

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
December 8, 2021 – 10:00am  
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)  
UNM Science and Technology Park  
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Zoom ID: 967 5346 8396

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:05am MST. Roll call of the Council members: Steve Polaco, Juan Sánchez, Andrea Padilla, Rebecca Correa Skartwed and Leonard Martínez were present.

**2. Introduction of Guests**

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Venessa Chavez (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (LGSP); Vidal Gonzales (NMLGC); Camilla Romero (NM State Land Office); Ashley Wright (USFS); Andrea Jones (Rio Grande National Forest); Novela Salazar (Treaty Division - NM Attorney General's Office); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján); Rita Padilla Gutiérrez (Town of Tomé Land Grant); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Elias Espinosa (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Juan Sanchez asked to move item 14 up in the agenda to follow item 5.

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Rebecca Correa Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2021 Council meeting**

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 10, 2021 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2022 Budget – BAR**

Mr. Arturo Archuleta presented the FY 2022 budget and a Budget Adjustment Resolution (BAR) for the Council’s consideration (see meeting packet). Council members discussed the BAR, which moves monies under the budget items within the UNM contract and converting a staff surveyor position to contracted surveyor services. This move, resulting from a viable and qualified candidate being no longer able to perform the duties of a staff surveyor, includes making adjustments to the budget, including: reducing project personnel (salary and fringe) by \$71,248.00, reducing personnel in state travel by \$10,000, reducing office supplies by \$1,100, eliminating general media supplies (\$500.00), eliminating surveyor software (\$2,000), eliminating survey equipment usage fees (\$9,000 ) and eliminating government fee expenses (\$1,000), for a total of \$94,484. Non-capital equipment is increased by \$700, tagged non-capital equipment increased \$1,968, \$14,880 is budgeted to law school externs and \$77,300 is budgeted got the professional surveyors contract, for a total of \$94,484.

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve the budget adjustment request, as presented; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Service Agreement – FY 22**

(Moved to number 5).

Pay request number two was presented for \$17,477.64, including \$13,118.86 in personnel, \$1,365.84 in staff travel, \$80.00 in facility rental fees, and \$2,912.94 in F&A fees.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve pay request number two; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Rita Padilla Gutierrez**

Rita Padilla Gutierrez (heir, Town of Tomé Grant) discussed three items in her presentation. The first was the recent interim legislative session and the state of guaranteed revenue streams legislation. The Interim Land Grant Committee opted to not endorse this legislation and Chairman Miguel García doubted that there was political will to pass the bill. Mrs. Padilla Gutierrez was angered by the characterization of land grants as dependents of the state, when they are local

governments that provide services for their communities largely through fundraising and volunteer work by their boards. Secondly, Mrs. Padilla Gutierrez discussed her frustration with delays for land grants when receiving monies administered by DFA. The Town of Tomé Grant faced a delay of more than two months for reimbursement on capital outlay projects. This delay was nearly extended five more weeks but funds were released after contacting supervisors at DFA. She expressed frustration that land grants were being treated this way and doubted if other political subdivisions and municipalities were treated with the same disregard. Venessa Chávez (NMLGC/LGSP) commented that she is concerned about the lack of on-time delivery from DFA, their lack of communication, and their lack of accountability. Ms. Chavez said there should be a position in DFA that focuses on land grants and that the DFA process needs to be improved to meet the needs of land grants in a timely manner. Mrs. Padilla Gutierrez also reported that the VIA (Valley Improvement Association) is dissolving. Despite all of the land managed and owned by the VIA deriving from the Town of Tomé Land Grant, the VIA has not offered to give or sell any property back to the Grant.

### **7. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service**

Ashley Wright (USFS R-3) reported on behalf of the USFS. She introduced Andrea Jones of the Rio Grande National Forest. Ms. Jones reported that she has worked with the Chama Peak Alliance to distribute firewood and permits to households in Tierra Amarilla. Councilor Polaco thanked Ms. Jones and mentioned that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is working with the local soil conservation district to get wood to the needy. Councilor Martinez asked if the CFRP conference would take place and asked about the Ojo firewood sale; Ms. Wright responded that she did not know but that she would report back. Ms. Wright will also ask the Santa Fe, Carson, and Cibola Forest about the wood permitting process and report back. Councilor Polaco asked if the USFS had plumbing and electrical schematics for the PLVC. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC staff) presented 13 letters submitted to the USFS Region three, expressing the Councils desire to serve as an interested party in the objection resolution process for objections submitted by various groups, largely environmental non-profit organizations. Six letters address the Carson National Forest, four letters address the Santa Fe National Forest and three letters address the Cibola National Forest.

### **8. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division**

Novela Salazar (NMAG Treaty Division) reported that the NMAG will not ask the governor to put a call on Treaty Division statute changes as it sees the Council or Legislature as the more appropriate party to ask the governor to request the legislation. Ms. Salazar also reported that the NMAG's office is continuing to plan on a space for land grant history in the NMAG's office. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG) commented that he is excited to open archives in the NMAG's library about land grants. He wants to video tape land grant presidents about the civil abuses that land grants face and other legal issues and to have panel discussions with the NMLGC and the Attorney General. Dr. Dow y Anaya stated that he plans to meet with Mr. Archuleta and Dr. Baca about planning this project.

### **9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Projects**

Camile Romero (SLO) stated that planning continues on the Bearcat project and that the SLO will not know about funding until January. The SLO has x-mass tree permits and is waiting for the MOU agreement to be ready for the Council to review.

## **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update**

Mr. Baca reported that Senator Ben R. Luján is working on a letter to send to the Biden administration regarding the 30 x 30 campaign that asks that land grant, tribes and that traditional uses are protected and recognized in plans by the administration. Sofía Sánchez (Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury) commented that her office is opening up internships and want applicants from rural communities. Councilor Padilla thanked Representative Stansbury for her help contacting UNM archives and reported that UNM has historic Tomé documents that they are evaluating for conservation.

### *State-*

Mr. Baca reported that the legislature is in the special session regarding redistricting. He also reminded land grants that capital outlay requests are due by January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by 3:00pm. The session is currently open to people with vaccine cards but might go virtual if the recent variant continues to surge. Councilor Martínez asked that Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández's office reach out to the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District regarding funding for the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center. Mr. Baca suggested reaching out to state legislators as it is a state agency and Ms. Sánchez offered letters of support from Rep. Stansbury's office. Eric Chávez (office of Senator Ben. R. Luján) added that Senator Luján's office can also offer a support letter and suggested reaching out to Senator Leo Jaramillo and Rep. Roger Montoya. He also reported that the U.S. Senate is focusing on the debt ceiling conversation and that the office is looking forward to the Congreso de las Acequia. Mr. Chávez asked if the land grants have sought the support of the regional council of governments; Mr. Baca clarified that the NNMEDD is the council of governments for the region. Councilor Martínez stated that the grant did reach out to the NNMEDD and that they were hesitant in helping them and asked for the Senator's assistance reaching out to the and getting aid to grant write and other assistance.

## **11. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update**

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM is taking wood permit requests over the phone for northern New Mexico and will mail them out to communities. Communities should call 575-758-8852 for permits and the BLM will help to issue them for spring and the fall. The BLM is also planning to work with the Coyote Ranger District (USFS) to issue permits. Councilor Polaco asked for direction where Tierra Amarilla Land Grant heirs can get fuel wood in their area. Ms. Morrison offered to send a map out to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant that show fuelwood areas. She added that BLM managers would like to attend a USFS Land Grant 101 class. Ms. Wright (USFS) added that she can collaborate on the Land Grant 101, which the USFS has also requested from Mr. Archuleta. Ms. Morrison stated that the BLM is working on 6 land management plans and is prioritizing the Rio Puerco land management plan. The Department of the Interior wants the BLM to withdraw land from natural resource production near the Chaco Historic Park.

## **12. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal**

Dr. Baca reported that the Council is not likely to pursue a YCC Grant in FY 2022, but will continue to work on their application. The Council will be implementing the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division Trails + projects this year (\$25,000) and our chances for receiving the YCC Grant in FY 2023 might improve if we can prove we used successfully used the Trails+ funding and implemented its projects.

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

Dr. Baca reported that the grant agreements have been forwarded to the NMAG's office for review. DFA is now accepting electronic signatures, which will expedite the processing of the agreements.

### **15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services for Land Grants Update and Requests**

Dr. Baca reported that the Council has not received any new requests for legal services. New Mexico Legal Aid continues to work on the Abiquiú, Juan Bautista Baldes and Río Santa Bárbara cases. The Council has not receive the latest billing from NM Legal Aid. Councilor Correa Skartwed stated that the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant wants to put in a request to have attorneys assist with pieces of property that need to be conveyed.

### **16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract - Update and Requests**

Dr. Baca reported that the NMLGC is working on the reworked budget that will put out a request for land surveying contractors that can fulfill the need for land grant surveying services. The Council was appropriated junior monies in the 2021 legislative session for surveying assistance. Councilor Polaco commented that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant's request for a surveyor will be put on hold until a surveyor is on contract. Councilor Martínez asked about the hiring process for the surveyor and how the lands in need of surveying will be prioritized. Dr. Baca responded that the funding needs to be expended and the prioritization will be determined based on urgency of each land grant's situation. In the past, priority was given to land grants that faced the prospect of losing land or the possibility of gaining land. Some of these surveying requests can take years.

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

Councilor Polaco reported that there are still some issues with the building. Electrical issues are still a very big concern and there are extensive repairs needed due to missing copper. Some of the other boxes and electrical systems may be outdated. The well may also require some repairs and will be looked at on December 14. The roofs of the buildings may also need major repairs. Councilor Martínez added that the land grants wants to prioritize electric, water and roofing. They also want to ensure the buildings are secure and purchase liability and building insurances. Councilman Polaco has found someone to give a quote on insurance policies. He has also found plans from engineers in the building and will work on contacting those engineers listed.

### **18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update**

Councilor Polaco reported that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is still negotiating with the NM Department of Game and Fish regarding Laguna del Campo and is concerned that the Department is not cooperating and CC-ing the land grant's attorney n correspondence.

### **19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update**

Dr. Baca reported that following has been received by the Council for inclusion in the New Mexico Land Grant Registry.

- Minutes for FY 2020 for the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant

Registry letters were provided to Chairman Sánchez to sign and will be sent to the above named land grants, recognizing the submission of these documents to the Land Grant Registry.

### **20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update**

Anissa Baca (LGSP) stated that the LGSP finished the oral history interviews that were in the Taos and Valdez area, including four interviews conducted by some youth in the area and their elders. The LGSP also collected the essays from those participants and edited videos for those oral histories. The LGSP conducted interviews with Manzano Land Grant youth and leaders that do some work at the community center with the kids. They collected anise that grows wild by the lake with the kids and got a lot of footage of that and of the area. Ms. Baca stated that she will start editing those videos. Dr. Baca reported that there is no new information Dr. LM Garcia y Griego regarding the Land Grant Institute. He added that the LGSP is considering whether to reapply again next year from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Grant that has thus far funded the youth and land grant oral history engagements. Councilor Martínez asked if the Council has kept up with the social media and website for the council and wants these videos to have a wider audience and presence so the youth have access to it. Dr. Baca responded that the Council website is updated regularly but the Council does not have a social media presence. Vidal Gonzales (NMLGC) stated that the Council could do an Instagram account to share short clips of the videos. Councilor Martínez suggested the Instagram should be on the Council's next agenda.

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

Dr. Baca reported that the Council submitted its FY 2021 Annual Report.

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

None.

### **23. Public Comments – Discussion only**

Councilor Polaco reported that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is working with Northern New Mexico College, which seeks to develop an abandoned air force base into a solar energy generating station that will send solar power to Los Alamos. The income can help Grant pay for electrical bills for community members. They need to find out how this piece of property was bought and Councilor Polaco is asking where he can find these records and information. Councilor Padilla stated that she is interested in pursuing options mentioned by Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino at the November Interim Land Grant Committee meeting in lieu of the guaranteed revenue streams. She thought that the land grants should meet with him to further discuss creating a new "line" to stream the money for insurances. Dr. Dow y Anaya commented that the Attorney General's office released an announcement regarding Opioid Crisis Funds that are available for marginalized communities. These funds can be put towards health centers, equity, counseling, et cetera. Councilor Martínez added that his land grant and others need to change their EIN number with IRS and that he is seeking help from Ms. Chávez and the Council. He added that Geoff Padilla, Film Office Liaison, from Rio Arriba County coordinates with the film industry and filming locations, that he wants land grant lands to be used and this can generate revenue.

### **24. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Dr. Baca reported that Ms. Chávez is working to coordinate a training with the auditor's office. The Consejo and the New Mexico Acequia Association worked together on amendments to cannabis legislation and will continue working together to ensure land grant and acequia input are included on the new HB 265, which is analogous to 30x30 campaign. He also reported that the December Consejo meeting was postponed until January.

### **25. Date and Location for January and February 2022 Council Meetings**

The January 2022 Council meeting will take place on January 12, 2022 at 10:00am and February 2022 Council meeting will take place on February 16, 2022 at 12:00pm.

**25. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm MST.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date