

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2025 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
Dawnell Fuller, Land Board Secretary

Members Absent

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Testifying Staff

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Ryan Wiess, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
Jessica Hoag, DNRC Recreational Use and Public Access Coordinator
Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet
Related Materials, Attachment 2 – Litigation Update Packet

Call to Order

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

Adopt Proposed Agenda

00:00:42 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve the October agenda. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes

00:01:06 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance moved to approve the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Business Considered:

1025-1 Fish, Wildlife and Parks: Habitat Conservation Leases

00:01:31 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:02:44 Christy Clark, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director
00:06:20 Mike Cuffe, Montana State Senator
00:06:42 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
00:06:54 Mike Cuffe, Montana State Senator

00:06:58 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

00:07:20 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve item 1025-1. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

1025-2 Fish, Wildlife and Parks: MT Great Outdoors Conservation Easement Phase 2

00:07:44 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:09:24 Christy Clark, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Director

00:14:54 Mike Cuffe, Montana State Senator

00:19:14 Jason Callahan, Policy and Communications Manager, Green Diamond

00:22:04 Noel Duram, Lincoln County Commissioner

00:24:15 Jim Simpson, Retired Forester/ Private Citizen

00:29:47 Loyd Parsons, WRH Nevada Properties

00:35:22 Ian Wargo, Private Citizen

00:38:34 Will Israel, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, Executive Director

00:40:01 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

00:41:25 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association, Executive Director

00:51:57 Barry Dexter, Stimson Lumber

00:54:06 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

00:58:20 Brian Thompson, Green Diamond, Attorney

01:01:01 Grant Kier, Missoula Economic Partnership Board, CEO

01:03:49 Kyle Schmauch, Private Citizen

01:09:36 David Weinstein, Trust for Public Land, Norther Rockies Director

01:12:02 Eric Schellon, Green Diamond, Director of Real Asset Sales

01:14:56 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor moved to approve item 1025-2. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance.

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:15:21 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:15:46 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

01:16:56 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:17:10 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:18:02 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:18:50 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:18:53 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:19:55 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

01:21:35 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:21:38 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:21:43 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:21:47 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State

01:22:22 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

01:22:33 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State

01:22:35 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

01:24:04 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State

01:24:42 Peter Scott, Citizens for Balance Use & WRH Nevada Properties, Attorney

01:25:05 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:25:10 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:25:50 Loyd Parsons, WRH Nevada Properties
01:25:57 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
01:26:00 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:26:37 Bill Schenk, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Land and Water Unit Manager
01:27:45 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:27:50 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
01:29:45 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:29:49 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
01:33:00 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:33:33 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
01:33:36 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:33:39 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
01:34:33 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
01:34:37 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
01:41:29 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:41:42 The motion to approve item 1025-2 carried 4-1.

01:41:50 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
01:41:56 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

1025-3 Timber Sales A, B & C

01:42:13 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

01:44:16 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

01:45:30 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 1025-3A, B & C. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

1025-4 Cabin and Homesites: Final Approval for Sale

01:45:55 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

01:46:37 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve item 1025-4. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

1025-5 Easements

01:46:59 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

01:47:41 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve item 1025-5. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

1025-6 Request to Adopt Recreational Use Rule Amendments

01:48:06 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

01:48:56 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

Public Comment:

01:49:10 Raylee Honeycutt, Executive Vice President of the MT Stockgrowers Association

01:49:44 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 1025-6. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:49:55 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:50:12 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

01:50:26 Jessica Hoag, DNRC Recreational Use and Public Access Coordinator

01:50:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:50:55 Jessica Hoag, DNRC Recreational Use and Public Access Coordinator

01:51:31 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:52:09 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:52:35 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:52:50 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

Public Comment:

01:53:25 Jason Gunderson, Private Citizen

01:58:18 The motion to approve item 1025-6 carried unanimously.

1025-7 Request to Approve Outside Legal Counsel

01:58:27 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

01:59:33 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance moved to approve item 1025-7.

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:59:57 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

02:00:11 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

02:00:18 The motion to approve item 1025-7 carried unanimously.

1025-8 Motion To Clarify Water Rights Objection Process

02:00:33 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, Introduced.

02:01:01 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance gave an overview.

Public Comment:

02:02:25 Jocelyn Cahill, Senior Ag Water Rights Alliance (SAWRA)

02:03:22 Raylee Honeycutt, Executive Vice President of the MT Stockgrowers Association

02:03:50 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance moved to approve item 1025-8. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

02:04:08 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:05:05 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
02:05:50 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:06:15 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

02:06:35 The motion to approve item 1025-8 carried unanimously.

1025-9 Informational Item: DNRC Trust Lands Litigation Updates

02:06:50 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

02:07:05 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
02:07:30 Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Board Discussion/Comments:

02:09:00 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:09:30 Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel
02:09:35 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:09:50 Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel
02:10:10 Ryan Wiess, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
02:10:40 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:10:41 Ryan Wiess, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
02:10:45 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
02:10:50 Ryan Wiess, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator

General Public Comment: N/A

Adjournment

02:12:00 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ _____ Date _____
Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ _____ Date _____
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>.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
SIGN-IN SHEET
October 20, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303, HELENA, MT

NAME	AFFILIATION	E-MAIL	Check to be added to the interested parties list.
Sen. Mike Cuffe	Senate Dist 1 Lincoln County	mcuffe@interbel.net	✓
Peter Scott	Citizens for Balanced Use	peter@scott-law.com	✓
Lloyd Parsons	WRIT NP	lloyd@wrh.com.com	✓
Barry Dexter	Stimson Lumber	bdexter@stimson.com	
Lucas Cain	Trust for Publz Land	lucas@cain@tpl.org	
David Weinstein	Trust for Public Land	david.weinstein@tpl.org	
Tyler Madison	Stimson Lumber	tmadison@stimsonlumber.com	✓
IAN WARGO	SPORTSMAN RI FWP Commissioner	ian iwargo@spa-eng.com	
Jason Callahan	Green Diamond	jason.callahan@greendiamond.com	
Eric Schallon	Green Diamond	eschallon@greendiamond.com	✓
Will Israel	MOGA	director@moga.mt.org	✓
BOB PHALEN	Legislator	bobbyphalen@leg.mt.gov	✓
Brian Thompson	Green Diamond	brian@bk64.com	
Wesley Gibbs	Gibbs Ranch	bardramondk@gmail.com	
Rod Gibbs	Rod Gibbs	rlgibbsranch@gmail.com	
Jon Metropoulos	SAWRK	jon@metronerison.com	✓
Asta			
Joelyn Cahill	SAWRA	joelyn@saqramt.com	
MATT VINCENT	MT MINING	MVINCENT@MONTANAMINING.ORG	✓
Bill Schenk	FWP	bschenk@mt.gov	

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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REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
SIGN-IN SHEET
October 20, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303, HELENA, MT

NAME	AFFILIATION	E-MAIL/ADDRESS	Check to be added to the interested parties list.
Ellie Brighton	MT Stockgrowers	ellie@mtall.org	☒
Jason Tolson	MCA	jason@logging.org	☐
Roxlee Honeycutt	MT Stockgrowers		☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
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To: Montana State Board of Land Commissioners
From: Brian C. Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel
Date: October 14, 2025
RE: Litigation Update

This Litigation Update does not include bankruptcy proceedings that include state trust land leases, permits, or land use licenses as an asset of the bankruptcy estate; or administrative hearings/contested case proceedings related to state trust land leases, permits, or land use licenses.

GENERAL LITIGATION

No new cases to report.

Status of cases reported on June 16, 2025:

Williams Family Trust v. DNRC and Hensley

- Montana's First Judicial District, Broadwater County (DDV-2019-14).
- Issue: Judicial review proceeding and breach of contract claim filed by former lessee related to disputed improvement valuation and competitive bid process.
- Current Status: Pretrial discovery related to the contract claim.

River Oxbow Ranch, et. al. v. Montana Land Board, DNRC, et al.

- Montana's Fifteenth Judicial District, Roosevelt County (DV-2021-47).
- Issue: Lawsuit for quiet title seeking to resolve riverbed and island ownership in Roosevelt County and seeking mesne profits for royalties paid to DNRC. Montana Land Board and DNRC filed a counterclaim.
- Current Status: Identifying additional necessary parties for joinder.

McDonnel, et. al. v State, Montana Land Board and DNRC

- Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District, Gallatin County (DV-16-2024).
- Issue: Lawsuit alleging nuisance, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty and seeking permanent injunction filed by multiple landowners located near a trust land parcel used for public shooting.
- Current Status: Pretrial discovery.



Valley Garden Land and Cattle v. DNRC, AM Welles, and Riverside Contracting

- Montana's Fifth Judicial District, Madison County (DV 29-2024-0036).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging asphalt plant on trust land parcel alleging violation of MEPA, §§77-3-201, et seq., public participation, Water Use Act and Montana Constitution.
- Current Status: Pretrial motions and briefing. Litigation is on hold pending the outcome of the gravel pit litigation. A status conference will take place prior to continuing.

Valley Garden Land and Cattle v. DNRC and AM Welles

- Montana's Fifth Judicial District, Madison County (DV 29-2023-0037).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging gravel pit expansion on trust land parcel alleging violation of MEPA, §§77-3-201, et seq., public participation, Water Use Act and Montana Constitution.
- Current Status: Post-trial briefing related to scope of remedies and attorney fees. MEPA review/scoping taking place for a land use license for offsite material storage by AM Welles.

Held, et al. v. State

- Montana Supreme Court (DA 23-0575).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging MEPA exception for GHG, in part, as it relates to trust land leases that directly or indirectly result in increased CO2E. The Montana Supreme Court affirmed and remanded to resolve Plaintiffs' attorney fees claim.
- Current Status: Attorney fees awarded and judgment entered.

WATER COURT LITIGATION

The water right cases listed below include all water right litigation to which the Montana State Board of Land Commissioners (MBLC) is a party. Ownership objections to water rights with point(s) of diversion (POD) on private land and place(s) of use (POU) on state trust land are identified as: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**.

New cases consolidated since June 16, 2025:

CASE 43QJ-0121-R-2025

- Claimant: B&E Pinkerton LLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 30143660 on March 24, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 1 and POU 1 on state trust land. The objection maintains that the state trust land should not be included because there is no water source on the state trust land and requests refinement to remove the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a December 3, 2025, settlement deadline.

CASE 41J-0007-I-2025

- Claimant: Dana Ranch Co. Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: The Water Court consolidated MBLC's objections to Claim Nos. 41J 30135969 and 41J 30136117 on March 10, 2025. Both claims are for livestock direct from source with all PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a January 9, 2026, settlement deadline.

CASE 41J-0008-I-2025

- Claimant: Galt Ranch LP
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41J 30134505 on March 10, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POU 6, POD 6, and the water source located on state trust land.¹ Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with POD 6 and POU 6 on the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a January 9, 2026, settlement deadline.

CASE 41J-0010-I-2025

- Claimant: Sieben Livestock Co.
- Objector: MBLC
- Notice of Intent to Appear: US DOI BLM
- Issue: The Water Court consolidated MBLC's objections to Claim Nos. 41J 30129340, 41J 30129384, and 41J 30129421 on March 10, 2025. All three claims are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs, POUs, and sources located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POUs on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POUs on the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a November 7, 2025, settlement deadline.

CASE 41J-0009-I-2025

- Claimant: Springdale Colony
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41J 30135075 on March 10, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD5, POU 5, and the source located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with POD 5 and POU 5 on the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a February 20, 2026, settlement deadline.

¹ For a livestock direct from source claim, the POU on state trust land is associated with a POD on state trust land. The POD on private land is not associated with the POU on state trust land. When an implied claim is created, the POD and POU for the water right will be entirely located on state trust land. Accordingly, a livestock direct from source objection is not subject to the MBLC motion requiring prior approval because it does not assert a state ownership interest in a water right with a point of diversion on private land and a place of use on state trust land.

CASE 43QJ-0125-R-2025

- Claimant: Kennedy Properties LLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue:
MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 197394-00 on March 24, 2025. **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. The claim is for sprinkler/flood irrigation diverted by pump with a POD off state trust land and one POU on state trust land. The MBLC approved this objection before it was filed.
MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 197424-00 on March 24, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 1, POU 1, and the source located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for POU 1 on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC for POD 1 and POU 1 on the state trust land.
- Current Status: On October 6, 2025, MBLC filed a response to the court's show cause order and a request to set aside default.

CASE 41S-2087-R-2025

- Claimant: Montana Holdings, Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 101545-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for groundwater diverted by a well with the POD and POU on state trust land. MBLC owns Claim No. 41S 21653-00 for this tract of state trust land. Accordingly, the objection seeks to have Claim No. 41S 101545-00 dismissed as redundant. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: A status conference is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

CASE 41S-2088-R-2025

- Claimants: Amanda A. Peck; Robert W. Peck; MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC filed a self-objection to Claim No. 41S 101592-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for sprinkler/flood irrigation diverted by pump. The objection seeks to amend the maximum acres and flow rate for the water right. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: A status conference is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

CASE 41S-2136-R-2025

- Claimant: Stevensons Diamond Dot Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 14310-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for groundwater diverted by well with the POD, POU, and source on state trust land. MBLC Claim No. 41S 21553-00 for this tract of state trust land. Accordingly, the objection seeks to have Claim No. 41S 101545-00 dismissed as redundant. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: A status conference is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

CASE 41S-2127-R-2025

- Claimant: Spring Creek Hutterian Society
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 139550-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for irrigation diverted by headgate POD on private land and POU 9 claims 14 acres of irrigation on state trust land. The objection requests either coownership or creation of an implied claim for POU 9. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: A status conference is scheduled for October 23, 2025.

CASE 41F-0197-R-2025

- Claimant: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC
- Objector: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC; MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41F 45973-00 on August 18, 2023. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 4, POU 4, and the source on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with POD 4 and POD 4 on the state trust land. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a November 5, 2025, settlement deadline.

CASE 41S-2089-R-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: FWP
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 21699-00 on April 17, 2023. FWP seeks co-ownership of water right because place of use extends onto FWP land.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a December 26, 2025, settlement deadline.

CASE 43QJ-0250-R-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC filed a self-objection to Claim Nos. 43QJ 47490-00 and 43QJ 30106803 on March 24, 2025. The objections ask the Water Court to correct legal land description errors.
- Current Status: The Water Court has not yet issued any orders in this case.

CASE 41F-0202-R-2025

- Claimants: Peter McDermott; Montana State Board of Land Commissioners - Forestry and Trust Lands Division; Sean P. Lang 2009 Irrevocable Trust
- Objectors: United States of America DOI Bureau of Reclamation; Peter McDermott; Howard Blakely; Yolanda Blakely; John P. Zuelke; John P. Scully.
- Issue: The MBLC is currently a co-owner of Claim Nos. 41F 132840-00, 41F 132841-00, and 41F 132842-00. BOR objected maintaining the water rights were not perfected or have been abandoned.
- Current Status: The Water Court recently set a January 16, 2026, settlement deadline. This matter has been stayed due to the federal shutdown.

Status of cases reported on June 16, 2025:

CASE 40O-0001-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objectors: MBLC; US BIA; US BLM
- NOIA: Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 40O 30136580, which is a livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties currently have a October 20, 2025, settlement agreement deadline. This matter has been stayed due to the federal shutdown.

CASE 40O-0061-I-2024

- Claimant: Antelope Ranch Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30134608 and 40O 30134611 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties have a November 21, 2025, settlement agreement deadline.

CASE 40O-0082-I-2024

- Claimant: Cornwell Ranch
- Objectors: MBLC; US BLM
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30135293, 40O 30136082, 40O 30136084, 40O 30137032, 40O 30137036, 40O 30137766, and 40O 30137772 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties have a November 13, 2025, settlement agreement deadline. This matter has been stayed due to the federal shutdown.

CASE 41E-0200-R-2024

- Claimants: DPHHS; MBLC; Lori Norby; Anita and Edward McCauley; North Fork Trust
- Objectors: Edward K. McCauley; Anita L. McCauley; BLM
- Counterobjectors: Lori Norby; Pallister Joint Living Trust
- NOIA: Colette M. Lemieux
- Issue: Claim Nos. 41E 27437, 41E 27438, 41E 30884, 41E 93869, and 41E 94068 contain DNRC issue remarks questioning the type of historical right, priority date, and flow rate, among other issue remarks. MBLC is listed as co-owner of 41E 27438.
- Current Status: This case was placed on a hearing track on May 15, 2025. MBLC disclosed initial witness and exhibit lists on October 3, 2025. This matter has been stayed due to the federal shutdown.

CASE 41K-0029-R-2023

- Claimant: Broken O Land & Livestock
- Objectors: Broken O Land & Livestock; US BLM; MBLC
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land).** MBLC objected to Nos. 41K 96112, 41K 187156, 41K 187157, and 41K 30103793 (flood/ditch/sprinkler irrigation) based on POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: This matter has been stayed due to the federal shutdown.

CASE 40A-0363-R-2022

- Claimant: McFarland White Ranch Inc.; MBLC
- Objector: McFarland White Ranch Inc.; MBLC
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40A 211602 and 40A 211604 (surface water flood irrigation via ditch) filed by McFarland White Ranch Inc. with a POU on state trust land. McFarland White Ranch Inc. objected to MBLC being listed as co-owner on Claim Nos. 40A 30002022 and 40A 110020 (sprinkler irrigation) with a POU on state trust land.
- Current status: In 2022, MacFarland White Ranch Inc. filed a motion and statement agreeing that MBLC is co-owner of all four rights. Issues unrelated to state ownership are still being resolved.

CASE 41S-0071-R-2024

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: Self-objection to resolve issue remarks on Claim Nos. 41S 18155-00, 41S 18200-00, 41S 21653-00, 41S 42853-00, 41S 47789-00, 41S 47811-00, 41S 47835-00, 41S 47843-00, 41S 47850-00, 41S 101593-00, 41S 101594-00, 41S 112271-00, 41S 215296-00, and 41S 30029050.
- Current Status: MBLC filed verified motions to amend the claims to resolve these self-objections on January 6, 2025, and is waiting on court approval.

CASE 43P-0009-I-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: Sunlight Ranch Co.
- Issue: Sunlight Ranch Co. objected to Claim Nos. 43P 30112161 based on a scrivener's error in the location of the POD/POU.
- Current Status: The parties filed a settlement agreement addressing clerical errors on March 10, 2025, and was approved by the Water Court on June 9, 2025.

CASE 41M-0011-I-2024

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objectors: Blackfeet Tribe, US Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Issue: Claim Nos. 41M 30109682 and 41M 301109683 pertain to water that is in a section that is partly owned by the State and partly by the Tribe. The tribe objected to all elements and ownership of MBLC's claim.
- Current Status: The parties filed a settlement agreement to remove that portion of the place of use located on Tribal land on May 5, 2025 and are waiting on court approval.

CASE 40O-0070-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30136576, 40O 30136588, and 40O 30163348 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.

- Current Status: The parties are awaiting Water Court approval of an agreement creating an implied water right owned by MBLC for the portion of Claim 40O 30136579 appurtenant to state trust land and naming MBLC as the owner of 40O 30136588 and 40O 30136648, for which the POU and POD are on state trust land.

CASE 40O-0071-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objectors: MBLC; US BLM
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30136577 and 40O 30136625 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties are awaiting Water Court approval of an agreement creating an implied water rights owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim 40O 30136625 and 40O 30136577 appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 40O-0080-I-2024

- Claimant: Cornwell Ranch
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30136085 and 40O 30137029 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties are awaiting Water Court approval of an agreement creating an implied water rights owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim 40O 30136085 and 40O 30137029 appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 41F-0133-R-2025

- Claimants: HRMT Land LLC; MBLC
- Issue: MBLC Claim No. 41F 30106559 and HRMT Land LLC Claim No. 41F 30114717 (stock watering) contain a DNRC issue remarks regarding potential overlap of the POUs.
- Current Status: The parties are awaiting Water Court approval of the Master's Report approving a settlement agreement pursuant to which MBLC will file a statement of non-interest on the HRMT Land LLC claim because MBLC already has a water right for the POU.

CASE 41I-0151-R-2025

- Claimant: Galzagorry
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: Galzagorry Inc. Claim No. 41I 30132306 (stock watering) contains a DNRC issue remark regarding location of the POUs on both state trust land and private land. The POD for this claim is on state trust land.
- Current Status: The parties entered a stipulation creating an implied water rights owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim 41I 30132306 appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 40A-0375-R-2022

- Claimant: 71 Ranch LP
- Objectors: 71 Ranch LP; MBLC
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land).** MBLC objected to Claim No. 40A 205645 based on POUs on state trust lands.

- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court approved the stipulation entered by the parties and removed the state trust land from the POU for Claim 40A 205645-00.

CASE 41F-0173-R-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Issue: Claim No. 41F 214429-00 contains a DNRC issue remark regarding the name of the source.
- Current Status: Closed. Water Court approved the statement of agreement on the name of the ditch in question as the Buford Ditch.

CASE 41I-1053-R-2025

- Claimant: North Bridger Mountain Land and Cattle Company LLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41I 190751-00, which is a livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: Closed. Water Court approved settlement agreement creating an implied water right owned by MBLC for the portion of the water right appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 41K-0310-R-2021

- Claimants: MBLC; Blenton Ranch Co.
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. Claim Nos. 41K 11389, 41K 35197, and 41K 160385 (flood irrigation via headgate) contain DNRC issue remarks regarding the type of historical right, priority date, and flow rate.
- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court approved a settlement agreement regarding the priority date and creating an implied water right owned by MBLC for the portion of the water right appurtenant to state trust land.