

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
February 18, 2021 – 10:00am
Virtual Meeting
Zoom ID: 935 5418 7603

Minutes – Final
Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:04am. Roll call of the Council members: Leonard T. Martínez, Andrea Padilla, Rebecca Correa-Skartwed, Steve Polaco and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martinez (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa-Skartwed (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Venessa Chávez (NMLGC/LGSP); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Bill Sapp (Acting Liaison, USFS); Elaine Kohrman (USFS – Region 3); Scott Claggett (USFS – Region 3); Ian Fox (USFS – Region 3); Robert Trujillo (USFS); Amy Leuders (US Fish and Wildlife Service); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján); Nicolas Estrada (intern, Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján); Maya Piñón (Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland); LM García y Griego (LGSP/NMLGC); Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division); Rita Padilla Gutiérrez (Town of Tomé Land Grant).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Rebecca Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Andrea Padilla 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.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2021 Council meeting

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 21, 2021 Council meeting; Councilor Leonard 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 was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that she met virtually with NMLGC staff Arturo Archuleta and RAC coordinator Alison Sandoval to discuss the northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Coordinator (RAC). The first call for nominations is complete and the BLM is planning a second call as the BLM did not receive any applications for open positions, including one for an elected official. All elected officials, including members of a land grant board of trustees, can apply. Once the notice goes out applicants will have 30 days to submit their application. Ms. Morrison reported that she is working with the BLM fire division to help land grants know where there are areas in need of treatment and that may provide fuelwood opportunities. If there are areas of interest, please let Ms. Morrison know and she will connect requestors to the appropriate field office. Councilor Martínez offered his condolences to the Farmington Field Office, who suffered the loss of Farmington Field Manager Rick Fields, who passed away of cancer. Ms. Morrison thanked Councilor Martínez for his thoughts and prayers and said the loss was hard for the BLM. Councilor Martínez reported that he spoke with Jeff Tafoya of the BLM regarding wood poaching near Lindrith and thanked Ms. Morrison for her contacts and working with fire division.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update

Bill Sapp (USFS) reported that Paul Martinez of the Coyote Ranger District contacted Councilor Martínez directly and discussed fuelwood projects on the area. Councilor Martínez responded that they discussed the Moya project near Lindrith, which will open April 15. The USFS will burn slash in the fall. The project is mutually beneficial as communities can use the wood and it helps clean out overgrowth. Mr. Sapp also reported that Ian Fox and others from Region 3 met with Council staff to discuss the Master Stewardship Agreement and will reach out for another reading after reviewing comments. If the MSA is with the Council, the Council will need to be involved and financially liable in all SPA or stand alone agreements. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC) added that he and Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) met with David Borland, Ian Fox and Byron Keely of the USFS but further discussions are needed. The MSA might be a boiler plate and other agreements might be individual and not SPAs connected to the NMLGC-USFS MSA. Mr. Archuleta also reported that he spoke with James Duran of the Carson National Forest, who stated that he would like to pursue an MOU. The Council worked on a MOU with Region 3 more than 2 years ago, but it got stuck in Washington DC for review during the Trump administration. Elaine Kohrman (Deputy Regional Forester, USFS Region 3) reported that Michiko Martin has been chosen as the regional forester for Region 3. She starts March 1, 2021 and will have meetings during the transition, including meetings with the NMLGC.

Ms. Kohrman reported that many at the Regional office, including Ian Fox, are working on the Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) agreement. They are formalizing an MSO leadership group, which was initiated in May 2020. The Wild Earth Guardians, NM State Forestry, NM Game and Fish, the USFS U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity are part of the group. They will meet on March 3 to present and share the results of an MSO mapping effort and discuss strategy and conflict resolution as a means to avoid lawsuits. Amy Lueders (US Fish and Wildlife) thanked Elaine Kohrman for her leadership and stated that the USFS and US Fish and Wildlife have a great partnership. She added that the MSO leadership group is a good opportunity for the public to participate and build a collaborative path forward. Ian Fox (USFS) thanked the Council for the opportunity to present and Amy Lueders and Elaine Kohrman for their leadership.

Region 3 is working on resumed operations through an all lands matchmaking group which will help identify work opportunities like fuels reduction work and acquiring materials for producers. Their work has been successful and they were able to maintain the majority of forest industry companies, though two companies (Boss and Jensen Bros) closed during the injunction. Because of the injunction, industry groups have learned that they need to work on diversified land bases and landscapes, federally owned, state owned, and private owned. The hope is that through shared stewardship and networking, they can create more opportunities. Personal use areas will reopen after the spring thaw and muddy conditions dry. Mr. Fox invites the participation of land grants and the NMLGC. Region 3 will have a March 3 MSO meeting from 9am to 12pm, facilitated by Rosemary Romero. They will discuss the 6 point strategy that was tied to the 2012 MSO recovery plan, which includes: 1)Owl population trend monitoring; 2)protect and identify MSOs; 3) monitor with treatments; 4) habitat trend monitoring; 5) re-establish MSO ecological management working groups; and 6) maintain a leaders forum.

Robert Trujillo (USFS) stated that map products will reveal habitat. As part of the agreement, the USFS will produce MSO recovery habitat maps that include potential habitat with cover types and will also produce long term trend mapping habitat maps. The mapping data comes from field work and maps will allow us to look at actual habitats and data from 1986-2020 to reveal habitat changes. The plan is to automate the process. Councilor Martinez commented that there needs to be a change of mindset and a publicity campaign to show that people can co-exist with species like the MSO. People are afraid that forest will shut down again. Ms. Kohrman agreed especially as communities face drought. They are looking to an approach that is integrated; considers economics, ecological considerations, etc. The group plans to make field trips and consider livelihood, culture and traditions in their planning. Mr. Trujillo commented that he is from El Rito and anchors back to his traditions, like picking osha, which is more rare than before. He commented that biodiversity is our heritage and social science is important as well as land dependent communities, making conservation education, beyond fishing and ecology, important. Councilor Padilla added that the youth are key and they can participate in monitoring, where they can spot, mark, monitor, and be part of the solution. Venessa Chavez (Tajique Land Grant) asked how a forest trail can be named. She commented that the Kaiser Trail in the Manzano Mountains was used to take communion from mountain communities to Tomé and vice versa, long before it was named the Kaiser Trail. Ms. Kohrman stated that there is a process and that Mr. Sapp will share the information with the Ms. Chavez. Dr. Garcia y Griego asked if the mapping habitat data is available to the LGSP or NMLGC. Mr. Trujillo responded that it will be available after March 3.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Updates

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that he had a meeting with Senator Ben Ray Luján's office, which is working on finalizing a draft for introduction into Senate. Committees that it needs to go through will be identified in this process. They will speak to Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez's staff about the bill. This will be one of Senator Lujan's first bills he introduces. Maya Piñón (Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland) attended the meeting in behalf of Congresswoman Haaland/Sofia Sánchez and reported that the operations are winding down. Rep. Haaland has confirmations hearings for her nomination as Secretary of the Interior next week. Eric Chavez (Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján) stated that the Luján office is working through the draft of the Senate traditional use rights bill and pondering main committee assignments. Senator Luján will serve on the Senate Committee for Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and on subcommittees as

well. The Santa Fe office will be the main office and staff continued to work remotely while other offices are being set up and details shared soon. Senator Luján co-sponsored Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act, which provides \$2 billion to pay federal loans to minority farmers.

State

Mr. Archuleta stated that the most recent legislative update is in the meeting packet. SB 68, relating to election changes and updates to Chapters 49.1 and 49.4 (Chililí), is in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting a hearing. The Council may need to contact Chair Senator Daniel Ivey Soto to hear the bill. SB 85, the Land Grant Merced Assistance Act, is in Senate Finance Committee and is delayed because the auditor had clarifications and worked with NMLGC to create an amendment that will fix uncertainties in the bill. It will be a challenge to get the bill heard in Senate Finance. SB 111, an appropriation to the Council to hire an attorney and surveyor is also in the Senate Finance Committee. SB 157 provides funding to develop curricula on land grant and acequias. It relates to a memorial last year and provides funding to NMHU's Ben Luján Leadership Institute and Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations. HB 41, recognizing certain sub grants as political subdivisions, will be on the House floor today. HB 78 the Tierra Amarilla traditional use land management bill, faces stiff opposition and may not move. HB 229, regarding natural resource protections, was pulled by its sponsor, Rep. Castellano, citing his need to discuss aspects of the bill further, including his concerns of a common waters definition and concerns by the Office of the State Engineer. HB 4, the NM Civil Rights Act, has passed the House and is not the Senate. There is a concern that it will make small political subdivisions vulnerable to lawsuits and legal expenses. There are protections for community assets in statute, but legal fees could hurt small governments that have small budgets. The hope is that there could be sliding scale in damages awarded and or funding for the community governance attorney program to alleviate the potential harm done to small governments by this bill. HB 189, changes to the Community Governance Attorney Act will be in the House Judiciary. Under this program, law students can get a loan for 3rd year of law school if they commit to work with non-profits working with land grant and acequias for 2 years. The fund pays off this loan and pays half of salary of attorneys in the program for the 2 years. It amends language to allow participants to pay their attorneys more than \$50K as the NMLA needs to pay their attorneys more. The oversight council created by the act can adjust rate and cap rather than needing an act of legislature; former NMLGC member Macario Griego is on this oversight council, which has not yet met.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the New Mexico Land Grant Council support HB 189, changes to the Community Governance Attorney Act; 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.

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion that the New Mexico Land Grant Council support SB 157, which funds work on land grant and acequia curriculum; 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 was passed.

Council members discussed House Bill 4 and the lack of funding and resources to defend themselves from lawsuits and the need to express opposition unless the bill is amended. The bill removes qualified immunity as a defense against such suits and allows individuals to bring civil rights lawsuits under Section 2 of the Bill of Rights, of the New Mexico State constitution, to any district court in New Mexico. Currently, civil rights lawsuits are allowed in federal court under Section 1983. Suits in federal court are more expensive and courts are less accessible and are not located throughout state. This bill makes it easier to bring civil rights lawsuits. As originally drafted, it would have allowed lawsuits under whole constitution, but was amended to operate under only the bill of rights. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is included in the Bill of Rights. The bill also sets statute of limitations to 3 years. Acequias have had been sued for civil rights violations and could not afford their legal defense so they were forced to settle, even though plaintiff has no valid claim to water rights. The committee substitution for HB 4 has a \$2 million cap on damages and does not allow punitive damages, only restitution, but allows for the payment of attorney fees. The intent of the bill is to respond to cases like that of George Floyd and instances of child abuse, where the actions of police and other government workers deprived individuals of their civil rights. The bill exempts the judiciary and legislature from the removal of qualified immunity, If land grants had guaranteed revenue streams, they could purchase tort liability and civil rights liability from the Risk Management Division.

Land grants, acequias, mutual domestics and soil and water conservation districts have expressed their concern. Acequia leaders discussed their concerns with co-sponsor Speaker Brian Egolf, who was not interested in exemptions or caps. The bill has passed the House, meaning any changes will have to happen on Senate side. The intent of bill is good, but land grants and acequias may be harmed as an unintended consequence. Land grants can express their concerns through their senators and representatives. The bill will likely go to Senate Judiciary, which is chaired by one of the bill sponsors, Senator Joseph Cervantes. Councilors stated that they were supportive of a letter from the Council expressing their concerns with the bill. They commented that one civil lawsuit will force us to sell land to cover the \$2 million award, not to mention the costs of even a frivolous lawsuit that the grant would ultimately win. Councilors cautioned that the letter needed to be carefully worded to support the protection of individuals civil rights, but to express that the bill is an overreach and harms land grants, which protect the civil rights of minority people whose rights are historically and currently violated. Even frivolous suits cost too much and attorney's fees aren't possible with \$10,000 annual budget, which points to the need for a guaranteed revenue stream to support land grants. They also stated that land grant and acequias profile has increased with success and makes them potential targets. Councilor Martinez asked Novela Salazar (Office of the NMAG, Treaty Division) if the Attorney General responds when the State of New Mexico is sued for civil rights violations and if the NMAG responds if low income political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico are sued as well. Ms. Salazar (NMAG) responded that the Attorney General does respond to suits against the State of New Mexico but was uncertain if the

NMAG would respond to suits against a political subdivision of the state. She will send question to her superiors in the NM Attorney General's office. Chairman Sánchez remarked that the Council should send a letter to the sponsor that states that we do not oppose the bill but oppose being included in legislation without a mechanism to defend ourselves. The bill is currently in the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee. Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino is the chair of the Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee; Senators Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and Senator Liz Stefanics are on committee as well. It is unknown where the Governor stands on the bill. Mr. Archuleta reported that today is the last day to introduce legislation and there is still not a sponsor for the Treaty Division bill, which was not prepared in time to be endorsed by the Interim Land Grant Committee. We did not receive a draft of bill until after the session started and no one was willing to sponsor the bill. The changes are important but will not impede the Division from doing its work if bill does not pass. We will go back to interim for endorsement, though next year we will need message from Governor as there is no appropriation tied to the bill.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2021 Budget

A budget update was provided in the packet. To date \$2,700 remains in in state travel. The UNM contract has spent \$89,766.79; \$125,379.21 is remaining.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund Update

All purchase orders submitted has been approved. We did get approval for risk management insurance for the Santa Bárbara Land Grant and Don Fernando de Taos withdrew their request to purchase insurance as their needed to reauthorize monies that they planned to use to purchase a building. They are working to get their fund reauthorized to allow for the purchase of a building; it currently only allows for construction. The Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant wants to change their award's scope of work to allow them to purchase office equipment. They were awarded a \$1,315 LGSF award.

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to allow the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant to amend the scope of work of their LGSF award to allow them to purchase office supplies and equipment; Councilor Padilla 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 Town of Tomé Land Grant has also requested that they be allowed to amend the scope of work of their award to allow for the purchase of a wood splitter. Currently, the award allows the purchase of office equipment, repair a commercial refrigerator and other equipment. The Tomé Grant wants to forego some of these supplies (chairs and a stand) to purchase a wood splitter to allow cutting of firewood as they have recently been allowed more access to the bosque.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to allow the Town of Tomé Land Grant to amend the scope of work of their LGSF award to allow for the purchase of a wood splitter; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Creation of Land Grant Institute at UNM Update

Dr. García y Griego stated that there are no developments to report. The new Vice President for Research for UNM will start in March and staff will prepare a briefing for her.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Capital Outlay Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that the capital outlay process was quite different this year. The due date for requests was moved from February 11 to February 8. NMLGC helped numerous land grants with requests and reauthorizations. Representative Miguel Garcia again asked that the Council play a role in coordinating capital outlay requests from land grants. A list (in the meeting packet) includes several land grant projects; those on a list are potentially funded projects that at least one legislator has expressed interest in funding at least partially. The list will be refined and legislators will fund some projects and others may be cut. If land grants do not appear on the list and want help to find their projects they can contact Council staff. Chililí has requested \$150,000 for a fire station; San Joaquín del Río de Chama requested \$50,000 for their community center; Tierra Amarilla requested \$40,000 for land acquisition; the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant has requested for \$100,000 for a building; the Santa Bárbara Land Grant has requested \$100,000 for a building; and the Town of Tomé Land Grant has requested \$100,000 for their historic jail site. We do not know how much each legislator ultimately will put toward funding these requests. Rep. McQueen has a bill, carried by former Senator Sander Rue in the past, that made capital outlay funding a public record. It has repeatedly been defeated. There may be House Bill 2 junior monies. DFA presented to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. The Legislative Finance Council recommended a flat budget for the Council and the Governor recommended a budget increase of \$24,000. Representative Christine Trujillo fought for the increase.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract - Update and Requests

Mr. Archuleta commented that Mr. Chris Chávez is working and aware of his contract increase and will devote all of his time to the contract.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services for Land Grants – Update and Requests

The Council has received no new invoices from New Mexico Legal Aid. David Benavides is continuing to work on litigation and did submit an appeal brief for Tajique case. There are 40 days for the opposing party to respond, after which he will have 28 days to respond to their response. He and contract attorney Joe Lennihan are also continuing work the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant case.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty Division Update

Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Division) reported that she had no updates.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Agreement – FY 2021

Pay Request #6 was presented, for \$17,815.94. This includes \$11,373.70 in personnel expenses, and \$3,472.93 to surveyor contract, \$2969.31 in the 20% Facility and Administration Fees. Included in packet is narrative associated with Pay Request #6.

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve Pay Request #6 for \$17,815.94; Councilor Polaco 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.

16. Discussion & Action on Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that he spoke with James Duran of the Carson National Forest, and discussed the purchase. The USFS removed the requirement for easements to be granted to utilities and wireless companies, which was hampering the transfer as the companies were uninterested in seeking a new easement, and the final purchase is getting close. The USFS sent an amended purchase and sale agreement to Holland and Hart Law Firm attorney Larry Montaña. When he gives notice, land grants can sign the agreement and once it is signed by all land grants representatives and is notarized, it will be sent to the USFS, which will process and send an invoice. This will be sent to DFA, which will disburse the monies and the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Grant will send payment. The environmental assessment expires on March 23, 2021, so the purchase needs to be completed by then. James Durán wants to have a COVID safe celebration in May and wants the San Joaquín, Juan Bautista Baldes, and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants , the Council, the Congressional Delegation and the Governor’s office to participate.

17. Discussion & Action on State Land Office fuelwood projects

Council staff met with the New Mexico State Forestry Division and discussed two programs (see packet), the Non Federal Lands (NFL) and Wild Urban Interface (WUI) grant programs, that land grants may be eligible to participate in. Staff have discussed coordinating a workshop with State Forestry and the NRCS to present programs, including the healthy soils initiative, to land grant organizations. The workshop could be held virtually. The WUI program allows private landowners in a program area to apply for a grant program, but needs a fiscal agent and lead applicant. Chairman Sánchez suggested going through your local soil and water conservation district, which has experience managing these programs. Councilor Martínez reported that no action is taking place on the Cebolla project (which includes the San Joaquin and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants) because of the snow. Their liability coverage for the project lasts for a year after issuance.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco and Mr. Archuleta reported that they have yet to hear back from the La Puente Community Ditch Association. The Parkview Ditch Association might attend a future Tierra Amarilla Land Grant meeting to express some concerns.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant submitted their Special District Financial Quarterly Report for Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2020.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LGSP submitted its annual report to OVPR and will share slides with Council members. Ms. Chavez is continuing oral history interviews. The LGSP is waiting to hear about their NRGRHA award application. Mr. Baca reported that LGSP staff presented for the UNM Law School and will be meeting with the Cieneguilla and Jacona Land Grant Association representatives in the next few weeks. Mr. Garcia y Griego commented that the CLE course was cancelled last year and he was considering opinions on how to proceed. Some CLEs are continuing virtually via Zoom, which could be a way to do it rather than in person. Councilors all agreed that in person is preferable, as a fee would still be assessed and there would still be opportunities to network with attorneys. With vaccination proceeding it might be doable in person in the late summer or early fall.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Mr. Archuleta commented that the Council, though misidentified, has received a notice of tort, along with the New Mexico Attorney General's office and the New Mexico State Auditor. The action alleges that all named entities failed to respond to a request for intervention for heirs of the Anton Chico Land Grant and for damages related to constitutional rights violations. The Council has also been informed that some of same group served the Anton Chico Land Grant with a lawsuit relating to elections. They are asking for an injunction on the Grant, asking that they not hold their election nor work on anything related to the election unless they can verify it will be overseen by the New Mexico Secretary of State or the NMLGC to ensure a fair election. In 2017, Secretary of State Dianna Durán agreed to intervene. After her resignation, the next Secretary of State reneged and the Guadalupe County Clerk assisted on behalf of secretary of state. The lawsuit wants to bring this section of bylaws relating to 2017 suit forward to subsequent elections. If the NMLGC assists, this potentially lawsuit goes away. Dr. Baca reported that he send a response to Richard Bond, who inquired about his rights to the Arroyo de San Lorenzo / Antonio Chaves Land Grant in Socorro County. Bond's ancestor, Hiram Bond, was a land speculator that bought and quickly sold the grant before it was rejected by the Court of Private Land Claims in 1893, a decision that was appealed to and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1898. Mr. Bond expressed an interest in developing a concession from the BLM on the former land grant lands. Dr. Baca reported to Mr. Bond that he did not believe that Mr. Bond could prove standing in pursuing a claim to the grant since his ancestor sold his interest in the grant before it was petitioned and rejected.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Councilor Padilla made a motion to allow staff to work on House Bill 4, including sending a letter expressing the Council's concern with the legislation to the chair of Senate committees hearing the legislation bill; 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 was passed.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to allow staff to work on the Anton Chico Land Grant election; Councilor Polaco 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.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to allow staff to work with the Torreón Land Grant with its bylaws and compliance with state statute, Chapter 49.1; 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.

Councilors Padilla and Martínez requested assistance from the NMLGC to update their EIN and NM CRS information and obtain tax free status for purchases.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Padilla commented that land grants may need to pursue legislation to assist land grants with audits. The price is going up; the Tomé Grant was quoted \$4,100, which seems high for just agreed upon procedures, not a full-blown audit. Councilor Martínez added that even a simple audit is \$800-900, and if land grants get guaranteed revenue streams this will not be an issue. Mr. Archuleta commented that there is a small fund that entities can apply for, but its is underfunded and very few applicants get funded. If land grants get guaranteed revenue streams, the costs may range from \$3,900-8,000. Councilor Martínez commented that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama is nearing the completion of the update to their bylaws and thanked Mr. Archuleta for his assistance.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

26. Date and Location for March 2021 Council Meeting

The March 2021 Council meeting will take place virtually on March 25, 2021 at 10:00am, online via Zoom.

27. Adjournment

Councilor Martínez made a motion to adjourn; Chairman Sánchez 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. The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date