasn't aware of it. Mr. Monks and Mr. Mangsuli left.

Before disconnecting, Miss Lowery said she'd met with NextEra the previous day; they had more information on the wind turbine blade size and planned between August and December 2026 for the project.

Mr. Miller said that Emergency Manager Ken Stroud asked him about the Ewing Bridge and requested that he put together an estimate. He admitted that it was pretty costly and suggested that the county request reimbursement for the design costs when applying for the grant. CCI thought funding might be available in October. Mr. Miller explained that the price was much higher for this bridge because it was a replacement rather than a rehabilitation project. He said a rough guess would be \$220,000 for the design, \$35,000 to \$40,000 for the hydraulic study, and another \$25,000 for a survey. Mr. Miller was willing to do whatever the commissioners wanted him to but said he understood the county didn't have the money.

Returning to the Big Sandy Creek bridge discussion, Mr. Miller said that the county could lose a lot of money if it didn't adhere to CDOT's specs. He'd met with Structures the day before, and they dropped some of their costs, as it was in the company's best interest to finish the project as quickly as possible.

Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Monks could fix the detour and add wattle where the soil washed out around the south abutment, noting that they shouldn't wait much longer. Mr. Ewing told him they would take care of it.

Mr. Miller said they were doing what they could to keep costs down, and Mr. Jaques told him the commissioners appreciated both him and his efforts. He wanted to know what Mr. Miller needed from the county regarding the Ewing Bridge; Mr. Miller said he would complete a design fee estimate, including the survey and study. They could take it that far and complete it later, depending on the funding. Mr. Miller suggested asking about the availability of off-system bridge funding at the June 9 ETPR meeting. Mr. Piper asked if the Colorado School of Mines designs were worth pursuing. Mr. Miller stated that the students had not completed a CDOT Structure Selection Report, which was a required task. He noted that the students had only provided about fifteen percent of the plans, which wouldn't meet CDOT standards.

Mr. Miller left at 12:15 p.m.

In a call to Landfill Manager Allen Chubbuck, the Board learned that when Bruce Walters changed the transmission fluid in the loader, he found a metal tooth, possibly from the starter or flywheel. Mr. Chubbuck said they noticed years ago that it was missing but never found

it; the magnet picked it up. They called the CAT representative, who informed them that it could have fallen into the transmission fluid when it broke off. Mr. Ewing said the report should indicate other problems, and Mr. Jaques told Mr. Chubbuck to run the machine for thirty days and retest it.

After disconnecting with Mr. Chubbuck, Mr. Safranek said Todd Messer wanted to discuss the county accepting stained soil from oil spills; Mr. Ewing called him. Mr. Messer explained that Citation Oil and Gas hauled the soil to the Burlington landfill but recently learned that the state required a \$10,000 permit. The company would willingly pay the permit fee if Lincoln County allowed disposal at its landfill; Mr. Messer said other places used the dirt for daily cover. He noted that he had the contamination paperwork and knew what the soil contained. Mr. Ewing told Mr. Messer to send the information, and the commissioners would contact the county's engineer to discuss it.

At 12:30 p.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor and Captain Michael Yowell met with the Board about the Hugo marshal position, which the town will discuss officially dissolving at a meeting on June 3. The commissioners will be out of town, attending their summer conference, and will be unable to attend the meeting. The sheriff said his department would do what it had to for the residents.

The sheriff also wanted the Board to be aware that one of their inmates had altered a check the department issued when they left the jail. If someone has money when they arrive at the jail, staff put it into the Infusion system, which they reimburse from when the inmate leaves. Captain Yowell said they typically issue cards containing the inmate's funds, but their card reader was down, which was why they wrote the check.

The law enforcement officers left, and the Board reviewed a credit limit increase request for Public Health employee Onilee Kravig. The department received additional funding for the Tobacco program, and Mrs. Kravig needed to purchase items that would exceed her current \$1,000 limit. Mr. Jaques moved to approve the credit limit increase of \$2,500 for Onilee Kravig. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Ewing called for the commissioners' reports.

Mr. Jaques reported attending the Republican River Water Conservation District video call on May 20, during which they provided status reports from various committees. They discussed SB 25-283, which provides an additional \$6,000,000 to assist in retiring 25,000 acres of irrigated basin land; the district has retired 17,120 acres of the required 25,000. Another discussion item was SB 25-40, which creates the future severance taxes and water funding task force. The RRVCD board asked members to protest the new Land Board director's appointment; the director wants to return state lands to wildlife. They also discussed the Bonnie Dam Revitalization (federal) funding proposal, which aims to restore the river's flow and add recreational opportunities to the area. Mr. Jaques discussed Ports-To-Plains CDOC projects with Joe Kiely and the lack of effort on the part of CDOC to develop these critical pathways.

On May 21, Mr. Jaques attended the Lincoln County Economic Development board meeting, where they discussed the Hugo and Limon Downtown projects' status. The EDC Housing Committee remains active with a continued focus on downtown in-fill housing, mobile home/RV park renewal, and in-home daycare modeling, with available funding assistance for home projects. Restoration efforts continue on Genoa's Wonder View Tower; they set a ribbon-cutting ceremony for June. The El Paso Mexican Food restaurant should open by week's end, and Wausau continues to work on doubling the size of their warehouse facility. Mr. Jaques reported that he reviewed the roads included in the Arriba Wind project with Taylor Henderson, Ty Stogsdill, and Bruce Walters.

On May 27, Mr. Jaques reviewed projects with Mr. Walters and discussed their work on the courthouse parking lot. On the Twenty-eighth, he attended a virtual call of the Renewable Energy Impact Study Advisory Board, representing members of the Northeast Colorado Association of Local Governments, East Central Council of Governments, Southeast Council of Governments, and the South-Central Council of Local Governments through a planned MOU to complete the Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study. Funding consists of a \$500,000 DOLA grant from state severance tax proceeds. They are currently reviewing a draft RFP to select a contractor to complete the study's requirements. The study aims to avoid duplication of requirements in SB24-212, which provided technical support for developing local codes and ordinances, best management practices to protect and minimize impacts on wildlife, and identifying high-priority habitats. The study's results should yield a repository of codes and ordinances that support renewable energy projects and transmission facilities.

Mr. Safranek reported flagging for Judd Kravig on May 23 while the road crew was fixing a soft spot in a county road. Digging it up and patching it caused them to work on Friday, and they were shorthanded due to the holiday weekend. Mr. Safranek also helped pick up signs when they finished. He looked at the district's culvert supply, chose one, and took it to the landfill for Mr. Chubbuck to use for the road they needed to build. He also received several phone calls regarding the Big Sandy Bridge project, including one from a farmer who stated that he would need to haul approximately one hundred loads within a ten-day to two-week timeframe.

Mr. Ewing reported that the commissioners toured the roundhouse and annex building after the May 19 meeting. They were removing the dead trees at the annex; Mr. Ewing said they needed to address several other projects to improve the building and parking area. They thought they found the problem with the smoke alarms that Mrs. Meier reported; Mr. Ewing said they were sensitive.

On May 20, Mr. Ewing spoke with Chris Monks after receiving a call from Mr. Safranek about millings for the Hugo sewer project. Mr. Monks stopped at their site, and they agreed to the proposed solution. Mr. Ewing attended a Tourism Board meeting with Mr. Jaques. The group approved the Ranch Rodeo, PRCA rodeo, and Limon Fire Protection District requests. Mr. Ewing attended the Genoa town board meeting, where the Mayor Pro-Tem led a well-thought-out meeting for several attendees. They assigned three new board members and hired a water manager.



Mr. Ewing and Chris Monks discussed asphalt on May 21; they were finishing in District 1 and moving to District 3 to help. Mr. Monks let him know they had completed the asphalt projects on May 27. They began cleaning up at the courthouse and removed the large rocks so they could start Phase II of the parking lot. They opened it to the public on May 28. Mr. Ewing and Mr. Monks discussed the erosion control at the Big Sandy Bridge detour; Mr. Ewing picked up some erosion control rolls.

Mr. Safranek informed the group that Sam Emmerling had fixed the hole in the Conex roof at the fairgrounds; he charged \$50. Mr. Emmerling will put together a bid for a new sink at the Public Health office.

Mr. Piper reported that Veterans Service Officer Joy Johnson wouldn't have enough hours to reach the required one thousand by June 30. He didn't know if she would lose her accreditation but suggested the commissioners bring up the subject at their conference. They might have to add another county if Mrs. Johnson is willing to do so.

The fair board provided two options for replacing Meg McAtee as a board member. Mr. Ewing called Alisha Thompson and asked if they had a preference. She said it was a four to three-vote, so they decided to leave it to the commissioners to decide. Both parties sent letters of interest.

Mr. Safranek moved to appoint Justin Fisher to the fair board to replace Meg McAtee. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Ewing called Mrs. Thompson back to let her know the Board's decision; he also called Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Piper said he'd done the Centennial Mental Health ambulance inspections in Sterling. There were seven vehicles, but they hadn't completed the mechanical inspections yet.

As for other business, Bruce Walters had helped with the parking lot and felt the ADA-accessible signs were too close to the edge of the cement, and someone would hit them. Mrs. Lengel wished the contractor had followed accessibility laws when installing the cement, as there should have been cutouts or ramps between the spaces, offering the closest accessible paths of travel to the front doors. As it is, a customer in a wheelchair will have to go behind vehicles in the drivable portion of the parking lot to reach the entrance. Mrs. Lengel suggested including cutouts and ramps when they start on Phase II and said it made more sense to add another two accessible spaces, even if they put the ballot drop-box on the south side of the entryway. They could put up signs during election season when they open the ballot box, freeing up the ADA space for the rest of the year. Mr. Ewing said they planned to start on the north side on June 9.

Mr. Jaques commented that John Palmer said he couldn't get fuel at the county shop after hours; Mr. Safranek said he should have a key.

While the commissioners approved the May payroll, Mrs. Lengel said that Kelly Lowery's comments about the county surveyor stemmed from an email she'd sent to her. Recording fees increase on July 1, including survey plat maps. The county currently pays Scott Kimble \$10 per survey plat to review and sign them; however, the county surveyor can set those fees up to the recording cost. Since the fees are increasing from \$23 to \$43, Mrs. Lengel said that meant Mr. Kimble could legally charge \$40, making the new cost \$83. She noted that fourteen of the sixteen Eastern Region counties do not have a county surveyor, either elected or appointed, which prompted her to contact Miss Lowery. The Clerk's recording vendor will need time to add the fee to the system before July 1.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on June 6, 2025.

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Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

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Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman