

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2026 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
Brenda Johnson, Land Board Secretary

Members Absent

None

Testifying Staff

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet
Related Materials, Attachment 2 – Charitable Gift Agreement – Notice of Corrections
Related Materials, Attachment 3 – Opposition to Lincoln shooting range

Call to Order

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

Adopt Proposed Agenda

00:00:51 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve the May agenda. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes

00:01:09 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance moved to approve May, minutes. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

0626-1 Department of Labor: Final Approval for Building Sale

00:01:24 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:02:01 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-1. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:02:12 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:02:23 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industries
00:02:35 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:02:56 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industries
00:03:13 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:03:31 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industries
00:05:27 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:05:43 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industries
00:05:53 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:07:37 Greg Gianforte, Governor

00:08:02 The motion to approve item 0626-1 carried 4-1.

0626-2 Department of Administration: Land Donation

00:08:31 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, introduced agenda item 0626-2.
00:09:21 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:11:40 Don Harris, Attorney, Department of Administration

00:13:58 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

Public Comment:

00:14:17 Mary Ann Dunwell, State Senator, for House District 42

00:17:55 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-2. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:18:13 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:18:41 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:18:48 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:19:00 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:19:40 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:19:59 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:20:05 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:20:19 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:21:04 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:21:19 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:21:40 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:21:58 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:22:02 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:22:09 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:22:12 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:22:28 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:22:30 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:22:33 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration

00:22:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:22:46 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:23:26 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:23:55 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:24:11 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:24:53 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:24:54 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:24:55 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
00:25:04 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:25:23 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
00:25:44 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:26:00 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:27:14 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

00:29:57 The motion to approve item 0626-2 carried 4-0. Abstained 1.

0626-3 Department of Corrections: Land Exchange Final Approval

00:30:10 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:30:55 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-3. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0626-4 Timber Sales: Comers Butte

00:31:17 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:32:20 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-4. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0626-5 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

00:32:40 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:34:07 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-5. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:34:16 Greg Gianforte, Governor
00:34:28 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

00:34:32 The motion to approve item 0626-5 carried unanimously.

0626-6 Commercial Lease: Template Draft

00:34:45 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:35:40 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-6. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:35:44 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

00:37:10 Greg Gianforte, Governor

00:37:33 The motion to approve item 0626-6 carried unanimously.

0626-7 Land Exchange: Preliminary Approval for Fitch Inc. Land Exchange

00:37:36 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:38:50 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation

00:40:48 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-7. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0626-8 Easements

00:41:09 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:41:58 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-8. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0626-9 Approval to File Objections on Water Rights (executive session)

00:42:19 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

The Land Board assembled into executive session at 9:47 A.M. pursuant to MCA 2-3-203(4), to discuss litigation strategy. The public portion of the meeting resumed at 9:54 A.M.

00:43:30 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0626-9. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and carried 4-1.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0626-10 Lincoln Shooting Range

00:43:52 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:46:13 Gary Marbut, President, Montana Shooting Sports Association
00:48:47 Ken Conrad, Private Citizen
00:49:04 Brian Patzer, President, Lincoln Sportsman Club
00:51:58 Greg Hendrix, Lessee
00:53:56 Jeremy Prather, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
00:56:41 Scott Skerlock, Vice President, Lincoln Sportsman Club
00:58:24 Bill Yaeger, Treasure, Lincoln Sportsman Club
00:59:52 Brian Jennings, Secretary, Lincoln Sportsman Club
01:01:33 Melissa Youderian, Private Citizen
01:04:35 Tim Sowa, Member, Lincoln Sportsman Club
01:05:53 Nancy Robinson, Private Citizen
01:07:10 Kevin Forkan, Member, Lincoln Sportsman Club
01:13:18 Mark Landguth, Private Citizen
01:17:19 Erin Landguth, Private Citizen
01:20:59 Kelley Patzer, Private Citizen
01:23:26 John Herrin, Private Citizen
01:25:43 Leo Dutton, Private Citizen
01:27:36 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation
01:29:06 Bob Keisling, Private Citizen

01:31:52 Greg Gianforte, Governor, made a motion to table item 0626-10. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:32:32 Greg Gianforte, Governor
01:32:56 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
01:33:09 Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
01:34:06 Greg Gianforte, Governor
01:34:34 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
01:34:53 Greg Gianforte, Governor
01:35:00 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
01:36:28 Greg Gianforte, Governor
01:36:32 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
01:37:14 Greg Gianforte, Governor
01:37:19 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
01:38:23 Greg Gianforte, Governor

01:38:34 The motion to table item 0626-10 carried unanimously

General Public Comment

01:38:53 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation
01:41:50 John Herrin, Private Citizen
01:42:19 Lacy Nickol, Private Citizen
01:49:27 Greg Gianforte, Governor

01:50:00 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. made motion for DNRC to put Land Banking activities on the July agenda. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, carried unanimously.

Adjournment

01:50:57 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ Greg Gianforte Date 07/20/2026

Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ Amanda Kaster Date 07/20/2026

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>.*