

Lake County Republican Central Committee
Wednesday, 5 May 2026
Polson Rural Fire Hall

Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests, Visitors, and Newcomers

Precinct Captains: Ellen Wicklund, Marylee and Doug Syme, Ray Winn, Ron McClellan, Max Krantz, Cynthia Waterman, Ron Tjaden, Frank Mutch, Michael Thompson, Susan and Jack Lake, Dave Snyder. Precinct Team Leaders: Finley Warden, Sandra Carr, and Faith Dawson.

Adoption of Agenda

- Agenda amendments:
 - Doc AI to speak first immediately after approval of agenda.
 - Then approve minutes, followed by treasurer report, New Business, and remove letter to the editor as well as candidate forum discussion.
- Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Doc AI

- Doc AI speaks on “Why he is running.” He wants to fight to restore the republic and finish what was started in 2022.
 - To restore the republic; we saw our elected officials retire and anoint their own successor, and that move harmed our republic because it threatened our ability to have a vote.
 - To finish what was started in 2022, lost that race by a razor thin margin; now back again to be the candidate for Lake County.
 - Issues in common and at the top is the Water Compact.
 - Learned since 2015 “compact” is not the right term; It is not a contract; it is a federal law trying to be passed.
 - The water “compact” is a violation of the 5th and 14th amendment of the Constitution.
 - This compact is a breach of contract against the irrigators.
 - Could make the “compact” better.
 - First, there never was an answer to an important question of the Winter’s Doctrine.
 - What does it mean “enough water to fulfill the mission of the reservation”?
 - Second, fix the breach of contract and give liens back to rightful owners, irrigators
 - Third, we must discuss why a 3rd party gets thousands of acres of public land? (If given to them the rest of the public would not be allowed on those lands.)
 - Fourth, to discuss reservations and ask what our relationship is? Are you sovereign, wards of the state, or American citizens? Choose one.

- o Max Kranz asks, “Do you think DNRC will move from water courts to possibly sell water to data centers?”
 - Al: I do not have that answer but we need to have transparency and an answer before they try to build those centers. Especially regarding where the water comes from.
- o Bill Barron: States the county needs to be part of the process, but they are left out when the tribe and state make plans. The county tried to also get a seat with the federal side to discuss the water compact and what was brought forward was used against the county.
 - Al; Being a grassroots candidate that has not received millions of dollars from donors, I can be focused on the issues of the people of Montana. I read the letter from the county, and it was well written.

Approval and/or Amendment of 7 April 2026 Minutes.

- Passed with unanimous consent.

Committee Reports (5 Mins Each)

- Treasurers Report.
 - o Beginning Balance \$11,104.24
 - o Expenses
 - Tyler Irwin Race Car Sponsoring \$750.
 - Stamps (debit card fee) \$25.60.
 - Click Here Design \$152.13.
 - Click Here Design \$285.
 - o Ending Balance \$9,891.51
 - o Motion made to reimburse Frank Mutch for Lake County Advertiser ads
 - Made by Ron Tjaden and seconded by Michael Thompson.
 - Approved by unanimous consent.
 - o Motion made for another payment of \$246 for Lake County Ads
 - Made by Frank Mutch and second by Mike Thompson.
 - Approved by unanimous consent.
- Finance Chairman.
 - o MTGOP is selling raffle tickets for a rifle.
 - o Golf tournaments sign up is on the website.
 - o 250th Celebration of America party is immediately after the golf tournament.
 - o There is much merchandise for the 250 America party to fund LCRCC, a 50/50 raffle, and live music.
 - o LRT Dinner will have more information at the next meeting.
- Congressional Committeewoman and Committeeman.
 - o Not present

- State Committeewoman and Committeeman.
 - Not present
- Technology Committee – *training signup, marketing handbook, website work orders*
 - The Tiger Team met to gather a list of where to put flyers in town.
 - Email Faith or Mike of where flyers can go up.
 - Made an easy marketing directory list.
 - To make advertising streamlined.
 - Another zoom training on the 30th of May.
- Tiger Team – *vote for operational budget going into campaign season*
 - Motion made by Frank for \$3,000 and seconded by Ron Tjaden.
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Elected Officials Reports – Senate/House/Commissioners/Sheriff/Others (5 Mins Each) New Business

Bill Barron

- Commissioner’s offices are now moved to the third floor of the courthouse due to open meeting laws requiring more space.

Tracy Sharp

- Went to a data center in Washington state. Has been a major topic of discussion.
 - Eye opening in a positive way. But, removed some of my concerns with data centers. Their systems are air cooled which does not require *continuous* water feeding; It is a closed loop system. Not a noisy facility.
 - They are required to have constant and steady power to run the servers.
 - Still skeptical of them but that was better than I thought.

New Business

- Amplify candidate endorsement cards to the public – *do we want to plan more marketing?*
- Letter to the Editor assignments
- Host a Republican Candidate Forum in May
- Outreach committee Idea:
 - *Reaching out to churches in the area?*
 - Joe Read tried and talked to three different churches, and they are reluctant to make a move.
 - Frank and Mary spent a week contacting about 70 churches and combed out 20 of the biggest and most active.
 - Only way to get the message through internally with the members.
 - Tracy will be at a church in Missoula on 22nd May.
 - *People new to the neighborhood?*

- Sandra Carr will go to the elections office to get information about new people to the area.
- o *Invest in outreach to conservatives in High School?*
- Schedule Zoom meeting this month for 2nd Plenary Mtg.
- 6:30PM, 19th May, LCRCC Zoom meeting.
 - o Discuss writing a resolution to Senator Thune, demanding election integrity
- Move the June LCRCC Meeting to June 9 – due to Primary Election Day
 - o Approved.
- Joe Read discusses the incident on Facebook with Linda Reksten on the Ring doorbell.
 - o They took Finley’s door hanger and took it away.
 - o It classifies as criminal mischief and if guilty she may not be eligible to be seated in the legislature.
 - o Another part is the billboards popping up.
- Ron Tjaden moved to donate \$1,000 to Finley Warden campaign from the LCRCC seconded by Cynthia Waterman.
 - o Joe in favor. If there is a pursuit of a criminal complaint, she would not be able to take the oath of the office. So, we need to donate to Finley.
 - o Motion passed.

Announcements

- Help with the MTGOP Platform – *platform convention will be held in June 2026*
- Lake County Republican Women
 - Had judge Dan Wilson with 18 people present.
 - Tyler Irwin will speak to the LCRW on June 1.
 - Ladies and the LCRCC need to acquire a new storage unit since we must move our materials from the hanger.
 - \$48 a month for the new storage unit and will need help moving.
- Pachyderm Club
 - Board of Directors Meeting is ahead of the May 8th meeting (1100AM).
 - Meeting May 8th (Polson Rural Fire Department) at 12 pm with Public Service Commissioner District 5 candidate David Sanders.
 - May 22nd at 12 pm (Polson Rural Fire Department) speaker will be Doc Al, candidate for U.S. Congress District 1.
- Public Announcements/Guest Comments
- Mike, Tiger team explored the David Stipes room for meeting in the new election office. It can be used after hours if scheduled ahead.
- Finley: “Thank you for the support. I have been endorsed by both Lake County and Montana Republican party.” Early voting is open now; anyone can go in person to the election office to vote early now. A very small number of people vote in the primary. The good thing is it makes it easy to target those folks.

There is a far-left environmentalist group coming and knocking on doors for Linda.

- David Passieri was tasked to meet the chamber of commerce in Polson. Two groups are trying to promote a county-wide chamber. Will try to find out more information on this.
- Bill, thank you for your support in this election. The endorsement has made a big difference. Will keep working for the people of the county.

Adjournment