

## **Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon Minutes for Meeting of June 23, 2021**

Chair Michael Gaskill commented on the slowing pace of vaccinations and encouraged personal engagement with people hesitant to receive the COVID vaccine. Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson provided an update on the status of the local vaccine campaign. She invited people to share ideas for reaching out to vaccine-resistant individuals and communities.

### **Update on Indigenous led anti-pipeline protests in Minnesota**

Chair Gaskill noted that President Biden had reversed the permit for the Keystone-XL oil pipeline. There is a new proposed tar sands pipeline known as Line Three, which would violate treaty rights of indigenous tribes in Minnesota and encouraged people to search on "Stop Line 3" (<https://www.stopline3.org/>) and to support the opposition.

### **Lincoln County Fair planning**

Michael invited people to volunteer to sit at the booth at the county fair. There was discussion of how to handle negative confrontations and disengagement at the fair. Chair Gaskill suggested developing a code of conduct.

### **Update from Representative David Gomberg**

Representative David Gomberg reported on funding for major infrastructure projects in Lincoln County, including for the Big Creek Dam, the Aquarium, the Port of Newport sewer system, a new fire station, and more. He reported that this is the most funding he has seen brought home to Lincoln County in a legislative session.

### **Lincoln Co Dems summer picnic**

Eliot Sekuler reported that the tentative date and location for the picnic is August 15 at the Pacific Maritime Heritage Museum. Chair Gaskill requested help from volunteers interested in helping plan the picnic. There was discussion of other venues and potluck planning.

### **Elected official updates**

Commissioner Kaety Jacobson reported on funding for wildfire recovery and leadership retirements at Lincoln County. There will be search for a new County Administrator. She reported that the county is planning for future pandemic expenses, including possible needs for vaccine boosters and expansion of the vaccinated population to children. Commissioner Jacobson reported that the county has been put

on a "drought watch" in anticipation of officially declaring a drought. There have been record daily lows in both the Alsea and Siletz rivers. She responded to questions about enforcement of fireworks bans and illegal fireworks.

#### **Upcoming events and shout-outs**

Elaine Starmer announced that she is running for City Council in Lincoln City.

Monica Kirk commended 15 Neighborhoods and the county who are working to support local housing and neighborhood character. She asked the Lincoln County Democrats to support the initiative campaign to limit vacation rentals in unincorporated Lincoln County. The initiative signature filing deadline is August 4. Chair Gaskill recommended putting this initiative on the agenda of a future Lincoln County Democrats meeting.

City of Newport Councilmember Cynthia Jacobi reported on the increased lodging tax. She noted that the City's official drought statement includes recommendations on water conservation in the home. There will be a beach cleanup on July 5 after the 4th of July fireworks.

*Meeting Minutes Adopted 10/27/2021*