

These abbreviated summary minutes and the audio recording will become the official adopted minutes at the next Land Board meeting when the board votes to officially approve them. Until then they are considered a draft.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303
HELENA, MT**

Members Present

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
Dawnell Fuller, Land Board Secretary

Members Absent

None

Testifying Staff

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Luke Casey, DNRC Deputy Chief Legal Counsel

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet

Call to Order

00:00:00 Governor Gianforte called the meeting to order.

00:01:11 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve the September agenda. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

00:01:28 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve the August minutes. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

0925-1 DEQ Easement

00:01:38 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:002:43 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve item 0925-1. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0925-2 Timber Sales A, B & C

00:03:03 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

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00:05:09 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve item 0925-2A, B & C Timber Sales. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0925-3 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

00:05:26 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:06:10 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve item 0925-3. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:06:17 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

00:06:20 Greg Gianforte, Governor

00:06:22 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

0925-4 Cabin and Home Site: Set Minimum Bid for Sale

00:06:23 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:06:37 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve item 0925-4. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0925-5 Easements

00:07:30 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:08:13 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, moved to approve item 0925-5. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0925-6 Litigation Authority (Executive Session)

00:08:35 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

00:09:16 Greg Gianforte, Governor

The Land Board assembled into executive session at 9:08 AM pursuant to MCA 2-3-203(4), to discuss litigation strategy. The public portion of the meeting resumed at 9:15 AM.

Public Comment: N/A

00:09:53 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, moved to approve item 0925-6. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0925-7 Motion To Clarify Water Rights Objection Process

00:10:11 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, introduced agenda item 0925-7 and James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:14:12 Raylee Honeycutt, Executive Vice President of the MT Stockgrowers Association
00:14:50 Jack Connors, Chief Legal Counsel for the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:15:12 Margaret Bird, Advocates for School Trust Lands
00:15:59 Jocelyn Cahill, Senior Ag Water Rights Alliance

00:18:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved to approve item 0925-7. The motion was seconded by Greg Gianforte, Governor.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:18:42 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
00:19:18 Luke Casey, DNRC Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
00:19:21 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
00:19:36 Luke Casey, DNRC Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
00:19:54 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:20:08 Jack Connors, Chief Legal Counsel for the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:20:51 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
00:20:55 Jack Connors, Chief Legal Counsel for the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:21:07 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:21:09 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:22:03 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:22:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:25:57 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:27:06 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:27:30 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:27:49 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:29:23 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:29:26 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
00:30:36 Greg Gianforte, Governor

00:30:56 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, made a motion to amend the motion to ensure the lessee has a minimum of 60 days' notification prior to the Land Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:31:16 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
00:31:42 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:33:09 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:33:11 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
00:33:32 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:34:13 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:34:42 Greg Gianforte, Governor

00:35:08 The motion to amend the motion carried 3-2.

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00:35:48 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, made a motion to table agenda item 0925-7. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General and carried unanimously.

00:35:49 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

General Public Comment

00:37:33 Sonny Capece, Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association

Adjournment

00:38:35 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ Greg Gianforte Date 10/20/2025
Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ Amanda Kaster Date 10/20/2025
Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

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. You may access the minutes and the audio recording on our website: <https://dhrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/About/LandBoardMeetingArchive>.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
SIGN-IN SHEET
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AT 9:00 AM
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303, HELENA, MT

Email landboard@mt.gov or indicate on this sign-in sheet if you would like to be placed on the Land Board interested parties list.

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