



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

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LINCOLN COUNTY SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND SHELTER COMMITTEE

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners is inviting interested members of the public to submit applications for appointment to an Animal Welfare and Shelter Committee. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, January 13.

The commissioners voted to establish the committee following their recent decision not to move ahead with a contract for non-profit management of the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Bill Hall, who made the motion to create the committee, said it was needed to promote greater public involvement in the shelter and improved coordination between local non-profits involved in animal issues.

The committee will include two at-large members selected by the commissioners, one member nominated by Sheriff Dotson, one member nominated by the Friends of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter (FOLCAS) and one member nominated by the Central Coast Humane Society (CCHS).

According to a charter the commissioners have developed for the committee, it is "established to be an active partner with Lincoln County Government in developing policies governing animal services." The commissioners said the committee will have a voice in animal-related policy and budget decisions.

The commissioners are also preparing to move ahead with another decision related to animal services, a public vote to create an Animal Services District and a companion measure to fund the district. The current timeline being considered by the commissioners would see those proposals on the November 2012 ballot.

Commissioner Don Lindly said that "Establishing the district is the only way to put a permanent tax base for animal services in place. The current five-year levy for animal services runs through the 2013-14 fiscal year. One of the provisions of the plan that will be submitted to voters would cancel the final year of the levy if the voters approve the district and funding measure."

Commission Chair Terry Thompson also noted that "Depending on the number of applications received, the commissioners may hold interviews with the applicants prior to making appointments. The board expects to make those appointments in late January and for the committee to hold its first meeting in February. The committee would transition to an advisory committee for the new district if voters approve the concept."

Applications are available on the Lincoln County Web Site: http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/animal_shelter.html Interested applicants and the general public are encouraged to follow the public process in regard to the future of the Animal Shelter with video, media releases and additional documentation. Available at: http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/animal_shelter.html

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