

Chairman Louie Conanelos  
Director Kevin Carter

**Board of Trustees  
School & Institutional Trust Lands Administration  
Marriott TownePlace Suites, Vernal, Utah**

**September 16, 2015**

**Minutes**

**Attending:**

**Board**

Louie Conanelos  
Jim Lekas  
Tom Bachtell  
Lonnie Bullard  
Scott Ruppe  
Roger Barrus

**Staff**

Kevin Carter  
Kim Christy  
LaVonne Garrison  
Tom Faddies  
John Andrews  
Rodger Mitchell  
Ron Carlson  
Lisa Schneider  
Deena Loyola  
Ron Barton  
Jeff Roe  
Becky Pritchett  
Ed Bonner  
Jerry Mansfield  
Stephanie Barber-Renteria  
Nannette Johnson

**Others in Attendance:**

Tim Donaldson, Utah State Office of Education  
Mike McKee, Uintah County Commissioner  
Lionel Trepanier, Utah Tar Sands Resistance  
Raphael Cordray, Utah Tar Sands Resistance  
Melanie Martin, Utah Tar Sands Resistance

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**1. Welcome**

Chairman Conanelos welcomed attendees and excused Board Member Mike Mower who was not able to attend.

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of August 20 and noted a change to the list of attendees.

“I make the motion to approve minutes of August 20 with the change noted.”

Motion: Bachtell/Bullard Unanimous

Roll Call:

Louie Conanelos – yes	James Lekas – yes	Tom Bachtell – yes
Scott Ruppe – yes	Lonnie Bullard – yes	Roger Barrus – yes

**3. Confirmation of Upcoming Meeting Dates**

October 22	Salt Lake City
November 19	Salt Lake City

**4. County Advisory Committee and Public Comment Period**

Lionel Trepanier, Utah Tar Sands Resistance, spoke to the Board to express the organization’s opposition to strip mining for tar sands due to concerns for climate change implications. He expressed concern for the race to get carbon out of the ground. He urged the Board and SITLA to look at other strategies to preserve land for our children.

Raphael Cordray spoke to the Board to ask them to consider the damage to families through the impact discovered, after the fact, which is demonstrated through infant mortality and increased illness tied to exposure to chemicals in areas where strip mining exists. She also said uranium exists where tar sands are located. She asked the Board not to proceed in these ways to make money for kids.

**5. Consent Calendar**

**Consent**

There were no consent items for the September calendar

**Notification**

- a. Notice of Sale, Sun River 29.4 Acre Commercial Parcel
- b. Minor Transaction: Notice of Land Sale, Midland Drive Industrial Parcel, Ogden
- c. Minor Transaction: Notice of Sale Richfield Industrial Lots

There were no questions or requests for clarification on the notifications.

**Follow-up after Six Months**

- d. Adoption of Grazing Assessments for the 2015-2016 Grazing Season Consent Request
- e. Request for Extension to Perform Work
- f. Eagle Mountain Mid-Valley Parcel – Proposal

There were no questions or requests for clarification on the follow-up items.

## **6. Chair's Report**

### **a. Beneficiary Report: Presentation of the Annual Report**

Mr. Donaldson provided a copy of the Trust's Annual Report. He discussed risk and return on investments in the future and a need for consistent and stable revenue streams. He said it may be a good idea to look at setting up a finance committee separate and different from the audit committee. He discussed a need for regular reviews to assess activities. The assessment would assure the activities are the right ones and that they are significant and fill a crucial function.

Chairman Connelos asked Mr. Donaldson to review the role of the Community Council at the schools. Mr. Donaldson explained that parents on the council are elected, then they along with teachers join with the school's principal to form a community council. The program is designed to create a grassroots level of understanding at the school, to give parents a voice, and create public awareness of the Trust.

Chairman Connelos asked if guidelines and rules identify what is considered an acceptable expenditure and what is not. Mr. Donaldson indicated that guidelines generally define use of funds for academic purposes and not for nutrition or aesthetics, which are financially supported through other programs.

Roger Barrus asked if there are checks and balances to assure funds are properly used. Mr. Donaldson indicated the oversight depends on each school with parents involved who are willing to stand up for the benefit of academic needs. Unless parents take an active role, the school administration may subvert use of the funds for teacher and administration preferences.

Tom Bachtell asked if there is ever money that is not used by the schools that is returned to the fund. Mr. Donaldson said, all the dividends and interest are used; however, distribution is limited by statute. There is legislation pending to increase the percentage of the annual school budget that can come from the Trust Fund to four percent.

Director Carter referred to the budget discussion at the last meeting where the Board approved the pursuit of a legislative change for reporting spending to the new Trust Fund Office. Director Carter met with Mr. Madsen from the School and Institutional Trust Fund Office and discussed an MOU rather than statutory obligation for reporting so that changes to the MOU can adapt the reporting as needed, rather than require legislative changes for reporting modifications.

Chairman Connelos asked when the funding cap change would appear on the ballot if the legislature supports a change. Mr. Donaldson said the option to change the cap would likely be on the November 2016 ballot.

Mr. Bullard asked if videos for education of teachers and parents are still available to assure that those who spend the funds understand about Trust assets to earn money for the schools.

Mr. Donaldson spoke of how impressed he is with Ms. Deena Loyola and the SITLA External Relations group for the work they accomplish to increase awareness among schools and the public. Mr. Donaldson reviewed experiences he and others have while visiting schools to talk to students and teachers about how the programs, funded by the Trust, have influenced students' education and preparation for the future.

**7. Director’s Report**

a. Director Carter reviewed the discussions from the Board tour the day before regarding the Vernal Truck Traffic Route. The route allows traffic to go around town. Several spoke in opposition at a recent County meeting because the route would divert customers away from businesses in Vernal and impede bike trails.

An MOU for 40 miles of trails that impact five sections allows for trail use and does not require any maintenance. The agreement has a 30-day cancellation option and does not prevent other uses.

By allowing the current use, an expectation has evolved in the minds of the users that the trails would always be available for their use. Director Carter asked the Board if they would like the Administration to pursue an action different from what is currently taking place.

Scott Ruppe asked Commissioner McKee if the consideration and awareness was ever shared to help people understand the land use could be retracted at any time. Commissioner McKee indicated that the general understanding is that the lands are public lands and will always be available.

Chairman Cononelos noted that there are a variety of opinions on the issues. The issues need a thorough study prior to action or any decisions. The Chairman suggested a committee be created from the Surface and Minerals subcommittee to conduct the study.

The remainder of the meeting was conducted in closed session.

“I make the motion we go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, pending litigation, and potential real estate purchases or exchanges.”

Motion:	Lekas/Bullard	Unanimous
Roll Call:		
Louie Cononelos – yes	James Lekas – yes	Tom Bachtell – yes
Scott Ruppe – yes	Lonnie Bullard – yes	Roger Barrus – yes

Present for closed session were the six Board members, Director Carter, Kim Christy, John Andrews, LaVonne Garrison, Lisa Schneider, Ron Carlson, Tom Faddies, Roger Mitchell and Nannette Johnson. Everyone was dismissed for the recruitment discussion except Board members and Director Carter.

Mr. Ruppe did not take part in the personnel/recruitment discussions.

- b. Recruitment**
- c. Litigation Update**
- d. Exchange Update**

The Board returned to open session and adjourned the meeting.  
“I make the motion we return to open session to adjourn the meeting.”

Motion:	Barrus/Ruppe	Unanimous
Roll Call:		
Louie Cononelos – yes	James Lekas – yes	Tom Bachtell – yes
Scott Ruppe – yes	Lonnie Bullard – yes	Roger Barrus – yes

**Adjourn**