

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol
Helena, MT

Please note: *The Land Board has adopted the audio recording of its meetings as the official record, as allowed by [2-3-212, MCA](#). These minutes provide an abbreviated summary of the Land Board discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The time designations listed are approximate and may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio recording of this meeting. Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio recording is provided from the Land Board webpage at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/LandBoard>. The written minutes summary, along with the audio recordings, are listed by meeting date on the Land Board Archive webpage.*

Members Present

Governor Brian Schweitzer
Attorney General Steve Bullock
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Monica Lindeen
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau

Members Absent

None

Testifying Staff

DNRC Director Mary Sexton

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheet
Related Materials, Attachment 2 – Whitefish Legacy Partners letter to the Land Board

Call to Order

00:00:01 Governor Schweitzer called the meeting to order.
00:00:06 Ms. McCulloch moved to approve the February 21, 2012, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau and carried unanimously.
00:00:15 Ms. Sexton

Business Considered

312-1 Rejection of High Bid and Award of Lease

00:02:30 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the item.
00:02:34 Ms. Lindeen moved to reject Ron Kienenberger's high bid and to award the lease to Donald Wilkes for his bid of \$10 per AUM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau and carried unanimously.

312-2 Timber Sales

A. Lower Corona

B. North Fork Valley Creek (Contract Harvest)

00:02:43 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of items 312-2A and 312-2B, which were taken as a block.
00:04:19 Mr. Bullock moved to approve items 312-2A and 312-2B. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lindeen and carried unanimously.

312-3 Oil and Gas Lease Sale (March 6, 2012)

00:04:37 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the item.

00:06:15 Ms. McCulloch moved to approve the oil and gas lease sale. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bullock.

Board Discussion/Questions

00:06:23 Governor Schweitzer

00:11:36 The motion to approve of the oil and gas lease sale was carried unanimously.

00:11:41 Ms. Sexton

312-4 Preliminary Approval for DNRC/Peebles Lazy F6 Land Exchange

00:11:53 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the item.

00:14:19 Ms. McCulloch moved for preliminary approval of the land exchange. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lindeen.

Board Discussion/Questions

00:14:30 Governor Schweitzer

00:14:50 Ms. Sexton

00:15:01 Governor Schweitzer

00:15:05 The motion for preliminary approval of the land exchange was carried unanimously.

312-5 Set Minimum Bid for Land Banking Parcels

A. Deer Lodge County

B. Hill County

00:15:10 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of items 312-5A and 312-5B, which were taken as a block.

00:17:54 Ms. McCulloch moved to set the minimum bid for items 312-5A and 312-5B. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bullock.

Board Discussion/Questions

00:18:05 Mr. Bullock

00:18:39 Ms. Lindeen

00:18:57 Ms. Sexton

00:19:12 Ms. Lindeen

00:19:15 Ms. Sexton

00:19:25 The motion to set the minimum bid for items 312-5A and 312-5B was carried unanimously.

312-6 Easements

00:19:30 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the item.

00:20:12 Ms. Lindeen moved to approve the easements. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCulloch and carried unanimously.

Information Item

312-7 Whitefish Neighborhood Plan – Whitefish Legacy Partners Update

00:20:24 Ms. Sexton gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment

00:22:13 John Muhlfield, Whitefish Mayor

00:28:35 Lindsay Akey, Whitefish Legacy Partners Chair

Board Discussion/Questions

00:32:01 Governor Schweitzer

00:33:40 Ms. McCulloch

General Public Comment

None

Adjournment

00:34:16 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ Brian Schweitzer

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

/s/ Mary Sexton

Mary Sexton, DNRC Director



P.O. Box 158 • Whitefish, MT 59937 • (406) 863-2400 • Fax: (406) 863-2419

March 19, 2012

Dear Montana Board of Land Commissioners,

On behalf of the community of Whitefish and project stakeholders, thank you for your time today. We are excited and eager to preview our next major collaborative project under the Whitefish Area School Trust Lands Neighborhood Plan (Plan). Adopted by this Land Board in 2004, the Plan emphasizes innovative, public-private conservation and recreation based transactions.

The heart of the next set of public/private transactions is the creation of permanent public recreational access easements on over 1,500 acres of land in the Beaver Lake sub-unit to ensure these treasured lands are available for our children and future generations of Montanans to enjoy. The easements, purchased by WLP and held by the City of Whitefish, would limit residential and commercial development, provide public access to these key community assets, and would continue to be managed for the production of wood products under the provisions of the State Forest Land Management Plan.

As you may recall, the centerpiece of the last set of public/private transactions under the Plan was the "Whitefish Trail." In 2010, City of Whitefish and our partners cut the ribbon on what has grown, in two short years, into 19 miles of trail on public and private lands winding through Whitefish's backcountry. Just minutes from downtown, this popular amenity provides a source of revenue for Montana's trust beneficiaries, in addition to the traditional revenue received from forest product sales.

The details of the public and private transactions necessary to accomplish this goal are in the formative stages. We look forward to a continued dialogue with the larger community and stakeholders as we refine the proposal for your review and final approval. In the meantime, we are pleased to have broad regional support for this integral community asset that not only benefits Whitefish, but all of Montana.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

City of Whitefish

Hon. John Muhlfeld, Mayor

Whitefish Legacy Partners

Lindsay Akey, Chair

WHITEFISH LEGACY LANDS

PLACES

worth protecting

...the time is now

What will be your legacy? What will you leave for your children, and your children's children? Folks who are lucky enough to live in the shadows of Glacier National Park in Whitefish, Montana know what's really important in life. Clean water. Thriving forests. Uncluttered views. Wildlife. And most importantly... the ability to access, recreate and enjoy the public lands surrounding Whitefish. Fifty years ago adventurous families caught trout in Beaver Lake, explored the wildlands of Swift Creek, and hiked the

ridges of Spencer Mountain. Those same adventurous families formed Whitefish LP in 2003 to ensure that the opportunities in Whitefish's backyard will be available for another fifty years WLP, along with our partners including the City of Whitefish, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana State Parks, private landowners and most importantly the community at large are all working together to achieve these goals. Permanent recreation. Conservation. Access. This is our legacy. Help us protect it.

“There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt





How WLP PROTECTS these places

CREATE THE LEGACY

Conservation is a thread that unites all Montanans. Protecting and preserving our clean water, unpolluted air, wildlife habitat and access to wide open spaces and public land is vital to preserving our quality of life. Loss of these special places puts the Whitefish community at risk.

In 2010 WLP and the City of Whitefish began construction of the Whitefish Trail, a pathway that links our community to these important public places such as Lion Mountain, Beaver Lakes and Spencer Mountain. This innovative endeavor, which blends public and private entities, has resulted in 19 miles of trail and five trailheads. WLP and our partners will continue to create unprecedented solutions that permanently protect these important places. Join us to leave a legacy.

“The recreational access which generations of Montanans have enjoyed, and possibly taken for granted, is growing more scarce. It is our hope that we can secure those essential values which serve as the backbone of the local and state economy – recreational access to those famed wide open spaces.”

— Board Chair, Lin Akey

SIMPLE ECONOMICS

Why invest in our most valuable community asset? It's simple. Healthy forests, clean water and stunning views equate to one thing: a strong economy and a steady stream of revenue for Montana's schools and universities. These special places may not exist in the next fifty years unless we invest TODAY.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Your gift regardless of size, is an investment in Whitefish's future. Visit our web page for a list of our volunteer opportunities and events. Most importantly...advocate! Take a hike on the Whitefish Trail, be a conservation champion and let your voice be heard.





WHITEFISH LEGACY LANDS

SECURING WHITEFISH'S OUTDOOR HERITAGE

Beaverhead Lakes/Skyles: Pristine waters and beautiful forests have inspired families for generations to float, hike, and camp in quiet seclusion minutes from downtown.

- Create a permanent public, undeveloped recreation area.
- Protect key viewsheds and enhance public trails through private conservation.

Spencer Mtn: A community-revered recreational asset that includes sweeping views, adrenaline-filled mountain biking and hiking opportunities for all.

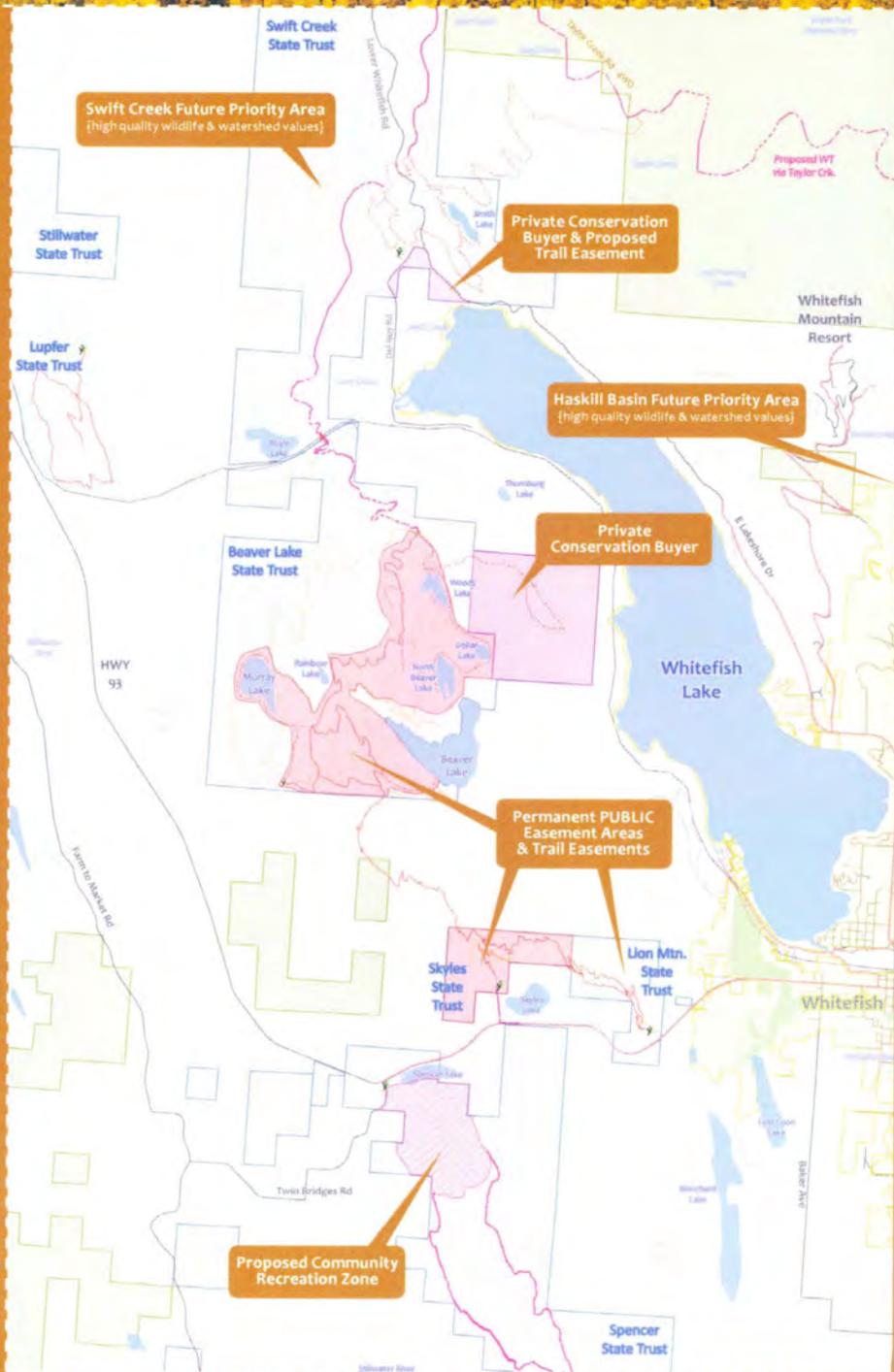
- Create a ten-year Community Recreation Zone.
- Future planning for recreation permanence.

Lazy & Swift Creeks: This area's untamed creeks, forests and wetlands, foster abundant wildlife and clean drinking water for the Whitefish community.

- Create family oriented recreation area for fishing, hiking, and biking.
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And Beyond: Connecting the Whitefish Trail to Taylor Creek and Whitefish Mtn. Resort...minutes from our back door!

- Taylor Creek's connectivity to Whitefish Mountain Resort and continuation of the Whitefish Trail.
- Haskill Basin's high quality watershed, wildlife habitat and extensive recreation is a future priority.
- And more...



IMPLEMENTING THE 2004 WHITEFISH NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

- Public Recreation & Conservation Areas - Proposed Easements on 1480 acres
- Lion Mtn. Whitefish Trail Easement - ~3 miles
- Community Recreation Zone - Proposed 10 yr. Term Lease or License - 350 acres
- Conservation Buyers - 690 acres proposed with Recreation & Management Planning for Spencer Mtn., Beaver Lakes & Swift Creek DNRC State Trust Lands

WHITEFISH LEGACY LANDS

2012 PUBLIC RECREATION & CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

- Whitefish Trail (WT) - established 2010 - 70 miles
- WF Neighborhood Plan "concept" trail
- Future Trails & Easements - conceptual locations
- 10 year Term Lease Trails
- Trailheads, Proposed TH's & Parking Areas
- City of Whitefish Fish Trails - existing & proposed
- Montana State Trust Lands
- United States Forest Service
- City of Whitefish
- City of Whitefish Parks

Miles 0 0.5 1 2

March 2012, WLFiber



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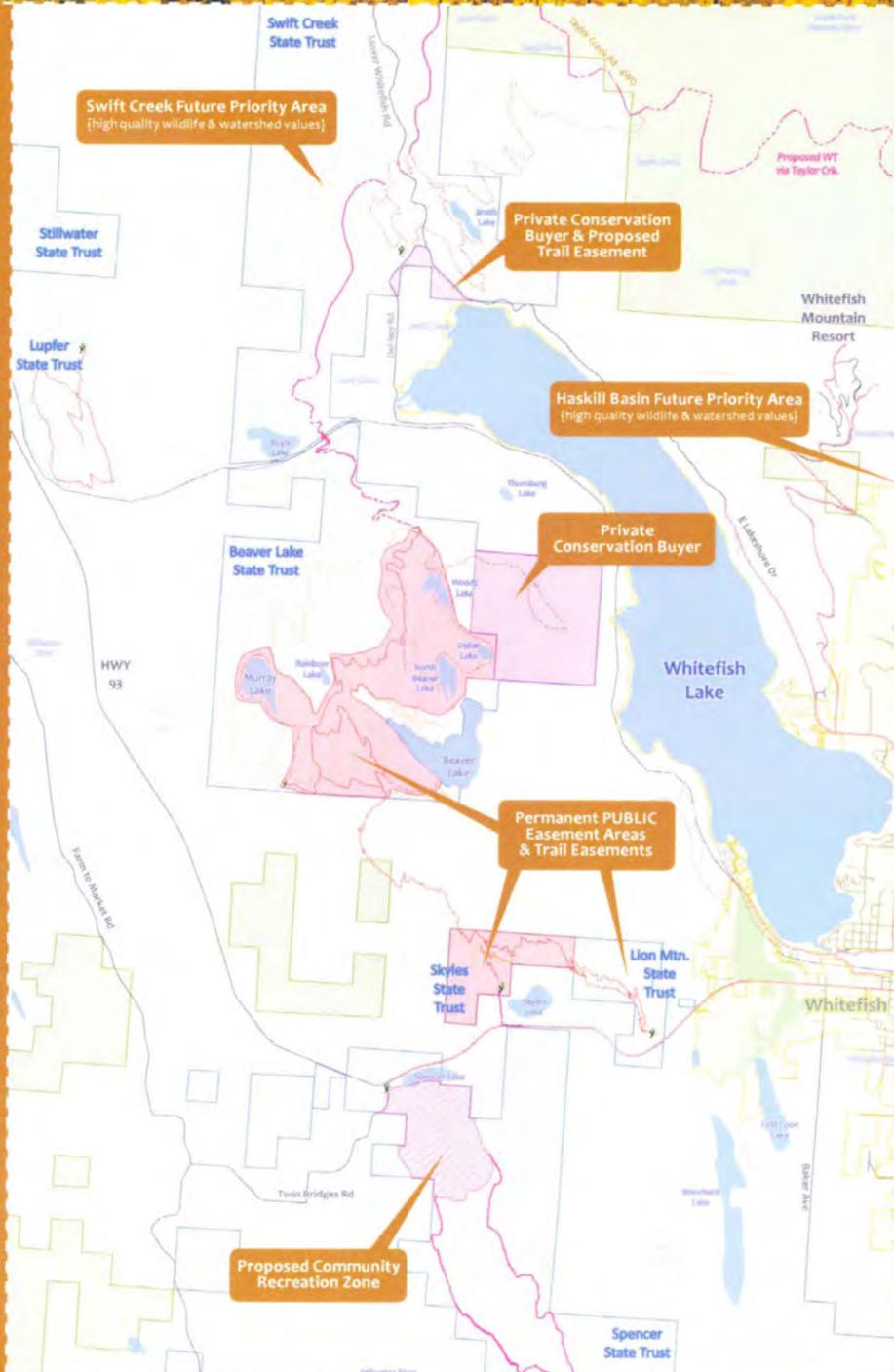
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March 2012, WLF/DFP