

Board Governance and Composition Policy

Utah Open Lands' Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility for its operations and fiscal management. Board responsibilities include oversight of finances, fundraising, administration, programs, Executive Director management, long-range planning, and public relations. The board sets the mission and strategic direction of the organization and establishes the governing policies that guide its work.

The tasks involved in board service focus on setting overall policy, financial management and oversight of the executive staff. For purposes of expedience, the Board delegates some of their functions and work to established committees. The Board understands and meets its basic responsibilities, provides a firm foundation for the organization, builds public confidence, paves the way for financial success and is able to focus on accomplishing UOL's land conservation mission. A strong and informed board leads to a strong and effective organization.

Utah Open Lands (UOL) provides board members with clear expectations for their service and informs them about the Board's legal and fiduciary responsibilities. Copy of *Board Responsibilities* is given to each new/prospective board member in their *Board Book* which contains all pertinent documents, policies and procedures. The board meets regularly enough to conduct its business and fulfill its duties. Board members are provided with adequate information to make good decisions.

In order to minimize conflicts of interest (see UOL's Conflict of Interest Policy), qualify the organization for tax-exempt status, provide credibility in the community, and ensure effective operations, the UOL's Board of Directors needs to be of a sufficient size to conduct its work effectively. Board members attend a majority of meetings and stay informed about the land trust's mission, goals, programs and achievements.

The board also needs to be composed of members with diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences who are committed to board service.

To that end, the board has a nominating committee that meets annually to create a plan for the year ahead to: 1) recruit new board members, 2) designing training literature and activities, 3) and evaluates and assesses its current board members.