

Trust Lands Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 15, 2020

Members participating: Nancy Kennedy, Cade Douglas, Susan Edwards, Carolyn White, Jay Blain, Sarah Thomas, Shawn McLeod, Lark Reynolds, Linda Hansen, Liz Mumford, Mary Wohlforth, Steve Davis

Members not participating: Tyler Slack

USBE Staff: Paula Plant, Ben Rasmussen, Scott Jones, Natalie Gordon and Karen Rupp

Others: Dawn Davies, Utah PTA; Justin Atwater and Jessie Stuart, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office.

Nancy Kennedy welcomed the committee at 12:00. Susan Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020. The motion was seconded by Carolyn White. The motion passed unanimously.

Justin Atwater provided the committee with a report from the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office (LTPAO). The SITLA Board of Trustees has appointed Louis Cononelos to replace Tom Bachtell on the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Committee. The SITLA Nominating Committee has completed the process to replace outgoing Board of Trustees member Lonnie Bullard. Two names have been submitted to the governor. When the governor has announced the decision, the appointee must be confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Bullard will continue to serve until he is replaced. The SITLA Board will elect officers in the July meeting. The SITLA Board of Trustees is planning a tour of the Intermountain Power Plant near Delta for their July meeting. Carolyn White informed Justin and the committee that the Five County Steering Committee, made up of representatives from Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties, will be inviting a representative from SITLA to attend the August 19th meeting in Panguitch to discuss issues the committee has with current land management. Most recently, the steering committee has been upset about the recent lease of property outside Kanab to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary because access and use may be lost to others.

Paula Plant informed the committee that the Utah State Board of Education officially changed the name of the committee to Trust Lands Advisory Committee in their June meeting, and the committee will move forward with the new name.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The committee unanimously decided on a meeting schedule for 2020-2021. The committee will meet on the third Monday of each month (excluding February and July) except as noticed below.

- August 17
- September 21
- October 26 (to avoid Fall Break)
- November 16
- December 21
- January 11 (to avoid MLK Day)
- March 15
- April 26 (to avoid USSA/UASBO meeting)
- May 17
- June 21

Cade Douglas updated the committee on education budget cut scenarios that are possible in the upcoming special session of the Utah Legislature. The USBE School Children's Trust Section is anticipating amendments to School LAND Trust plans to offset cuts.

Paula Plant led a discussion on an orientation to the school trust and the School LAND Trust program for incoming members of the Utah State Board of Education. It was suggested that the orientation include the role of the LTPAO, discusses the trust from the beginning including the land and fund, mentions the School Children's Trust section staff, and discusses ongoing compliance issues and what is expected of individual schools and LEAs in the program. Nancy suggested staff create an additional training/orientation for local school boards. It was decided that staff would create an outline, slide deck and voice over PowerPoint and that incoming state board members could receive the information in person and individual LEAs could use a mixture of provided tools as needed. Nancy would like to see this information as part of the USBA MBA program. Karen Rupp is preparing a PowerPoint for new charter schools.

The Committee discussed an outline of changes to the code creating the School LAND Trust program that may be necessary in the 2021 General Session of the Utah Legislature. These would be simple changes to align the code with the new programming and current practice. A formal vote was not taken, however, the committee agreed to the following changes to the code. Other changes will be made in Board Rule after the 2021 Legislative Session

- Updating dates for final reporting and expenditure entry to match programming
- Changing some references to the School LAND Trust program to correctly identify the School Children's Trust section.

Nancy Kennedy noted that she had received an email from Principal Kip Motta, thanking the committee for considering his concerns and allowing more flexibility with the funds.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17th as a WebEx. The meeting may be changed to an in-person meeting if health department guidelines allow.

No meeting is scheduled in July, but the chair could call an emergency meeting if there are any items that need to be immediately addressed after the upcoming legislative special session.

Staff informed the committee that two districts (Salt Lake and Morgan) and 4 charter schools chose to delay submitting the upcoming year School LAND Trust plan until fall.

The committee adjourned at 1:51.