

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
March 25, 2021 – 10:00am  
Virtual Meeting  
Zoom ID: 923 0038 3536

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

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:08am. 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); Stephanie García-Richard (New Mexico State Land Commissioner); Camilla Romero (NM State Land Office); Alysha Shaw (NM State Land Office); Angie Poss (NM State Land Office); Sofía Sánchez (New Mexico Congressional District 1); Maya Durham (New Mexico Congressional District 1); Suha Musa (New Mexico Congressional District 1); Matt Miller (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez); Patricia Domínguez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Bill Sapp (Acting Liaison, USFS); Tim Hagamann (NM Economic Development Department); Joaquin Arguello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant); Stoney Jaramillo (Anton Chico Land Grant).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2021 Council meeting**

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 18, 2021 Council meeting; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

## **5. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation from Land Commissioner Garcia Richard**

New Mexico State Land Commissioner Stephanie García Richard thanked the Council for inviting her to the Council meeting and extended an offer of partnership between the New Mexico State Land Office SLO and the NMLGC. Commissioner García Richard commented that she sees a lot of overlap between land stewardship and land use. As the first woman, first educator and first Latina at the helm of the New Mexico State Land Office, she understands the importance of their responsibility to make money to fund the public schools. From the 13 million acres that they administer, they use this land to draw revenue for public schools, hospitals, and the state's public universities, but want to protect the land as well. The NM SLO wants feedback in the partnership that they are proposing. Commissioner García Richard stated that her family is from La Garita and her husband is from northern New Mexico. With her today is Camilla Romero, a long time staffer with the SLO, who is versed in traditional uses land permits for fuelwood gathering and resource gathering. The goal of the SLO under Commissioner Garcia Richard is to provide access to state land for these uses. Today she hopes to propose an offer to work together to discover what a traditional use permit would look like and to discuss which areas need more access for heirs of land grants. Camilla Romero (NM SLO) commented that she has been working with Councilor Martínez on the project near Cebolla for fuelwood permits. They have a similar project near Villanueva. They hope to offer a traditional use permit for sand, fuelwood, herbs, and other traditional use products. Commissioner García Richard added that the SLO is here to establish a partnership.

Chairman Sánchez thanked Commissioner García Richard for coming to the Council meeting and added that he was unsure whether the SLO and NMLGC would need an MOU or JPA, in case of monetary exchange. One of the first steps is to compare a map of SLO land in New Mexico with land grant maps to determine how close these tracts and their resources are to land grants. Commissioner García Richard stated that she is comfortable with a MOU or JPA and will have Camila Romero join future Council meetings. Councilor Padilla thanked Commissioner García Richard for attending the Council meeting and stated that sometimes we need a Latina to get things moving forward. She asked Commissioner García Richard if a land grant is not close to SLO lands would they be able to access and share resources closer to other communities. Commissioner García Richard responded that they do not intend to limit and that inclusion is their strategy. Councilors Martínez and Polaco stated that with the closing of the PLVC purchase, both grants intend to turn their attention to the Cebolla Project and look forward to working with the SLO. Councilor Correa Skartwed thank Commissioner García Richard for joining the meeting and expressed her excitement at forming an agreement. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC staff) thanked Commissioner García Richard for stepping up for the communities of the Santa Bárbara and Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grants to provide fuelwood from state lands when the MSO injunction threatened access to firewood for their communities. Commissioner García Richard responded that the SLO can step in to provide these resources, nimbly and quickly.

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

Bill Sapp (USFS) stated that Kim Castelnick will be contacting the Council regarding the MSA with Taos. He thanked the NMLGC for letting the USFS discuss their Mexican Spotted Owl work and mentioned that Councilor Martínez stated at the last meeting that the older generation does not understand the issue and that Councilor Correa Skartwed suggested youth could be involved and do some of the MSO work. The USFS is looking into programs that can engage youth, especially in communities facing MSO issues. The Carson National Forest Plan Revision is ongoing and met

with the government working group on March 3; their next meeting is April 28. The Santa Fe National Forest contacted the NMLGC to update regarding their timeline and will complete their response to comments in early April. Both Forests are asking for cooperating agencies to help inform public about the plan. The Council has received the draft MSA from David Borland, but has not yet reviewed his updated draft. Councilor Martinez asked about the rollout for wood permits for dead and down in the Santa Fe National Forest, whether it would be in the middle of April or May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Sapp commented permits will likely be available in early May.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that Deb Haaland has been confirmed as the Secretary of the interior. Pamela Mathis has been selected as the new manager for the Taos Field Office and the BLM is close to filling the state forester position, which is important for stewardship contracts. Ms. Morrison spoke with BLM fire specialists about the national database, which is very broad and used for planning prescribed burning for grasses and thinning. The deputy suggested land grants work with their local field office. Mr. Archuleta asked for any updates on the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Ms. Morrison responded that she has no update, but they are hoping for more movement with Sec. Haaland on board. Mr. Archuleta added that the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant is interested in a small BLM parcel in San Antonio and that he passed on Ms. Morrison's contact information to grant president Moises Gonzales. Councilor Martínez asked if the database was internal or public, how projects are prioritized and when online permits will be available. Ms. Morrison responded that she believed the database is internal only, offered to arrange a call to discuss the prioritization of projects and stated that she will forward the press release regarding online permits when it is available.

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

### *State*

The final 2021 New Mexico Legislative Session Land Grant legislation update is included in the packet. SB 68, which would have updated the elections section of 49.1 and 49.4 (Chililí LG statute) died at the close of the 2021 Legislative Session in the Senate Rules Committee. SB 85 died at the end of the 2021 Legislative Session in the Senate Finance Committee. The Office of the State Auditor reviewed the bill and made it stronger. SB 111 was tabled in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee and died. It had been stripped down by Senate Finance, but would have provided \$100,000 in recurring funding. SB 157, acequias and land grants in public education, died in Senate Finance; the project was funded \$45,000 through a direct appropriation. HB 41 passed and is on the Governor's desk for signature. It would probably be good for the NMLGC to approve letter to encourage the Governor to sign the bill. If signed into law it will become effective June 18, 2021. HB 78, Tierra Amarilla Traditional Use and Land Management, brought opposition, but benefitted from FIR and information from the federal government. The bill died in the House Local Government, Land Grant and Cultural Affairs Committee. HB 189 was passed by the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for Signature. If signed into law it will become effective June 18, 2021.

The Community Governance Attorney Fund is funded at \$96,000 per year in recurring funds. HB 229 (Land Grant Natural Nat Resource Protections) was pulled by sponsor, Rep. Ambrose Castellano. It would have provided additional processes for protecting common lands, allowed a definition for common waters (which drew suspicion from the OSE) and would have clarified conflicts with existing laws and misdemeanors. The amendments to the Treaty of Guadalupe

Hidalgo Division statute did not get a sponsor, nor was it endorsed by the ILGC as it wasn't prepared in time for their November 2020 endorsement. HB 4 was passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and is headed to the Governor for signature. The final version of the bill includes an exemption for land grants-mercedes, acequias, and mutual domestic water consumers associations and soil and water conservation districts from being sued under the Act. HB 265 would amend the Natural Resource Protections Act, which allows political subdivisions to buy land, and would have expanded the purposes for which land is purchased. Rep. García flagged the legislation and there could be issues if land grant common land is purchased and use is restricted through easements. Floor amendments included representatives from the NMLGC and Acequia Commission, as well as Native American Affairs and ENMRD. The bill died in judiciary and with it an amendment adding traditional uses. A copy of the committee substitute is in the packet.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the NMLGC send a letter to the Governor encouraging her to sign HB 41 and HB 189; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion was passed.

HB 12, the Recreational Cannabis Act, brought forth concerns from the acequia community, particularly regarding rural equity and water protection. There is fear that the industry's water consumption will imperil water users, and that corporate control of production will threaten local competitiveness. Colorado has had issues with big cannabis controlling the market. The New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo and New Mexico Acequia Association created a letter and suggested language and amendments that were sent to the sponsors (in packet). The recommendations included revenue sharing, where monies from taxing cannabis production would go to the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund to benefit acequias, the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund for mutual domestic water associations and would fund the creation of the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund for Land Grants. There are also other proposals for an equity fund and a suggested amendment allowing local control, as is the case with liquor selling establishments. Water protection was amenable to the sponsors. Sen. Linda Lopez offered amendments in Senate Judiciary, which were rejected and were going to offered on the floor. Both Senator Lopez and Representative Garcia are willing to sponsor the amendment. Letters from the NMAA and Consejo were sent to Governor Luján Grisham, Senator López and Representative García. The Council should weigh in; the New Mexico Acequia Commission will take action tomorrow. Councilor Polaco understood that most cannabis growth is in hoop houses and greenhouses and wondered what its effect on farmers was. Councilor Padilla stated that their area already suffers from people using farm land that does not have water rights. They want to drop wells and want to use to grow cannabis. With 10-20 acres of wells, the water level is dropping and large farmers are running wells 7 days and 7 nights, irrigating with the communities drinking water. Producers are going to want to have large developments. Mr. Archuleta stated that there will be between \$60-200 million in new revenues from cannabis growth. If the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund is funded through these monies, it is new revenue and won't take

monies from other programs. Councilor Martínez also expressed concerns with water, as water sharing is complicated and cities are winning control of much water.

The NMLGC may want to prioritize legislation creating and funding the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund in the next session. This would give land grants a financial anchor and will be important as land grants to be able to pay insurance, fees, etc., with these monies. The 2022 Legislative Session will be a 30-day session.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the Council submit a letter to the Governor and members of the legislature concerning the cannabis legalization bill; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Roll Call -

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

The motion was passed.

### *Federal*

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján) reported that Senator Luján’s office has a new agriculture staff advisor, Jerrod Henderson, based out of the Washington DC office. Levi Patterson and Isis López will still work on traditional use issues and land grants, acequias, and traditional uses remain one of the Senators priorities. They have been meeting with Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez’s office, discussing traditional use and bringing them up to speed on the legislation. They have also met with the Senate Natural Resources committee to discuss the traditional use bill. Patricia Domínguez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) reported that the legislation that funds the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area is sunseting this year and Senators are looking to reauthorize for 15 years. The bill will drop next week. The NRGNHA receives a \$1 million annual budget, of which \$400,000 is granted in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. Senator Luján and Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández are assisting as well. Sofía Sánchez reports that with Deb Haaland’s swearing in as Secretary of the Interior, New Mexico Congressional District 1 is now a bi-partisan office. She will remain through the transition. By March 30-April 5, we will know candidates running in the June 5 election. Staff remains until midnight the day before the election. While they cannot push legislation, please do reach out with any questions. Matt Miller (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández) echoes Mr. Chávez and Ms. Domínguez reports that they are collaborating on legislation. Their office will be staffed soon and will have a staffer assigned to Council. Mr. Archuleta reported that he is scheduled to meet with Xochitl Campos Briggs of her office tomorrow. He added that the Council and UNM LGSP are familiar with the NRGNHA as we have partnered with the LGSP and MLECT two years ago on a grant and are doing a similar project with two Taos County land grants this year. One of the interviewees of the last project, Beatrice Salazar of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant, passed away a few weeks ago at 106 years of age. Mr. Archuleta mentioned to Ms. Domínguez that he recently learned of a public law to return a cemetery to El Rito, which included the disposition of forest land for a fire station in Jemez. As the Council is back to drawing board for legislation on cemetery return, examining this legislation may prove useful. Councilor Martínez commented that he would like to push on cemetery returns. Cemeteries in the Cañon de Chama and in Llaves needs a lot of work and the Grant is in the process of getting a cemetery in Capulín returned as well. Ms. Domínguez stated that with James

Melonas gone, as new person will be at the helm of the Santa Fe NF and we will need to bring the issue up with them. In terms of the NRGHHA, a letter of support from the Council will be welcomed. Once authorized, they can request for an increase in budget.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Forestry, Healthy Soils and USDA Programs**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture will host a listening session on Healthy Soils today (March 25) from 3:30-5:00pm. The NMLGC plans to host a workshop on all of natural resource funding available to land grants. Notices regarding the listening session have gone out. Those who have not registered need to do so by 3:29pm today. Today's meeting is to get input as the program does need some work. The act itself discusses eligible entities, who will implement soil health, which includes land grants, acequias, SWCDs, agricultural extension, tribes and pueblos. There are concerns that community projects are not given due consideration as individual projects are ranking higher in the scoring process. The Healthy Soils initiative staff have stated that half of the funding will go to communities and half to ½ to individual's projects. Disadvantaged communities (vets, young farmers) are supposed to be given preference, but we don't see that in fact sheet. Because of anti-donation clause, individuals must run monies through an eligible entity. While SWCDs are accustomed to running these projects, there is a concern that one individual getting benefit is not enough.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Anton Chico Land Grant Election Oversight**

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Anton Chico Land Grant election is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A complaint brought to enjoin Board from holding the election was dismissed as the Anton Chico Land Grant had already reached out to NMLGC to assist in running the election. Anton Chico's attorney, Andrea de la Cruz Crawford, flagged this for the judge and she was satisfied that the NMLGC will oversee the election. Today, the board, with NMLGC staff, will review voter rolls and certify candidates. Arturo Archuleta and Venessa Chavez will serve as election judges, though there may still be a challenge to the outcome of the election. Under the amendment to statute (49.1), those wishing to challenge the results of an election have 30 days to file a challenge with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division of the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General, which will review the process and will determine if election was run properly. Six candidates are running for three positions.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2021 & FY 2022 Budget**

A budget update was provided in the packet. In state travel is at \$4,180 (per diem). The UNM contract has spent \$103,435.62; \$111,710.38 is remaining. The Council submitted an internal budget revision, which will increase surveyor contract amount. In HB 2, the Council is slated to get \$296,900, which is a flat budget, while other entities took a hit. Additionally, legislators gave junior monies (one-time monies) to the Council. Senator Linda López appropriated \$50,000 for surveyor and attorney services, Senator Stefanics gave \$50,000 and Representatives Miguel García, Christine Trujillo and Matthew McQueen gave approximately (combined) \$100,000 as well. The Council should consider sending a letter to these supporters, particularly Senators López and Stefanics and Rep. García. If the NMLGC butts these additional appropriations (\$200,000) to good use, it strengthens our argument for a \$500,000 budget. Monies may be used to hire additional contract services and we are hesitant to hire because it is one time money. The deadline is April 6 for Governor Michelle Luján Grisham to sign legislation. We may want to include language about NMLGC budget in a letter to the Governor, regarding HB 41 and 189.

The UNM Land Grant Studies Program budget was cut from \$117,000 to \$113,000. The Acequia Land Grant Education project, housed at New Mexico Highlands University at the CEDSP/Ben Luján Leadership Institute, received \$45,600. The Council will consider a 2022 budget for adoption no later than May 2021, where it will also consider a FY 2023 budget request.

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

An update/status report is in the packet. Venessa Chavez (NMLGC staff) commented that the Town of Tomé Grant is the only grant to submit a payment request. The San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant is waiting on the Jemez Coop to submit an updated quote. The San Antonio de las Huertas Grant is working as a board to purchase and install the gates and fence for the Oso recreation area. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant needs to submit an updated statement of accounts. The Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant and Cubero Land Grant are getting quotes for their purchases and the Abiquiú Grant is finalizing language and getting quotes. Councilor Padilla thanked Ms. Chávez for her time, effort and patience in helping land grants spend their awards.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action on Creation of Land Grant Institute at UNM Update**

The LGSP director and staff are working with the Office of the Vice President for Research. Dr. Ellen Fisher started as the VPR in March and the assistant VPR will update her on the Institute plan.

### **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Capital Outlay Update**

An update is included in the packet. Chililí, Don Fernando de Taos, Tierra Amarilla and Tomé all received monies. The Santa Bárbara and San Joaquín del Río de Chama grants did not. There were also several reauthorizations. Don Fernando de Taos got three awards reauthorized, changing the language to allow for building and/or land acquisition. The Manzano Grant had \$50,000 reauthorized for land acquisition or building improvements. The funding was originally for a Estancia visitors center. The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant had \$120,000 reauthorized from their emergency siren project to a First Choice Community Health Clinic in a refurbished school portable. Ms. Chávez asked how long the Governor has to sign reauthorizations. Mr. Archuleta responded that he believed it is the same deadline (April 9) as for all other funding or legislation. He also remarked that any item can be line item vetoed, which happened last year because of pandemic. The Council can also update the Governor on land grant capital outlay projects in its letter for governor and ask for her support. Those land grants that have received funding should also contact the Governor asking for her support of their awards. The Manzano Grant also received an appropriation to purchase, remodel and upgrade their facility and are looking to work with a contractor that had a state contract to ease the process. They have a meeting with Facility Build, which offers planning and design. The Tajiique Grant still has money for building renovation and money for land acquisition and the Town of Tomé Grant has money for their historic jail site. The San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant may use remaining monies to purchase a truck. Torreón has a mutual domestic that was recognized as a local public body. The Torreón Grant is reorganizing and both are looking to use a grant to remodel their community center and for a new well. The Punta de Agua mutual domestic association received funding and want heavy equipment and building. The community is within the Manzano Grant and they have asked the Council for assistance.

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

Mr. Archuleta commented that Mr. Chris Chávez sent invoice for \$8,042.95, for 76 hours of work on the Juan Bausitta Baldes case, for the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Grant and the San Antonio de las Huertas Grant. Councilor Correa Skartwed commented that she has been working with Mr. Chávez on boundary issues and he has been amazing, tenacious, hard working and a great surveyor.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice No. 5, Project 2021\_020, for \$8,042.95; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll Call -

Councilor Correa-Skartwed - recuse

Councilor Polaco - aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez- aye

Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion was passed.

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

The Council has received no new requests. Mr. Benavides has completed his first brief in the Tajique Land Grant’s appeal, continues work on the Laguna del Campo transfer and has been working with contract attorney Joe Lennihan on the Juan Bautista Baldes case. Mr. Benavides will also sharpen land conveyance documents for the guidebook update. Councilor Correa Skartwed stated that she spoke with Mr. Benavides and he will cleanup San Antonio de las Huertas’ legal paperwork as each district has a different filing process. She was unaccustomed to seeing conveyance documents for the judge to sign, but will call to the courts to ensure the process is being followed correctly and will resubmit with Mr. Benavides if necessary, rather than through the Grant or as president, as an attorney can sign on behalf of the Grant.

### **17. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty Division Update**

None.

### **18. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Agreement – FY 2021**

Pay Request #7 was presented, for \$13,668.83. This includes \$11,373.71 in personnel expenses, \$16.99 in mailing supplies and \$2,278.13 in the 20% Facility and Administration Fees. Included in packet is narrative associated with Pay Request #7, as well as the UNM invoice.

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve Pay Request #7 for \$13,668.83; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez- aye

Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion was passed.

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



The monies have been paid to the USFS and the closing should be complete by tomorrow (March 26). DFA gave the disbursement to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant, who submitted it to the USFS. Debra Solano of the USFS works with Tracy Parker, director of land and minerals for Region 3, and will obtain all USFS signatures and drive the agreement to Holland and Hart, where Larry Montaña will get signatures from representatives of the three land grants and will take the title to a title company in Rio Arriba County for filing. With this effort, the sale will meet the March 28 deadline of the expiring environmental assessment. Councilor Padilla offered her congratulations to the Councilors Polaco and Martínez and the Tierra Amarilla and San Joaquin Grants and offered assistance. Councilor Polaco thanked Mr. Archuleta for all of his hard work and credited his efforts at the purchase being finalized. Mr. Archuleta commented that all NMLGC staff and councilors played a part in getting this accomplished.

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

The Laguna del Campo transfer is moving forward. The New Mexico Game Commission will hear the issue on April 2<sup>nd</sup>; David Benavides will attend with members of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. The Commission will nudge New Mexico Game and Fish to complete the transfer with water rights rather than leasing them to the Grant. Councilor Polaco stated that Commission Chair Sharon Salazar Hickey was at last board Tierra Amarilla board meeting and committed her support.

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

None.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LGSP will take a budget cut in FY 2022 from \$117,000 to \$113,900. The LGSP will also collaborate with the MLECT to implement their NRGNHA award.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he and Dr. Baca received a notice of tort and are not sure what we are supposed to do. Novela Salazar of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division received the same notice. Staff will wait and see if a suit is filed.

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

Councilor Polaco made a motion that staff oversee the Anton Chico Land Grant election; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez- absent

Chairman Sánchez - aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the NMLGC send letter of appreciation to legislators that gave appropriations to the NMLGC and letter to the Governor asking that she support these increases; Councilor Correa -Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla suggested that the Council send a letter of congratulations to Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland.

**25. Public Comments – Discussion only**

Tim Hagaman of the New Mexico Economic Development Department stated that NM EDD continued to work to preserve and grow communities and create wealth. He recently presented a ‘Land Grant 101’ to new employees and will have Mainstreet Frontier project applications available in next week or so, as well as applications for the LEEDs program.

**26. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Chairman Sanchez reported that he received an email from the Office of the State Auditor that stated that tier certifications are due if land grants need agreed upon procedures. Councilor Martínez reported that they will complete a walk through of the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Padilla expressed appreciation to NM State Auditor Brian Colón, who made the process easy for the Town of Tomé, which applied for audit assistance funding offered through his office. Councilor Martínez asked if the State Auditor will help the Tierra Amarilla, San Joaquín del Rio de Chama and Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grants for their Piedra Lumbre purchase. Mr. Archuleta commented that the land grants could apply next year for audits of CY 2021, FY 2021.

**27. Date and Location for April 2021 Council Meeting**

The April 2021 Council meeting will take place virtually on April 22, 2021 at 10:00am, online via Zoom.

**28. Adjournment**

Councilor Martínez made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm MST.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date