

## **Lewis Commission moving to Region VII for grant writing**

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Members of the Lewis County Commission have decided to take the grant writing responsibilities for water extension projects out of the hands of the Lewis County Economic Development Authority. The county commission will place those tasks with the Region VII Planning and Development Council because of their track record of securing grant funds for water projects over the past five years.

Lewis County Commission President Agnes Queen said the change was due to a high number of projects being funded through grants submitted by Region VII for counties and municipalities, rather than any shortcoming of the economic development authority.

"We want the EDA to work with Region VII because funding agencies seem more open to working with them on grants," Queen said.

One of the main reasons Doug Parsons, Lewis County Economic Development director, writes the grants in-house is to keep administrative fees paid to Region VII apart of project funds.

"I would trade \$50,000 for \$2 million," Queen said.

"He can write them and does an excellent job," Queen said. "He has done nothing wrong."

Commissioner Pat Boyle recommended a letter be sent to the EDA instructing them of the change to have Region VII handle future grant writing duties for water projects.

"We have a better chance of money for water projects through Region VII," Commissioner Tom Fealy said.

The motion for the change was made by Boyle and seconded by Fealy with a 3-0 vote in the affirmative.

"It is not a slight to Doug at all," Boyle said. "He has done a great job. He works tirelessly on these projects."

"Doug works hands-on on these projects, but we need to take this next step," Queen said.