

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
April 20, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303
HELENA, MT**

Members Present

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
Rebecca Monroe, Land Board Secretary

Members Absent

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Testifying Staff

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet

Call to Order

00:00:21 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras called the meeting to order.

Adopt Proposed Agenda

00:00:57 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve the April agenda. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes

00:1:20 Christi Jacobson, Secretary of State moved to approve the March, minutes. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

0426-1 Timber Sales A, B, C & D

00:01:44 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:04:44 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0426-1. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0426-2 Cabin and Homesite: Preliminary Approval for Sale

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

Public Comment: N/A

00:5:50 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0426-2. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

0426-3 Easements

00:06:12 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:06:58 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0426-3. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0426-4 Reciprocal Access Agreement

00:07:23 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:08:00 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0426-4. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0426-5 Request for Approval to Initiate Scoping

00:08:55 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:09:45 Rayleigh Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association

00:10:26 Beckie Williams, American Prairie

00:12:02 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0426-5. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0426-6 Request for Approval to Initiate Rulemaking

00:12:52 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:14:08 Beckie Williams, American Prairie

00:14:50 Rayleigh Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association

These summary minutes and the audio recording are a draft record and will become official upon Land Board approval at the next meeting.

00:15:13 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance moved to approve item 0426-6. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0426-7 Informational Item: Quarterly Litigation Update

00:16:24 Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Public Comment: N/A

00:18:47 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, made a motion for the Board to authorize the Attorney General's Office and his designees to participate in the court approved mediation conference of State of Montana versus Talon Northwestern Energy cause number CV-00035-DLC, United State District Court, scheduled in this matter with full settlement authority on behalf of the State Board of Land Commissioners to negotiate the terms of any past due rentals owed. As well as authority to negotiate and settle the rental rates and any future lease terms with the parties. And should settlement in this matter be successful to come back to the Board to request approval of the same at a future meeting upon due notice to the public for review and comment. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

Adjournment

00:20:50 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ Greg Gianforte Date 05/18/2026
Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ Amanda Kaster Date 05/18/2026
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://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/About/LandBoardMeetingArchive>.*