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**Trunkline** is published four times each year as a membership benefit to inform UNLA members of the opportunities and actions of the association and its members.

> Send submissions to: Trunkline c/o UNLA Office PO Box 1073 Riverton, UT 84065-1073 Phone 801-424-9223

INTERNET RESOURCES UNLA www.utahgreen.org

# **President's Message**



UNLA President 2023

ference in January and it was wonderful to meet many of

**MEMBERS!** 

e had a

**HELLO** 

UNLA

you. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the UNLA president for the next two years. Many of you asked me what in the world I am doing as an attorney and a member of UNLA, so I'd like to quickly introduce myself, then I will briefly explain a few of the great things UNLA is working on and how I plan to serve as UNLA's president.

# My Background

I began my career in the green industry by attending Utah State University where I graduated from the LAEP department in 2005 with a landscape architecture degree. I fondly remember strolling around for Craig Aston's woody plants class trying to identify virtually every tree and shrub on campus. To this day, I still find myself noticing trees or shrubs and testing my recollection of their scientific and common names. After graduating, I worked as a landscape architect at CLC Associates in Salt Lake City for about four years where I assisted with CLC's consulting services for retail commercial development. Undoubtedly some of you may have read from or installed projects from landscape or irrigation drawings that I had my hand in. From CLC, I spent about one year at a transportation planning and engineering firm named Parsons Brinkerhoff. I then left there to attend law school at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. After graduating law school in 2013, my legal practice has been entirely in the construction, design, and real estate industry where I represent virtually any

type of business or individual related to the construction industry, including many landscape contractors and suppliers, which brings me to UNLA. I retain a fondness for the green industry and I have tried to keep myself involved with my early career, including by serving with what I see as UNLA's sister association, ASLA. I hope to continue my involvement in the green industry for many years to come!

# UNLA's Efforts

UNLA is headed in a great direction. We are very excited to have our executive director, Meeja Fortie leading the day-today happenings of the association. And we're also grateful to have our excellent Member Services Coordinator, Paige Woodruff, assisting Meeja and the rest of UNLA's leadership. These two women are excellent and have my full trust and support. We're lucky to have them as an Association.

Meeja, Paige, and the entire UNLA leadership have been hard at work trying to make the association as beneficial to you and the industry as we can. Here is a quick list of some of the items we're working on:

- Continuing improvements to the Green Conference including improvements to the trade show, education classes, networking opportunities, and promotion of the association and industry.
- Facilitating opportunities and networking for women in the green industry.
- Working to improve UNLA's involvement in legislative and rule-making decisions that impact the green industry.
- Working to provide more education and certification opportunities.

As president, my goal is to continue UNLA in the positive direction it has been headed recently. I hope to increase the benefits to you as members and help you

(continued on page 4)

## President's Message (continued from page 3)

clearly understand and be able to answer the question "What does the UNLA do for me?" As part of that goal, I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me via email at *jsundloff@kmclaw.com*. or via phone at 801-589-8194 for any reason related to UNLA. I am all ears to hear your suggestions, ideas, comments, and criticisms. I can promise you an open mind and a listening ear. I'm sure we have great wisdom and experience among our members and I want to tap into the best of all of it.

I am looking forward to a successful and rewarding two year as president. And I'm happy to be serving in such an important industry among such great people!

# Senate Bill 118 -Water Efficient Landscaping Incentives

s has been

the case for

the past sev-

considered. One bill

of particular note for

UNLA members is



Jeffry R. Gittins Smith Hartvigsen PLLC

Senate Bill 188 – Water Efficient Landscaping Incentives, which is sponsored by Senator Scott D. Sandall. The bill proposes procedures and funding for a "landscaping conversion incentive program" to encourage homeowners to rip out lawn/turf and

replace it with water efficient landscaping.

The bill would allow the Utah Division of Water Resources to award up to \$10 million per year in grants to water conservancy districts to fund landscaping conversion incentive programs. The districts would then administer the programs and pay out funds to homeowners who participate in the programs. Districts are required to provide matching funds from other sources in order to receive the grant money from the Division.

If a homeowner is located in an area without a district program, the homeowner may file directly with the Division (continued on page 5)

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## Senate Bill 118 (continued from page 4)

for the incentive funds. A homeowner must agree to maintain water efficient landscaping and a drip irrigation system, and must complete the landscaping conversion within 12 months of filing for the funds. Additionally, the municipality or county where the homeowner is located must have implemented "regional-based water efficiency standards."

The bill instructs the Division to make rules to effectuate the incentive program, including defining what constitutes "water efficient landscaping," establishing the maximum incentive amount per square foot of lawn/turf replaced, and setting regional-based water use efficiency standards.

Finally, the bill provides that the Division or a district may place a lien on any property that receives the incentive funds. The purpose of the lien is to ensure that the water efficient landscaping is not later removed and replaced with lawn/turf. If the homeowner (or a successor owner) removes the water efficient landscaping, they can be required to pay back the incentive funds received, plus interest at 8% per year and administrative costs.

It is important to note that this bill has not yet been passed in the Legislature. The bill has already been amended several times since it was first introduced, and it is unknown if additional amendments will be made or if the bill will pass at all.

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April 25, 2023

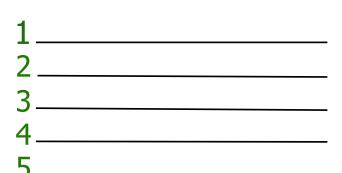
### $\left. \right> \right>$ Deadline to register is April 14th.

#### This expo will be taking place in conjunction with Utah FFA State Career Development Events. Information provided should be targeted towards the students attending.



# LEND US A HELPING HAND

We want to know what speakers and topics you would like to see at our 2024 Utah Green Conference. If it is a speaker, please include their email/phone number to contact them.





Email Paige Woodruff at Memberservices@utahgreen.org or mail this form to: PO Box 1073 Riverton, Utah 84065

Scan the QR Code to fill out an online version!





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3-5 **QWEL Seminar & Test at JVWCD** 

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12 Lagoon Day

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