

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 19, 2018 – 10:00am
New Mexico Highlands University
Student Union Building, Room 321
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Minutes - Final

Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Roll call of the Council members: Leonard Martínez, Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez, Macario Griego and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Leonard Martínez (NMLGC); Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez (NMLGC); Macario Griego (NMLGC); Frank Herrera (NMHU); Eric Romero (NMHU); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Cheyenne Trujillo (NMLGC/LGSP); LM García y Griego (LGSP); Al Durán (Santa Cruz); Roberto Mondragón (Anton Chico LG).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Leonard Martínez made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Macario Griego seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Council Meeting of September 14, 2018

Councilor Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 14, 2018 Council meeting; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Surplus Property including form letter recognizing land grants as units of governments.

Mr. Arturo Archuleta reported that he met with Sabrina Garcia of the Surplus Property Bureau (General Services Division) to discuss the application and process that proves eligibility. Units of government and non-profits are eligible. The office handles both federal and state surplus items. Anton Chico plans to apply and Abiquiú has in the past. The federal government has their own approval process. The NMLGC can apply and UNM can as well, meaning the LGSP can apply. The office is open to the public once a month (the last Saturday of each month).

Councilor Martínez made a motion to submit a letter on behalf of land grants from the NMLGC to support their eligibility to receive General Services Department surplus items; Councilor Padilla Gutiérrez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

BLM wood permits are available at the USFS Canjilón Ranger Station on October 15, 16, 23 and 24. The Farmington RAC is open for nominations. There are three BLM planning efforts taking place: the Rio Puerco Management Plan, the Mancos-Gallup management plan, and the Verde Transmission line plan. Mr. Archuleta also reported that he had a conversation with Esther García of the San Antonio del Río Colorado Grant regarding the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument plan. He also reported that Lisa Morrison asked that Councilor Martínez send a copy of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama comprehensive plan to herself and Mark Matthews of the BLM.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Land Water and Conservation Fund Presentation NMEMNRD

Judy Kowalski of New Mexico State Parks (New Mexico Energy Mineral and Natural Resources Department) discussed the management of the Land and Water Conservation fund. It has existed since 1970s for enhancing outdoor recreation. Funding is distributed to state and local governments. New Mexico receive approximately \$1 million annually from 2 separate funds, one deriving from oil production off of the Gulf of Mexico and the other from the production in the Atlantic and Pacific. The Department has distributed grants in past but has had no grants manager in last 5-6 years and has been spending money itself on state parks that NM State Parks owns. The program needs to be reauthorized with a federal letter and recipients need to have a 50% match (cash and in-kind) by the community. Mr. Archuleta and Chairman Juan Sánchez opined that the NMLGC should advocate for land grants eligibility for this program. Ms. Kowalski reported that monies can accumulate and New Mexico State Parks needs to apply to the National Parks Service for each project. Monies from the fund can be used for land acquisition for outdoor recreation but must be used for outdoor recreation for perpetuity. Dr. LM García y Griego (UNM LGSP & Cañón de Carnué LG) asked if riparian restoration projects are eligible for funding; Ms. Kowalski replied that they are so long as they are used for outdoor recreation. Councilor Martínez asked how much money is currently in the fund; Ms. Kowalski replied that the fund has somewhere between \$3-4 million in it. She asked that land grants interested in applying provide documentation that they are government entities.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Forest Service Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that NMLGC staff submitted comments to the Cibola National Forest on the draft plan and the draft EIS. Sixty-seven (67) comments were submitted on the draft plan and seventeen (17) comments were submitted on the draft EIS. The comments took issue with land grants being included with rural historic communities which has a much shorter history than land grants and whose claims are not supported by Treaty rights. The plan had very little on climate change. It is heavy on recreation, with recreation and scenic value being focus areas. Resource use is deemphasized: for example, less than 5% of the Cibola National Forest is considered suitable for timber production (~81,000 acres), which could only be put into production through restoration efforts. The plan and EIS infer that all decisions should be made with recreation in mind. Councilor Griego also questioned whether portions of the cement plant operation are, in fact, on USFS land. Councilor Martínez asked if the Carson National Forest and Santa Fe National Forest plans will be so recreation heavy; Mr. Archuleta commented that certain areas of the plans will be the same

region wide, like the “traditional communities” section. Councilor Martínez stated that the USFS should incorporate more climate sensitive management practices. Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council has received word from the Carson NF that the appraisal of the Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center is complete and the Council is now awaiting a letter with specifics.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislation Update

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that Representative Colleen Hanabusa of the House Committee on Natural Resources submitted additional questions after the hearing in September. Responses submitted on behalf of the Council are in the packet. HR 6365 has gone through markup. Ranking member Representative Grijalva made a motion to amend the bill and strike the land disposal authority from USFS and BLM, believing that it should only be through an act of Congress. It was struck down and the bill passed the Committee with 12 democrats voting against the bill. The only Democrat that supported the bill was Rep. Hanabusa, who suggested that land grants seek federal recognition. There are 2 opportunities to move it through House of Representatives, either on its own or as part of larger lands package. The packet also contains a letter from Rep. Steven Pierce. There have also recently been paid advertisements in *Rio Grande Sun* attacking Democrats and supporting Rep. Pearce. Juan Sánchez and Leonard Martinez had an op ed published in the *Albuquerque Journal* on September 16 and Manny Sanchez and Pablo Martinez of the Chi Henne Nde published an opinion piece in the *Las Cruces Sun News*. Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez commented that land grants are now a part of a political contest; Mr. Archuleta responded that it is important that we advocate for Rep. Ben Ray Luján to consider carrying the bill. A letter (Sept. 27) from the USFS is in the packet detailing all cemeteries found to be within Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. Both Rep. Michelle Luján Grisham and Senator Tom Udall are pushing to amend the Farm Bill to make land grant eligible for conservation funds.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee will meet in in Chilili, Oct. 29-30. The final interim will be on November 19 in Santa Fe. The Interim wants the NMLGC to present all capital outlay requests

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund

The NMLGC received 4 Land Grant Support Fund applications (in packet). They are: the Anton Chico Land Grant requests \$15,000 for various projects; the Town of Tomé Grant requests \$2,500 for security and equipment; the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant requests \$6,000 for a leach field, tables and chairs and an outdoor kitchen) and the Chililí Land Grant requests \$5,000 for an archway and a gate for two community cemeteries. Roberto Mondragón (Anton Chico Land Grant) offered clarification on Anton Chico’s request, stating that the Grant would like to use the funds to pay one-half of the legal fees for attorney that represented area acequias and for administrative equipment for the economic development center and a used truck to patrol the grant. The grant would prioritize \$2,500.00 for the office equipment and would reduce the monies request for the truck from \$3,750 to \$2,500, reducing the total to \$5,000.00.

Councilor Griego asked if there was anyway to increase the support fund. Mr. Archuleta responded that the Council could elect to zero out the publishing budget and could move monies from in-state travel which would increase the support fund from \$13,000 to \$14,300. Councilor Padilla Gutiérrez and Chairman Sánchez elected to reduce the requests of the Town of Tomé Land Grant and Chililí Land Grant. The Council discussed the applications and projects. Councilor Padilla-Gutiérrez made a motion to approve the Land Grant Support Fund requests as follows: Anton Chico Land Grant - \$5,650.00; Town of Tomé Land Grant - \$1,850.00; San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant - \$2,800.00; Chililí Land Grant - \$4,000.00. Councilor Griego seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Frank Herrera NMHU GIS Mapping

J. Frank Herrera (NMHU student) presented on his GIS Land Grant mapping project. He asked the NMLGC to suggest improvements for the maps and hopes to incorporate short histories from each land grant that can be added and appear as popups. Dr. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) commented that we can forward his information to Emanuel Storey, the NMLGC's cartographer, for suggestions.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract & Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that he met with the New Mexico Attorney General's office and discussed three issues. The first was the lines issue at the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant. The NMAG's office is not prepared for a full report and feel that they need to have a survey done. Mr. Archuleta suggested that they do not do a survey as it will be costly and the money would be better spent on title research and to repurchase lands and bring them back to Grant and then survey those lands after they have been repatriated. The second was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division. The office will hire a staff attorney after the election and are committed to expanding the language of the legislation enabling the Treaty Division to give it more authority and make it more robust. Mr. Archuleta supplied suggested election language that names the NMAG as arbitrator of election challenges. The third issue discussed was the Anton Chico Land Grant and its management of lands, including concern that they may not have the authority to police the grant. Mr. Archuleta asked if the NMAG could provide the authority that Mr. Rafael Jaramillo (a retired New Mexico State Police officer hired by the grant) could work under to give him the authority to police the common lands, which have been robbed of resources. The grant seeks limited authority that would enforce regulations and ordinances of the grant

The NMAG's office will present at the Interim Land Grant Committee meeting in Chililí on October 30th as part of a legal services to land grants panel.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2019, FY 2020 Budgets

Mr. Archuleta gave updates on travel (\$2,163.87 spent), the UNM contract (\$30,360.96 spent) and the total council budget remaining (\$189,375.17). The Council discussed a budget adjustment request (BAR) that would move monies from the publishing and in state travel budgets to the Land Grant Support Fund. Councilor Martínez made a motion to move \$1,056.00 from publishing and \$244.00 from in state travel into the land grant support

fund, thus increasing its total to \$14,300.00. Councilor Griego seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Contract FY 2019

Mr. Archuleta discussed UNM pay request 2 for \$10,731.49. Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Pay Request 2; Councilor Griego seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry

None.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence Received by Council

In packet and discussed above.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

Dr. Baca and Mr. Archuleta will present at the UNM Law School's "Lunch and Learn" on Wednesday October 24th at 12:00 noon. Mr. Archuleta will meet with the Office of the Vice President for Research to discuss space needs. Dr. García y Griego discussed the possibility of moving Council offices to South Campus in the space formerly occupied by UNM Press, though we are currently unsure of rent. Mr. Archuleta added that the Council can pay rent with its Facilities and Administration return. Dr. Baca reported that the digitization of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico documents is moving along and that the youth coordinators (Venessa Chavez and Joseluis Ortiz) will present at the November meeting.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

19. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

20. Miscellaneous Announcements – State Auditor Certifications due October 31

Certifications are due to the State Auditor on October 31, 2018.

21. Date and Location for November Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2018 at 10:00am at the UNM Science and Technology Center.

22. Adjournment

Councilor Griego made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.

Approved:

Chair

Date