

BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS MEETING: MINUTES
December 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Supreme Court Chambers, Mazurek Justice Building
Helena, MT

Members Present

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
Troy Downing, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Members Absent

None

Testifying Staff

Brian Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel
Shawn Thomas, Forestry and Trust Lands Division (FTLD) Administrator

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – sign-in sheet

Call to Order

00:00:05 Governor Gianforte called the meeting to order.
00:00:25 Commissioner Downing moved to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Knudsen and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

1223-1 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY: PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR BUILDING SALE

00:00:55 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment

00:04:00 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry

00:05:10 Commissioner Downing moved to approve item 1223-1.

Board Discussion/Comments

00:05:20 Commissioner Downing
00:05:51 Shawn Thomas, FTLD Administrator
00:06:25 Attorney General Knudsen
00:06:40 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry
00:07:10 Secretary of State Jacobsen
00:07:20 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry
00:08:30 Erin Weisgerber, Division Administrator of Department of Labor and Industry

00:08:55 The motion to approve item 1223-1 carried unanimously.

1223-2 OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE: NOV. 26 – DEC. 5, 2023

00:09:05 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

00:10:05 Attorney General Knudsen moved to approve item 1223-2. The motion was seconded by Secretary of State Jacobsen and carried 5-0.

1223-3 CABIN AND HOME SITES: SET MINIMUM BID FOR SALE

A. Flathead County

B. Lewis and Clark County

00:10:45 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

00:11:50 Secretary of State Jacobsen moved to approve item 1223-3. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Knudsen and carried 4-1 with opposition from Commissioner Downing.

1223-4 EASEMENTS: STANDARD GRANT

00:12:10 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

00:12:55 Commissioner Downing moved to approve item 1223-4. The motion was seconded by Secretary of State Jacobsen and carried 5-0.

1223-5 CONSERVATION EASEMENT: Owen Sowerwine

00:13:15 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment

00:15:35 Paul Travis, Executive Director of Flathead Land Trust

00:18:05 Gael Bissell, Member of the Board of Directors of Montana and Flathead Audubon

00:20:35 Pam Willison, Officer for Flathead Audubon, and Chair of Owen Sowerwine Committee

00:22:40 Larry Berrin, Executive Director of Montana Audubon

00:23:25 Marcus Strange, Montana Association of Land Trust

00:23:45 Commissioner Downing moved to approve item 1223-5.

Board Discussion/Comments

00:24:00 Attorney General Knudsen

00:24:30 The motion to approve item 1223-5 carried unanimously.

1223-6 BIENNIAL CABIN LEASE RATE REVIEW: OCT. 2021 – OCT. 2023

00:24:40 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

00:25:35 Secretary of State moved to approve item 1223-6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Downing and carried 5-0.

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.

1223-7 INFORMATIONAL ITEM: FY24 REAL ESTATE PROJECT LIST

00:26:00 Mr. Bramblett gave an overview of the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

00:27:20 Jon Metropoulos, Attorney and Lobbyist

Adjournment

00:32:55 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ Greg Gianforte
Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ Amanda Kaster
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. 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.*

BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS MEETING: SIGN-IN SHEET
December 18, 2023, at 9:00 am
Supreme Court Chambers, Mazurek Justice Building
Helena, MT

NAME	AFFILIATION	E-MAIL	Check to be added to the Interested Parties List
Jon Metropoulos	RMSEA	jon@metropouloslaw.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marcus Straney	MT Land Trust Association	marcos@montanalandtrusts.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pam Travis	Flathead Land Trust	pstravis@flatheadlandtrust.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gael Bissell	Flathead Audubon Soc.	gbissell gael@flatheadaudubon.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pam Willison	Flathead Audubon Soc	pam@flatheadaudubon.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Katzman	Flathead Land Trust	lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARL DELKIES		CARL@B-Rockboyz.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Swann	DLI	Sarah.Swann@mt.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erin Weisgerber	DLI	eweisgerber@mt.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
JoAnn Berrin	DLI	joeberrin@mt.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Berrin	MT Audubon	lberrin@mtaudubon.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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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