

LAND ACQUISITION SUBCOMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular** meeting of the Land Acquisition Subcommittee (LAS) was held at the Washington County Administration Building on **August 26, 2026.**

Committee members present were:

Gregg McArthur	TLA, Chair
Jason West	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Jessica Kinross	Utah Dept. of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Danielle Costantini (for George Weekley)	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Kelley Hart	Nature Conservancy
Morgan Drake (for Zach Renstrom)	Wash Co Water Conservancy District (WCWCD), Vice Chair

Committee members excused were:

None

Also present were:

Cameron Rognan	HCP Administrator
Randee Sanders	Washington County HCP Executive Assistant
Devin Snow	Washington County Attorney
Jolene Rose	Utah Dept. of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gregg McArthur called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m., noting that a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

a. Approval of Agenda

b. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

1. February 25, 2026

MOTION by: Jason West

Seconded by: Danielle Costantini

Discussion: To approve the meeting minutes.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

c. Next Meeting Date

1. Oct 28 or Dec 23, 2026

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Review current Reserve inholdings

The committee reviewed current reserve inholdings and acquisition priorities. Cameron presented the current map (see exhibit 4a) and explained that the remaining highest-priority privately held parcels include approximately 70 acres owned by James Doyle, approximately 40 acres in the Sullivan parcel, approximately 85 acres owned by the Washington County Water Conservancy District, and the 40-acre Bloxham parcel in Zone 6. The Bloxham's remain unwilling sellers, although Cameron will continue maintaining contact in case their position changes. State trust lands remain the largest remaining inholding, totaling nearly 10,000 acres across the reserve zones.

b. Completion of Section 6 land exchange

The committee received an update on the completion of the Section 6 land exchange. Cameron explained that approximately 450 acres formerly held by Washington County in Zone 6 are now owned and managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). The transaction was completed several months earlier through a three-way exchange and donation involving the County, UDOT, and the State of Utah. As part of the transaction, approximately 46-47 acres within the Northern Corridor right-of-way were transferred out of UDWR ownership.

c. Status of LWCF applications and acquisition efforts

The committee then discussed the status of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications and acquisition efforts, particularly the proposed acquisition of the Doyle parcel. Jason reported that the appraisal for the approximately 69-acre Doyle property had been completed and that BLM's offer, based on the approved appraisal, had been submitted to Mr. Doyle and his attorneys. The offer is for the full appraised value, although available funds are currently insufficient to complete the acquisition. Mr. Doyle was given until September 3, 2026, to accept the offer. If he accepts, BLM intends to seek additional emergency LWCF funding and proceed with acquisition and closing activities. If the offer is

declined, BLM will reassess whether to pursue the Doyle acquisition or redirect efforts toward other land-tenure priorities. Jason noted that no negotiation is occurring because BLM is limited to paying the appraised value. Cameron offered to provide updated support letters or make additional contacts if needed. Jason indicated that the existing letters are currently sufficient, but the County can assist on short notice if additional support becomes necessary.

d. Section 6 Grant update for FY25

The committee received an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 6 grant application. Jolene Rose reported that the HCP had been awarded the full \$6.5 million requested, with grant funds available through January 2029. Cameron explained that the intended acquisition is the approximately 40-acre Sullivan parcel and that the ultimate number of acres acquired will depend on the appraisal. Successful completion of the Sullivan and Doyle acquisitions could eliminate two of the remaining priority private inholdings.

The committee recognized the full grant award as a significant achievement. Danielle noted that relatively few applications were submitted during the funding cycle, which contributed to the favorable outcome.

Cameron asked whether another Section 6 grant application would be entertained while the current grant remains active. Jolene indicated that another application could potentially be pursued, particularly given the lengthy processing time for the current award.

Morgan will discuss with Zach Renstrom whether the Water Conservancy District would prefer an exchange strategy or be willing to participate as a potential recipient of another grant. Gregg explained that TLA is currently evaluating exchange opportunities and expects to know within approximately the next year whether an exchange strategy will be successful. He also noted that, if an exchange does not work, TLA could potentially consider selling portions of its substantial land holdings. Jason was in favor of a potential exchange between the Water Conservancy District and TLA.

Danielle clarified that the current Notice of Funding Opportunity closes October 30, 2026, substantially earlier than some committee members had initially speculated. Cameron stated that the previous application could largely be updated with current parcel information and data, making the deadline achievable. Danielle requested that any proposed application be routed to the Fish and Wildlife Service regional office before submission so they can review it and help strengthen the application.

Cameron agreed. 40 acres, would likely represent the largest parcel that could be pursued through this particular grant effort.

The committee also discussed The Nature Conservancy's previously committed \$100,000 contribution toward the HCP acquisition effort. Kelley confirmed that the funds remain reserved in the organization's current budget and that The Nature Conservancy is prepared to provide them. It typically takes The Nature Conservancy about two weeks for processing. Jolene agreed to serve as Kelley's point of contact and will confirm the appropriate process for transferring the funds.

e. Other updates on exchanges/acquisitions

None.

5. MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

None.

6. ADJOURN

MOTION by: Jessican Kinross
Seconded by: Jason West
Discussion: To adjourn the meeting.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:21 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Randee Sanders.