

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
September 8, 2017 - 10:00 am  
Science & Technology Park  
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

## **Minutes – FINAL**

### **Regular Council Meeting**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:09am. Roll call of the Council members: Leonard Martínez, Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez, Macario Griego, and Juan Sánchez were present. Lee Maestas was absent.

#### **2. Moment of Silence**

Remembering Lawrence Sánchez (Town of Tomé) and Jesus Anzures (Town of Atrisco).

#### **3. Introduction of Guests**

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Macario Griego (NMLGC); Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez (NMLGC); Leonard Martínez (NMLGC); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Joseph Casados (Office of Rep. Ben Ray Luján); Marlo Aragón (Office of the Attorney General); Arturo Archuleta (staff – NMLGC/UNM-LGSP); Cheyenne Trujillo (staff – NMLGC/UNM-LGSP); Jacobo D. Baca (staff – NMLGC/UNM-LGSP); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Sebastian Martínez (Juan Bautista Baldez LG); Manuel Trujillo (Santa Bárbara LG); Joe B. Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Jose Garcia (San Miguel del Bado LG).

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Leonard Martínez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Council Meeting of August 11, 2017**

Councilor Macario Griego motioned to approve the meeting minutes of the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **6. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update**

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke regarding lease sales for BLM lands in March, urging the BLM to not consider lease sales within 10 miles of the Chaco Canyon National Monument. The BLM is working on the NEPA on nominations submitted to BLM and need to do so before the lease sale. The Río Grande del Norte National Monument draft plan is currently on hold awaiting the submission of the report from Secretary Zinke regarding the Río Grande del Norte and Organ Mountain National Monuments to President Trump. Senator Udall has publically stated that he wants details and that the process should be transparent. The Verde Transmission Line is near creating route alternatives. Sarah Schlanger of the BLM has met with representatives of the Jacona and Bartolomé Sánchez Land Grants, but has not yet reported the results of the meeting. Councilor Martínez asked Ms. Morrison about Resource Advisory Committees (he serves on the Farmington RAC).

Ms. Morrison reported that they were on hold and under review by the administration. The hold has just been lifted and notices were published by the federal register. Members will receive notice of status soon. Councilor Martínez also reported that he has not heard from the San Juan BLM office regarding the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG serving as cooperative agency. Ms. Morrison reported that she understood that they will be meeting soon.

Ms. Morrison reported that the San Miguel del Bado LG is trying to figure out who official applicant will be for the historic cemeteries on the former commons of the grant. The Land Grant can acquire the properties at a discounted price. Joe B. Chávez, president of the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant, stated that they were discussing cemeteries with church committees and need to resolve the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's interest in the cemeteries. Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez encouraged Mr. Chávez to pursue discussions with the Archdiocese, saying they are cooperative when you apply pressure; Mr. Chávez responded asking if the grant should deal with the Archdiocese or with the parish priest. Councilor Martínez commented that the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has a lands unit that is responsible for properties, but added that it helps to have the local parish priests advocating for you. He further recommended that the grant take possession of the cemetery rather than the rather than archdiocese to ease use and maintenance, and because the Archdiocese does not have funds or capacity to manage so many *camposantos*, much less the many *capillas* in land grant communities. Mr. Chávez added that the community maintains the cemetery, not the church nor the grant. Chairman Juan Sánchez added that land grant should manage the cemeteries. Ms. Morrison offered that she or Sarah Schlanger can be in meetings with Archdiocese. Mr. Sebastián Martínez of the Juan Bautista Baldez LG offered his assistance as his grant had a similar issue with cemeteries 5 years ago.

### **7. Discussion and Possible Action on Forest Service Update**

No representative from the Forest Service attended the meeting. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC staff) reported that NMLGC staff attended the Canjilón Wilderness meeting in Chama (Aug. 17) and a similar Pecos Wilderness (Aug. 30), and Cheyenne Trujillo has participated in the Cibola and Sandia collaborative. The quarterly meeting between the USFS and land grants took place on August 22, 2017. The Las Trampas, Santa Bárbara and Mora Land Grants all sent representatives. The Carson and Santa Fe National Forest sent representatives as well. Manuel Trujillo (Santa Bárbara LG) commented that the relationship between land grants and the Camino Real Ranger District has improved since the arrival of district ranger Sean Ferrell; Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Ferrell has bent over backwards for the community. The next quarterly meeting will be in a community on the west side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

The Chililí Land Grant recently hosted a visit from a delegation from Indonesia, which is creating a national forest reserve system. Both Chairman Sánchez and Mr. Archuleta presented, sharing the land grant perspective. Ms. Cheyenne Trujillo added that the delegation attended the Sandia Collaborative meeting the day after presentation and commented that they intend to privilege local use over recreation.

### **8. Discussion and Possible Action on Program Evaluation Proposal – C. Trujillo**

Ms. Trujillo applied for funding from Center for Regional Studies at UNM and won a research grant to complete program evaluations for the New Mexico Land Grant Council,

the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and the Land Grant Studies Program. Program evaluations assess how activities and structures are doing and how they are serving the entity's mission. The program evaluation helps organizations examine how they did in the past and how they can better serve their communities in the future. It also examines budgets and staff assignments and helps lay out a plan to argue for increased funding, showcasing partnerships with other entities and evaluating the impact of their work. The program evaluation will also produce logic models, which assess effectiveness by examining inputs and outputs by staff and productivity, and will assess support fund as well. Councilor Griego made a motion to approve Cheyenne Trujillo's program evaluation of the New Mexico Land Grant Council. Councilor Martínez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. Discussion and Possible Action Game and Fish and Tierra Amarilla L.G. Update**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission met in closed executive session to discuss the Laguna del Campo at their most recent meeting August 24, Albuquerque). Representatives from the Tierra Amarilla LG and Rep. Miguel García were in attendance and offered commentary at the end of the meeting. The Commission voted to begin process to transfer the Laguna del Campo to "the appropriate LG." Because the Tierra Amarilla is the sole legitimate grant in the area, they are set to become the owners of the Laguna del Campo. The Game Commission chair commented that he hoped there was not infighting among claims from multiple lands grants. Because a district court process recognized the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant as the sole official and legitimate board. Tierra Amarilla LG President Steve Polaco asked the Commission what steps need to be taken to ease the transfer. Chairman Sánchez mentioned that the process would likely be similar to the one in Abiquiú. The New Mexico State legislature has a role to play in passing legislation supportive of the transfer. The Commission voted to breach the damn after a 2008 study by an engineering firm in Denver questioned its ability to withstand a flood. The report misidentified water sources that filled the lake and ignored the fact that the acequias from the Rio Brazos have desagues that can mitigate effect of flood. The imagined flood was unrealistic as well, representing more water than the area has ever had and failed to mention that there are no homes or buildings below, meaning that only property would be damaged in such biblical flood scenario.

#### **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division Update**

Marlo Aragón reported that the Attorney General's office was contacted by attorney David Urias regarding the Cebolleta re-election lawsuit. Mr. Archuleta was asked to serve as a witness by attorneys and will give a statement by November 2. Ms. Aragón reported that the Mora LG contacted them recently regarding partition grant bill. The Treaty Division will submit its FY 2017 report at the ILGC meeting in Tomé in October. Council members also discussed land grants interactions with Councils of Government. The Mid Region Council of Governments is hesitant to recognize and work with the Atrisco Land Grant.

#### **11. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the UNM Contract was approved by DFA and is at UNM awaiting full approval. We still do not have effective date for contract, billing, et cetera. New Mexico Legal Aid cannot yet bill.

#### **12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2018 Budget**

Because there is not contract or budget in place, Mr. Archuleta presented an update on council travel.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Contract**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the UNM contract has been approved by DFA, and it is at UNM, where forms needed to be updated. We still do not have effective date for contract.

### **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund**

Mr. Archuleta reported that he has received Land Grant Support Fund applications from the San Antonio de las Huertas LG requesting \$2,500 for graveling and grading and \$2,000 for a picnic area. San Antonio de las Huertas LG interim president Rebecca Correia Skartwed reported that UNM professor Moises Gonzales brought students from UNM School of Architecture and Planning, who made a recreation shaped like a bear-paw, called el Tanque del Oso. The grant plans to use the area for reception rentals. Mr. Archuleta reported that San Miguel del Bado expressed interest in support fund monies for surveying costs for cemeteries or upgrades to their senior citizens center. San Miguel County Commissioner Janice Varela, Senator Liz Stefanics, and Rep. Tomás Salazar are interested and involved in upgrades to the senior center. Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez commented that the Town of Tomé Grant is going to apply as well. Councilor Griego commented that Cañón d Carnué Grant may apply as well.

### **15. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislation**

#### *Federal Legislation –*

Mr. Archuleta reported that he and Dr. Jacobo Baca (staff – NMLGC) met with Joseph Casados of Rep. Ben Ray Luján’s office regarding traditional use rights legislation. Mr. Casados reported that Representative Luján’s office sent to the latest draft of the bill with the NMLGC’s comments to the federal legislative service. Congress is back from recess and passed a short term budget resolution. Rep. Luján hopes that there will be a small window for introducing this legislation. Comments for the Farm Bill are passed due. Elizabeth Reitzel of the Congresswoman Michelle Luján-Grisham’s office identified areas of priority for land grants. The next quarterly conference call is scheduled for Friday, 9/15/2017 at 9:00am MST.

#### *State Legislation –*

The Interim Land Grant Committee met in Ribera (San Miguel del Bado LG) on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mr. Archuleta presented regarding elections and forwarded his presentation to the Legislative Council Service. ILGC Chair Rep. García suggested a non-controversial blanket bill to start. The budgets for NMLGC, LGSP, and guaranteed revenue stream for land grants might be discussed, as well as Department of Transportation property disposal. Chairman Sánchez mentioned that funding for comprehensive and land use plans may be discussed as well. Councilor Martínez that Representative García discussed traditional use rights on state properties. The next ILGC meeting will be on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Tomé.

### **16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry**

None.

### **17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence Received by the Council**

None.

**18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LGSP applied for a grant from the McCune Foundation for youth program funding. Dr. Baca reported that the LGSP has continued its work on the San Antonio del Río Colorado genealogy and has been asked by the Chihenne Nde Nation for research assistance regarding southern New Mexico land grants.

**19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments**

None.

**20. Public Comments – discussion only**

Joe B. Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG) asked about obtaining help from New Mexico Legal Aid. Chairman Sánchez clarified that all requests must go through the NMLGC first, who will clear NM Legal Aid to work with a land grant. There are two ongoing issues. One, title companies are asking the San Miguel del Bado LG to give quit claims deeds for any private property sold. He spoke with an attorney and realtor, who said they would only want this if San Miguel del Bado is on the chain of title. The other issue is the use of land grant monies for attorney’s fees.

**21. Miscellaneous Announcements Financial Reporting to State Auditor; NM Land Grant Consejo Meeting**

The next New Mexico Land Grant Consejo meeting will take place in Tierra Amarilla on September 16, 2017.

**22. Date and Location for next Council Meeting**

The Council will next meet on Friday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Santa Fe, NM, at the NMSRC, Yucca Room.

The Council will hold its November meeting at the UNM Science and Technology Park (Albuquerque, NM) on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 and its December meeting at the Science and Technology Park (Albuquerque, NM) on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**23. Adjournment**

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

**Approved:**

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 Chair

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 Date