

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
April 16, 2020 – 10:00am  
Virtual Meeting  
Zoom ID: 390 070 594

**Minutes – Final**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

**1. Call to Order - Roll Call**

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:16am. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, Leonard Martínez, Rebecca Correa Skartwed and Juan Sánchez were present.

**2. Introduction of Guests**

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martinez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Venessa Chavez (NMLGC/LGSP); Cheyenne Trujillo (NMLGC/LGSP); LM García y Griego (NMLGC/LGSP); Vidal Gonzales (LGSP); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Patricia Domínguez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Sofia Sanchez (Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland); Michelle Kavanaugh (Office of Senator Tom Udall); Novela Salazar (NMAG); Eric Chávez (Office of Congressman Ben Ray Luján); Phillip Clark (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Eva Stricker (Quivira Coalition); Kenneth Branch (NRCS); Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS); Donnie Quintana (Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division); Carmen Morin (Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division); Tim Hagaman (New Mexico Economic Development Department); Trisha Martínez (UNM Division of Equity and Inclusion).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Leonard Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Rebecca Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Councilor Steve Polaco - aye  
Councilor Padilla - aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Council Meeting of February 27, 2020**

Councilor Polaco offered a clarification on commentary regarding Jicarilla Reservation and trust lands and the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant that was made at the January 2020 Council meeting.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 27, 2020 Council meeting; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Padilla - aye  
Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

## **5. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Updates**

### *Federal*

Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP staff) reported that Council was scheduled to be in Washington DC for a subcommittee hearing on H.R. 3682, the Traditional Use bill, but the hearing was postponed first to April 27<sup>th</sup> than again to May 13 due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Council staff have been gathering letters of support from land grants, recommending that they are addressed to the Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and to Congressman Luján and Congresswoman Deb Haaland (Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands). Eric Chávez (Office of Congressman Ben R. Luján) commented that the plan is to hold the hearing on May 13 as we do not know if teleconferencing is allowed and has not approved by committee thus far. He added that all materials and letters of support need to be received by the Congressman's Washington DC office by the end of April. Mr. Archuleta added that the Council did plan to send Chairman Sánchez and Councilor Polaco as well as staff members Jacobo Baca and himself to the hearing before travel restrictions were set by the State of New Mexico and UNM.

Mr. Archuleta reported that the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and the Council tried to get access to the Archaeological Records Management Section's (ARMS) databases to research locations of cemeteries in preparation for cemetery legislation, but were not granted access. ARMS staff cited the COVID outbreak for the delay, though the initial request by the LGSP and NMLGC staff was made in January, well before any restrictions. Patricia Domínguez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) commented that she will follow up with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division regarding ARMS access. She added that the proposed CARES ACT #4 includes supporting funding for existing programs. Donnie Quintana of the Department of Finance and Administration discussed monies that will be released to the State of New Mexico. Ms. Domínguez also added that Senator Martin Heinrich has been asked to serve on White House task force for reopening the economy. Mr. Archuleta commented that the Council was contacted by Sofia Sánchez of Congresswoman's Deb Haaland's office regarding Wifi hotspots in rural areas and Council staff provided a response that the Congresswoman might consider. Sofia Sánchez (Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland) added that the Congresswoman is looking into resources to get service into community centers and schools and may connect interested parties with Virgin Galactic, which wants help communities in New Mexico as they have done in California. She added that if communities need PPE (personal protective equipment), the Congressional Delegation, the Governor's office and the Air Force Research Laboratory have created a website, <https://www.nmcovid19.org/> with information on where to access such equipment. Ms. Domínguez added that the decision on the approval on the CFRP panel is expected by Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>. The CFRP may provide some income opportunities for rural communities. Senator Heinrich's office thanks communities for their letters of support and might ask for more support letters if we do not hear by Friday.

## *State*

Council staff are working on capital outlay. Land grants that received capital outlay appropriations should have received questionnaires for 2020 capital outlay funded through severance tax bonds. Land grants should go online through the CPMS (Capital Projects Management System) using their ICIP information. The Council has not yet received the grant agreement for Cristóbal de la Serna. Donnie Quintana of DFA has previously mentioned that reauthorization grant agreements will be received by land grants by May 15<sup>th</sup>. This helps the State determine whether they will sell bonds or not. The State will have a special session to address budget in June or July. In the recession of 2008, unused monies were swept; projects in implementation should be executed soon to avoid having their awards rescinded.

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

Lisa Morrison reported on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management. Most BLM employees are telecommuting with the exception of law enforcement and other essential staff. The BLM has closed most developed areas (see website). The wood permit process for BLM lands is continuing. The Rio Puerco Field Office is continuing selling permits online ([forestproducts.blm.gov](http://forestproducts.blm.gov)); in Farmington area, if people call the front desk, they will take a credit card and mail a permit package to requestors. For the Taos Field Office Area, permits will be available online May 1<sup>st</sup>. Regarding the Farmington plan, they may extend the comment period; the Congressional Delegation asked that the comment period be extended. The deadline is currently May 28. All public meetings were cancelled or postponed.

Councilor Correa Skartwed asked if there was any update regarding the Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan. Ms. Morrison stated there was no update and that she would find and send an update about the Rio Puerco to the Council via e-mail.

### **7. Discussion and Possible Action on USFS**

Mr. Archuleta stated that he discussed the fuelwood cutting season and online permitting with Steve Hattenbach of the Cíbola NF, James Durán of the Carson NF, and James Melonas of the Santa Fe NF. While they do not yet have the capabilities for online permitting, they are trying to start virtual permitting where people call in with a credit card and permits will be mailed. Press releases from the USFS, which have been many because of COVID, are sent to land grants via e-mail. Councilor Martínez stated that many people in land grants do not have debit or credit cards and asked if the land grant can purchase the permits, distribute them to interested parties and get reimbursed by purchasers. Mr. Archuleta responded that he would check with the Forest Service. In the past, in the Manzano Mountains, when they had a CFRP, they worked with the Manzano Grant. The Grant would issue permits per day, would distribute, would fill out forms and return forms to the USFS. It may be possible and need buy in, though there was no money exchanged in CFRP example. Councilor Martínez added that the cell tower in Gallina has not been activated, even though it was built 5 years ago; Sofia Sánchez (Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland) stated that she would ask Virgin Galactic how they might turn this on. Eric Chávez stated that he would run the question by Rio Arriba County Commissioners and asked for the exact location.

### **8. Discussion and Possible Action on LG and Acequia Eligibility**

Kris Graham-Chávez (NRCS) discussed the 2018 Farm Bill, stating that the way language was written, land grants are considered “water management agencies” because they were included with acequias. Kenneth Branch (NRCS) discussed the EQIP (Environmental Qualities Incentive Program) eligibility, stating that land grants may be eligible for other grant programs like RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program), and dam and watershed rehabilitation programs as well. Mr. Branch stated that EQIP projects have to assist private users in managing water distribution systems. Eligible lands are lands that are under control of a water management agency and land adjacent to lands that are under control of a water management agency. If deeded acres exist in the land grant, those lands may not be eligible under the water management entity applications. Projects that are eligible would be watershed-wide projects. All land grants and acequias that look to apply for EQIP will need to put together a water resources assessment, which describes the water situation on the land grant and what the goals of the land grant or acequia are regarding their water. It also needs to incorporate practices that will address the distribution efficiency of water, soil moisture monitoring, irrigated related structures, or other measures that could serve surface or groundwater including aquifer recovery practices. For acequias, this could mean various acequia infrastructure. Range and forest practices could be funded in aquifer management, as could livestock water distribution systems.

Mr. Branch added that these programs are new for NRCS and the NRCS in New Mexico did not receive additional funds to fund these water management entity programs. Getting an EA (Environmental Assessment) or a NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act assessment) can take a long time. If the NRCS get into a contract, these need to be completed within the timeline. The NRCS might deem an application ineligible if an EA or NEPA will take too long. During life of the Farm Bill, an applicant can request a waiver of the \$450,000 payment limitation and it will get up to \$900,000 in funding. Organizations applying need to be well-organized and need to appoint someone with signature authority, who is also the individual submitting the application. They may also need to get documentation from a farm service agency. The application deadline for 2020 was in March, but the language is in there for life of Farm Bill and water management entities will have opportunity to apply in the future.

Councilor Polaco asked if the money has to be paid back; Mr. Branch responded that EQIP is a reimbursable program and does not cover the cost 100%, adding that reimbursements are done according to a payment schedule. Monies granted do not have to be repaid as it is not a loan. Councilor Martínez stated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant is interested in funding for a project in the Cañón de Chama, their former common lands. Mr. Branch stated that if an entity is willing to lease lands back to the lands grant, then the NRCS will consider the lands the water management entity has through a lease agreement. This is done on a case by case basis and NRCS local staff and the Forest Service would be needed to be certify that the applicant does have control of the land or an easement. He added that the policies should be printed in the federal code of regulations and that he will let the Council know when this has happened. Mr. Archuleta asked if land grants are participating in projects with the Forest Service, will the NRCS consider this as a project, where a land grant identified forest system lands for a thinning project for fuelwood and watershed health. Mr. Branch responded that we would need to get into the specifics, but that it could be on the joint chiefs list, but that the applying entity would need to

have control of the land when they receive monies and would need to have and maintain control during the life of the contract, which range from 3, 5, and 10 years.

Councilor Padilla commented that these programs seem to be all reimbursement based, but land grants usually do not have the monies to put up. She asked if NRCS monies can be paid up front. Mr. Branch responded that the NRCS does not know if it will ever have authority to do upfront payments. It can do advance payments of 50% of project cost if an applicant is eligible to be considered a socially disadvantaged group, where 50% of its membership is Hispanic, African American, etc.. An entity would self-certify as a socially disadvantaged group on their application.

### **9. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract**

Mr. Archuleta reported that he has been on several conference calls with land grants approved for potential survey work. He has yet to discuss the survey work with the Anton Chico LG, which he will meet with (virtually) on Friday, April 17, 2020. The Council had prioritized those land grants possibly losing land, but with COVID restrictions and lack of access to records, this has changed what is possible for the surveyor to accomplish. In the packet (p.15) is a list of survey projects for the NMLGC provided by Chris Chávez of Territorial Land Surveying LLC. Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying) discussed the Tajique Land Grant, whose common lands were never surveyed. He can complete a field trip to assess the site, but cannot do chain of title research with the county courthouse closed. He did write a report relating to the Tajique LG. For the Santa Bárbara LG, there is an old road in the grant, that may be a contentious issue and he may have to interact with adjacent private landowners. He has planned a field trip on May 13; the Taos County Courthouse is closed and research allowed only by appointment. The Town of Tomé LG has an 11-acre parcel that Valencia County calls the park site. Access to records is limited until the Valencia County Courthouse opens. It is scheduled to open April 30<sup>th</sup>. ATV traffic might have taken out monuments to be able to complete survey.

The Juan Bautista Baldés LG is involved in a quiet title suit and he may need to do report or response to evaluate the legitimacy of a claim to common lands. Chain of title research at the Río Arriba County Courthouse in Tierra Amarilla is necessary as is working with David Benavides with NMLA to ascertain the status of the case. Mr. Archuleta commented that Mr. Benavides stated that a contract attorney paid through legislative monies is taking lead on case and will work through June 30. Mr. Chávez commented that the person making the claim is not living on the land and appears to be making a claim on the land with a vague deed and has surveyor hired to mark boundaries. A field trip to the grant and chain of title research are needed. The Cristóbal de la Serna Grant may be need a land survey and could be a large ongoing project, which could take the whole summer. People taken advantage of the grant and have appropriated land through quiet title suits. There continues to limited access to courthouse in Taos County because of COVID. Mr. Archuleta reported that several individuals want to donate their land to the Grant. Mr. Chávez reported that the San Joaquín del Río de Chávez request is the second largest project and is doable as he already has field notes from the original survey. Surveyors are still operating in field doing surveys for real estate actions and this has been deemed allowable under the State's restrictions while allowing for social distancing. Many of the stone monuments still exist for the Cañón de Chama (set in 1901). 10 monuments need to be found, which would

complete the survey of the 1400 acres. This would not be an official survey, but could be filed in courthouse.

Mr. Chávez added that he has been in contact with the Abiquiú LG and estimates the need for a two-day field investigation survey to replace lost points of the northwest corner of the grant and will meet with Jodi Váldez of the Abiquiú in June. This includes lands that were obtained from the State of New Mexico and points were lost when corners were lost as they were set in a flood plain and bulldozed. While the project may not be completed with available funding, progress can be made on the Abiquiú Grant. Cost estimates for the projects are as follows: Tome Survey project \$11,300 (2 months); San Joaquin project \$2,500 (1 week); Field trips (Tajique, Santa Bárbara, Abiquiú LGs) 4 days \$2,400 (4 days) for a total of \$16,200. Mr. Archuleta commented that the total budget/contract for surveying is \$21,600 and that Mr. Chávez submitted an invoice for \$3,537.27 (invoice plus new project estimate is \$19,737.27). The Council might be able to move monies from the travel budget that are unlikely to be spent, given travel restrictions. Councilor Martínez asked if the \$2,500 estimate for San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG includes filing the report in the Rio Arriba County Courthouse. Mr. Chávez responded that it only includes the survey work and could cost less than \$2,500 or more. It would cost \$3,500 more to do full survey with the cemetery, remap, and make a report.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #1 from Territorial Land Surveying, LLC, for project 2020\_05 in the amount of \$3537.27. Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla – aye  
Councilor Polaco – aye  
Councilor Martínez – aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

Mr. Archuleta reported that there remains \$1,862.73 in the survey contract. The Council could direct Mr. Chávez to go through with the San Joaquin, Town of Tomé projects, as well as be available for the Juan Bautista Baldés Grant attorney. Councilors discussed Mr. Chávez's proposed work plan further. Regarding Anton Chico Lg, the project is vast but rock quarries need to be surveyed and are remote enough to abide by COVID restrictions. Councilor Correa-Skartwed added that the Council should give Mr. Chávez sufficient flexibility to allow his discretion in implementing projects safely.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to allow Chris Chávez of Territorial Land Surveying to continue work on the projects discussed above, provided that the projects stay within budget and that he provide an update to the Council in the next Council meeting. Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Polaco – aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye  
Councilor Martínez – abstain  
Councilor Padilla – abstain

The motion passed.

### **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Cristóbal de la Serna Land Purchase**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the grant agreement for \$50,000 is nearly ready; monies will be appropriated to the NMLGC, which will need to access the online management system. He discussed the appropriation with Scott Wright from DFA, but has not yet heard back on when this access will be granted. Individuals interested in selling their property have approached the Cristóbal de la Serna Grant; an heir will purchase some properties and sell to grant later so as not to lose out on the opportunity to regain common lands. These tracts range in size and some are up to 30 acres. The Treaty of Guadalupe Division opined that the Grant manages more land, it will lend to their credibility as a unit of government.

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to give Chairman Sánchez the ability to sign off on grant agreement (\$50,000) relating to the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion

Roll call vote: Councilor Polaco – aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Councilor Padilla – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

### **11. Discussion & Action on Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center Update**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the purchase is moving forward and that all three land grants (San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tierra Amarilla, Juan Bautista Baldés) have adopted resolutions to purchase the PLVC, per the request of the Forest Service. The UNM Natural Resources Law Clinic has reviewed the intent to purchase agreement and purchase and sale agreement. Holland and Hart, LLP, will work on the ownership agreement through HED legal service contractor funding. They will also review agreements for management of the PLVC and are committed to having these completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the contract is in place, the Council will set up a conference call with Holland and Hart and the purchasing land grants.

Councilor Polaco reported that we need to get a hold of someone at the NORA Coop; Mr. Archuleta responded that he is waiting to get this in place with an attorney before contacting the Coop. Councilor Polaco added that we do not have anyone with Windstream or the phone company in Española to get this clarified.

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

Novela Salazar (Office of the NM Attorney General) stated that there were no updates at this time.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract: Updates and Requests**

Mr. Archuleta reported that work by New Mexico Legal Aid on the Tajiague LG cell tower case continues and the decision is on appeal to the New Mexico Court of Appeals. The Juan Bautista Baldés case is in discovery and David Benavides will pass it onto a NMLA contract attorney. The NMLA has expended nearly all monies from the contract. The Laguna del Campo transfer has had no movement as the Office of the State Engineer is supposed to review water rights issues.

The Abiquiú water right case is also delayed because of court issues. New Mexico Legal Aid submitted three invoices, for January, February and March 2020.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. pay request #6 for \$5,375.00; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla – aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed – aye  
Councilor Martínez – aye  
Councilor Polaco – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. pay request #7 for \$2,350.00; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Polaco – aye  
Councilor Martínez – aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed – aye  
Councilor Padilla – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. pay request #8 for \$3,487.50; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla – aye  
Councilor Polaco – aye  
Councilor Martínez – aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

#### **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2020 and FY 2021 Budget**

##### *FY 2020*

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). Legal services expended to date is \$38,993.75; LGSF projects have gone out; Council in state travel expended to date is \$4,890.84, leaving a balance of \$4,609.46 remaining; no Council out of state travel has been expended to date, leaving a balance of \$7,000. In the UNM contract, \$111,622.03 has been expended, with \$104,323.97 remaining. This will be spent as UNM makes necessary adjustments and salaries that have been billed to the LGSP index are now billed wholly to the NMLGC index. Postage will be spent when distributing the reprint of the Land Grant Lawbooks, which are in process at the New Mexico State Printing Office. There is a potential reversion of \$20,134.34, mostly from out of state travel (staff and councilors) and other unspent budget items. The Council could see if contractors (like NMLA) could take on more work; monies within the UNM contract could only be used to buy additional supplies. We need guidance from DFA whether we can make BARs. Adjustments to the UNM and NMLA contracts would require contract amendments. If so, the Council would need to set a special meeting and post three-days meeting notice to comply with the OMA.

FY 2021

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget recommendation for FY 2021 (in packet). The Council was appropriated a flat budget, but may get cut. While the State of New Mexico will receive federal recovery funds, priorities will be health care and education. UNM was going to mandate a 4% increase to all employee pay, though this may change. As presented, the budget includes a significant increase for Jacobo Baca as he is well below the appropriate pay. The NMLGC just got clearance to have our contracts extended. As term employees, a freeze was going to happen by UNM and the OVPR did request that we are exempted and was approved. The budget recommendation presented does account for these increases.

The fee paid to DFA has been discussed and they might consider waiving the fee if our budget is cut. The fee was not paid under Governor Richardson but was charged under Governor Martínez. The budget does not include students (students Cheyenne Trujillo and Vidal Gonzales are graduating) and does increase the Land Grant Support Fund to \$20,000. Councilor Martínez added that with COVID restrictions, budget items for staff and councilor travel might be decreased. Councilor Padilla commented that in state travel needs to remain. Mr. Archuleta added that councilors would not receive per diem for this meeting. Per DFA advice, citing a New Mexico Attorney General's opinion, the provisions of the Mileage and Per Diem Act tie payment to travel, to offset costs for eating as per diem is not salary, but to cover out of pocket costs. A change in legislation in Act is necessary to change this and it would effect of all board and commissions.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve budget recommendation for FY 2021 budget;  
Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion passed.

### **15. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Agreement - FY 2020 & FY 2021**

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #7 for \$20,690.63 leaving a balance of \$117,029.62 on the Council contract, with billing narrative and UNM billing.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Pay Request #7; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #8 for \$12,705.65 leaving a balance of \$104,323.97 on the Council contract, with billing narrative and UNM billing.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve pay request #8; Chairman Sánchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work for the FY 2021 intergovernmental agreement.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the scope of work; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye  
Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion passed.

### **16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund – Don Fernando de Taos request for Change**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant has requested to amend their support fund agreement (awarded \$5,000). The Grant planned to pay for ground penetrating radar to locate graves in the U.S. Bank parking lot near the Taos Plaza but the bank denied their request to do radar surveying. The Grant would like to use some of the monies to pay for the archaeological report. Council staff consulted the UNM Law Clinic (which has been helping the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant) which stated that the report would be helpful. Don Fernando de Taos Grant president Frank Trujillo reported that the report would cost \$3,000-3,500 and asked that the Grant be allowed to use the remainder of the award (\$1,500-2,000) on office equipment for land grant. Mr. Archuleta stated that he asked Carmen Morin from DFA what will need to happen and she stated that an amended grant agreement would be needed. If approved, he will prepare an amended grant agreement and will need to get signatures from Mr. Trujillo and Chairman Sánchez. Councilors Polaco and Correa-Skartwed inquired if the Don Fernando de Taos Grant is compliant under Chapter 49; Mr. Baca responded that they were and were up to date on submissions to the land grant registry.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant's request to amend their support fund agreement; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye  
Councilor Polaco - aye  
Councilor Martínez - aye  
Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

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

Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that the Town of Tomé Land Grant submitted a copy of their 2019 Annual Report.

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

LM García y Griego reported that the LGSP is making adjustments to the youth program because of the COVID. The LGSP is also in discussions with Aspectos Culturales and Semos Unlimited regarding the acquisition of physical materials. The CLE program, “Land Grants, Acequias and the Law” was postponed until September. Mr. Archuleta reported that Venessa Chávez has worked on youth curricula with LGSP student Vidal Gonzales. Ms. Chávez thanked Mr. Gonzales for the curricula work and added that the purchase of Aspectos and Semos materials worthwhile, but that the LGSP will need to update some materials. Their website is no longer accessible and materials that the LGSP plans to use for youth programming may need to be purchased. Ms. Chávez added that the LGSP is continuing to work on curricula and will work with land grants to write their own histories to share with their youth. Mr. Baca added that the next edition of the newsletter is in development as are LGSP working papers. He is also working on sorting and organizing LGSP and NMLGC digital materials. Mr. Archuleta added that Cheyenne Trujillo is working on a guide for updating the Council’s website.

### **19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence**

Mr. Baca reported that Eva Stricker or the Quivira Coalition contacted the Council, to discuss working with land grants. (Ms. Stricker was previously on the conference call but left the meeting by Agenda item 19) The Quivira Coalition, which is a moderate environmentalist and more of a conservation minded organization, is creating education programs for their healthy soil program. Council staff will follow up with Ms. Stricker and may invite her to present at the May 2020 meeting.

### **20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments**

None.

### **21. Public Comments – discussion only**

None

### **22. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Councilor Polaco announced that he received word from attorney Jesús López that Judge Matthews denied motion for summary judgement from Frente de Lucha’s attorney in the Tierra Amarilla case relating to the Tierra o Muerte tract. Councilor Padilla reported that a board member of the Town of Tomé LG works for USDA through NMSU and said that USDA is looking for testing sites for chronic lung disease from spraying weed killer. The site will need to have internet access. The Town of Tomé will be a site and will receive \$20.00 per test. They are looking for rural sites in northern, central and southern New Mexico. If land grants are interested, they can contact her (Councilor Padilla); she will report back how the process went for Tomé.

Cheyenne Trujillo reported that she is graduating in May 2020 and will begin law school at UNM in the fall. She offered her gratitude. Councilors and staff thanked her for her work.

**23. Date and Location for May 2020 Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on May 21, 2020 at 10:00am and will be held virtually.

**24. Adjournment**

Councilor Martínez made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

- Roll call vote: Councilor Padilla- aye
- Councilor Polaco – aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Correa-Skartwed – aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date