

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
April 22, 2021 – 10:00am  
Virtual Meeting  
Zoom ID: 927 6701 1058

**Final**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:06am MDT. 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); Camilla Romero (NM State Land Office); Alisha Shaw (NM SLO) Andrea Benites (New Mexico Congressional District 1); AJ Pacheco (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); Novela Salazar (NMAG); Ashley Wright (USFS – R3); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Rita Padilla Gutierrez (Town of Tomé LG); LM García y Griego (NMLGC/LGSP); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Victor Savedra.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Steve Polaco 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
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 25, 2021 Council meeting**

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 25, 2021 Council meeting; 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.

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

Bill Sapp (USFS) reported that he had no updates other than the Carson National Forest fuelwood permit announcement that was sent to and circulated by the NMLGC earlier in April. He had a request from the Region 3 Regional Office (Ian Fox and Byron Keeley) regarding the potential master stewardship agreement between the NMLGC and USFS R3. Mr. Jacobo Baca commented that they would reach out and set up a followup meeting. Mr. Arturo Archuleta added that Carson National Forest supervisor James Duran wants to enter into another MOU with the NMLGC. The NMLGC worked on a draft with past USFS liaison Ericka Luna, which sent it up the chain for review in 2018, where it is stalled after going to Washington DC USFS offices for approval. The MOU between the NMLGC and USFS R3, which was signed in 2011, expired in 2015 or 2016. Mr. Sapp stated that they would look into its status. Councilors Leonard Martínez and Andrea Padilla asked questions regarding projects near Lindrith and Rociada, the latter of which Mr. Sapp does not believe to be a USFS project.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that she has checked on status of state forester selection, which will be hired as a detail and not, at least initially, as a permanent replacement. This will be announced soon. The Rio Puerco and Farmington plans are at Washington DC BLM office and are being reviewed closely.

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

### *State*

In the packet is a copy of the letter sent to Governor Michelle Luján Grisham regarding concerns with recreational cannabis legislation. No earmarks or fiscal amendments were included in the bill that passed the special session of the New Mexico State Legislature, though some concerns regarding water impacts were included in bill. HB 189 was signed by the Governor; it fixes salary caps on community governance attorney program, allowing the commission created by the law to raise the salaries by itself rather than by amending the law. HB 41 was pocket vetoed and the NMLGC is not sure why. Mr. Archuleta had phone conversations with analysts on the Governor's staff and understood that the New Mexico Attorney General's office supported the bill. The bill was discussed with DFA and he understood that they were going to recommend signing the bill.

### *Federal*

The NMLGC has been in correspondence with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez's staff. A.J. Pacheco is their staff person assigned to NMLGC meetings and is in the meeting today. Mr. Pacheco introduced himself as an heir of the San Joaquin del Nacimiento Grant and Chicano and Chicana Studies minor recently graduated from UNM. They will work to coordinate a meeting that offers a brief introduction of the Council, current legislation and sets up a meeting with land grants in her district. NMLGC staff has heard nothing new from Senator Ben Ray Luján's Washington DC office regarding the traditional use bill, but understands that they are redrafting and exploring boundary language. In the packet is a draft bill regarding place names titled the *Reconciliation in Place Names Act*, which will be reintroduced this Congress. Mr. Archuleta also met with Michael Casaus of the Wilderness Society and discussed the Biden administration's "30 by 30" plan, which seeks to conserve 30 percent of land and ocean to fight climate change by 2030. What the plan entails is not clear, but it does not intend to impose the most stringent protections, like wilderness, on all public land. The federal government also does not need to own all of the land in question. Land grants and tribes can play a role but both communities have the goal of conservation and local use. These communities could push to use funding from offshore drilling to

purchase and conserve lands. A portion of this federal funding goes to the State of New Mexico, which has earmarked it for parks and recreation. The State uses it solely to fund the New Mexico State Parks Division and is not shared with or distribute to political subdivisions. If the federal government wishes to reach the 30 percent by 2030, federal funding for the purchase and management of lands by local governments could help and achieve this goal. Councilor Padilla commented that in Valencia County, people are selling farmland to developers that are building houses. Sellers are approaching the Town of Tomé Land Grant offering to sell 7, 10, 11 acres of farmland. If the Grant had the monies, they could buy the land and allow young farmers to use the land. HB 265 included amendments that would allow entities to use funding to purchase land for uses other than recreation, like traditional use.

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

Camila Romero (New Mexico State Land Office) reported that a fuelwood project near Villanueva is in the planning stages. The State Land Office is looking at a similar project in the Chililí area. The SLO fuelwood project near Cebolla found many trees hit with the bark beetle and the SLO is encouraging people to cut those trees as well, even if unmarked. The Cebolla project is currently at 40 acres, with an expansion in the future to an additional 42 acres and is assessed at 2 cords per acre. Councilor Martínez reported that the San Joaquín Land Grant is waiting for its capital outlay monies for trailer and truck and have purchased limited liability tort insurance. The SLO will work with grants to receive payments for cords removed, which will be in late May or early June. The contractor hired by the San Joaquín Land Grant only wants 4 cutters working at a time to reduce liability. They will also stack brush to be ready for a controlled burn in the fall by the SLO. Mr. Archuleta added that he wanted to schedule time to talk in next few weeks to discuss Villanueva and East Mtn projects and to schedule something with San Miguel del Bado and East Mountain Land Grants.

### **9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Lands Protection Act Committee Recommendations**

In packet is Natural Land Protection Act, as passed in 1987, which created a fund for natural lands for protection. Lands purchased under this act were to be undeveloped and unimpacted. HB 265 would have paired this fund with another related to conservation easements. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department backed this bill as it tries to leverage this fund with wildland protection funds as match funds to federal monies used to acquire properties. Rep. Miguel Garcia expressed concerned that former common lands would be purchased and made public lands, threatening future land grant acquisition. He attempted to introduce amendments to allow for traditional uses. The Act creates a natural land protection committee, including the state land commissioner, the director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, three public members, including one representative from ranching and farming interests. The amended bill would have included representatives from the land grant council and acequia commission, and the funding would be amended to allow for the purchase of lands for traditional use purposes. Currently, commission evaluates purchase of lands only for natural resource protection. Any recommendations for individuals from the Council will be forwarded to ENMRD. Someone who represents land grants and farming and ranching could be a good fit, as they already fit statute and will fill at least one current vacancy on the commission.

### **10. Discussion and Possible Action on State Forestry, Heathy Soils and USDA Programs**

Land grants and acequias participated in a Healthy Soils Program listening session on March 25. Grant program evaluators will have a follow up meeting with the NM Department of Agriculture in early May to go over changes in program. The Council hopes to put a workshop or training in late May or early June featuring USDA programs, Healthy Soils programs and State Forestry programs.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he and Venessa Chávez assisted the Anton Chico Land Grant with their election on April 5 and canvassing on April 9. Certification of canvassing is in the meeting packet, and reflects 429 election day voters, 6 provisional votes for a total of 435 votes. The top three vote getters were Stoney Jaramillo, Danny Montaña, and Max Sisneros; Mr. Jaramillo and Mr. Sisneros already were serving on the board and thus won reelection. The BluEarth energy project was approved 212 in favor, 204 against. There may be a challenge from an individual, Eric Sandoval, who was disqualified from ballot. Complaints have been filed with the New Mexico Attorney General's office and NMLGC staff provided information regarding the Anton Chico Land Grant election to the NMAG's office.

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

Two budget recommendations are in the meeting packet, one with a contract surveyor, one with a staff surveyor. The NMLGC appropriation for FY 2022 is \$296,000; FY 2022 junior monies appropriated to the NMLGC total \$200,000. These funds were the result of legislation for surveyor and attorney for NMLGC that was approved by Senate Finance Committee but was tabled by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. Senator Linda Lopez and Representative García appropriated monies for surveyors and attorneys. The budget recommendations in the packet provide options for a contract surveyor or a staff surveyor. This was done for the surveyor position rather than the attorney position because hiring a staff attorney rather than a contract attorney is complicated by the nature of legal work extends beyond a fiscal year and a staff position would be funded with soft money. A surveyor, on the other hand, can complete finite projects within a given time frame and work can be assigned that will not bleed into the next fiscal year. The NMLGC budget was created in tandem with the Land Grant Studies Program, which experienced a decrease in funding to from \$117,000 to \$113,600 for FY 2022. Mr. Archuleta will serve as co-PI with Dr. LM Garcia y Griego in FY 2022.

Council members and staff discussed budget recommendations. Regarding the surveyor position, budget option 1 would contract a surveyor for \$63,000 for a total of 333 hours, or 6 hours per week, or a true cost of \$226 per hour. The NMLGC does not pay travel, equipment, surveying supplies, copying fees, to a contractor but does pay F&A. Option 2 is a half time staff surveyor at \$41,600 in salary for 1040 hours, plus additional expenses. The NMLGC will need to rent equipment, pay for software, a computer, surveying supplies, copy and filing fees and associated F&A costs. Graduate fellows would vary under the two budget scenarios as well, with law students fellows dropping from two to one students. Under option 1, salary and fringe will total \$202,735 with a contract surveyor and under option 2, salary and fringe will total \$243,474 with a staff surveyor. YCC projects would also be funded, varying from \$30,000 to 25,000 per week, depending on budget. Estimated total expenses in the UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement are \$377,612 for option 1 and \$370,847 for option 2. The Land Grant Support Fund is at \$30,000 in both budget scenarios.

There are also state mandated changes in per diem rate, which is no longer \$95 per day. Virtual meetings will now be paid at a \$45 per diem rate regardless of the length of the meeting. In person meetings lasting from 0-4 hours will be at \$45 per diem rate + mileage and in person meetings lasting from 4-8 hours will be at a \$90 per diem rate + mileage. There is no longer a requirement that members travel more than 35 miles to receive mileage reimbursement. Individual land grants can adopt their own policy, as long as it doesn't violate state laws, and can adopt state or federal reimbursement and mileage rates. Most land grant boards receive nothing for their service, though the Anton Chico, Cebolleta and Cañón de Carnué Grants do pay some sort of per diem to their board members for service. Total budget for council member out of state travel is \$5,600. Legal services under option 1 are budgeted at \$63,235 and option 2 at \$70,000.

If the NMLGC can prove productive in work of Council, we can justify a proposed budget increase in the FY 2023 budget request, which is due in August or September. Councilors expressed concern about hiring positions on one time money and deliberated that it may be better to hire a contractor. Only a handful of surveyors are willing and able to take land grant work. On the other hand, hiring a staff surveyor rather than a contract surveyor will result in more hours of work and more surveys completed. If the Council cannot fund a surveyor staff position past FY 2022, it could revert to a contract with a surveyor and reduce hours, but retain surveyor services for land grants. Councilors also stated that they appreciated law students and planning students in budget as they have had positive experiences working with law students in the past.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the NMLGC adopt staff budget recommendation #2, with a staff surveyor, for Fiscal Year 2022; 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.

Council staff also provided a FY 2021 budget update. With changes in state statute, travel vouchers now need to reflect length of meeting, even in virtual meetings. In the UNM contract, \$118,429.93 has been spent, with \$96,716.07 remaining. The surveyor contract, which does not reflect the last approved billing, has around \$20,000 remaining.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that Venessa Chávez is working hard to assist grants in spending their LGSF awards. He is working to set up a workshop with DFA on procedures. Carmen Morin is still our contact at DFA but is at the fiscal services bureau serving as an interim in Scott Wright's former position. With new hires at DFA, Ms. Chávez felt a meeting with land grants is necessary. The last day to purchase, technically, is June 30, but the goods need to be delivered and in possession that day and the grants have one week to submit for final payment. It is unadvised to do a payment this late in the event there are any issues or problems, so a target date of all purchases completed by June 15 is recommended to allow time to resolve any issues.

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

Land grants have been assigned one project manager at DFA, Dawn Webster, that will work with them on capital outlay. The bond questionnaires went out and need to be completed in the online CPMS system, with the ICIP entity code. The Town of Tomé, San Antonio de las Huertas, Don Fernando de Taos, Tierra Amarilla and Chililí Land Grants should expect to fill out the bond questionnaires. Councilor Padilla commented that a workshop training that clarifies when to submit the notice of obligation (NOO), when funds will be dispersed, and that would allow land grants to communicate DFA staff and be knowledgeable when dealing with contractors would be beneficial. NMLGC staff can help with bond questionnaires. Councilor Martínez stated that the process is slow and confusing and the criteria for equipment purchased is that it will have a 10-year lifespan. He wants the Council to have a fund for purchases in the name of land grants which will be reimbursed from capital outlay awards by DFA. Chairman Sánchez stated that capital outlay appropriations are now public on the legislature's website.

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

The UNM Law School's Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic has worked assisting the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant with acequia and trespass issues and have helped as much as they can. The New Mexico Acequia Association Attorney has suggested mediation between the San Antonio de las Huertas Grant and the acequias without their attorneys present. Council staff and someone from the NMAA staff can serve on mediation team.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to allow NMLGC staff to assist with the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant with the mediation; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Tecolote Land Grant was a statute specific land grant that that opted to come under the general provisions (49.1). They have never asked for nor received legal or surveyor services and have thus far only received assistance with capital outlay. An individual sold a piece of property based on old Mexican document. The person purchasing property is encroaching and claiming 10 acres of common lands. The grant claims that the patent to Tecolote should extinguish other antagonistic claims. This may be legal question but may need some surveying services as well to understand nature of the issue.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve legal services to the Tecolote Land Grant; the motion was seconded by Councilor Padilla.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Billing from New Mexico Legal Aid is included in the packet, with details and hourly billing.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve pay request #5 from NMLA for \$3,737.50; 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 Martínez made a motion to approve pay request #6 from NMLA for \$5,225.00; 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 Polaco made a motion to approve pay request #7 from NMLA for \$950.00; 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.

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

No New requests have been made. Mr. Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying) provided an update. At the Las Trampas Land Grant, there are concerns from individuals regarding the boundary of plaza, one individual threatening legal action and claiming that Mr. Chávez did not have the authority to survey. He will need to be meticulous and will reach out to state board or surveyors for advice and may use boundary agreements notarized on the spot to complete the survey. He has done more fieldwork on the Juan Bautista Baldes LG boundaries. The survey for Tomé is nearly complete, the cañón survey for San Joaquín is complete and the San Antonio de las Huertas survey is 95 percent done. Ongoing work continues for the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant, Santa Bárbara Land Grant, Anton Chico Land Grant, Abiquiú Land Grant and Tajique Land Grant. Councilor Martínez commented that he met with Mr. Chávez and asked him to survey the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant cemeteries. The morada is located adjacent to a church

abandoned in 2010, but owned by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The Archdiocese will dispose of properties in an auction soon and he seeks to protect the morada and needs it surveyed. Churches were on land donated by community members and heirs to the Catholic Church. We are not sure how much flexibility the Archdiocese has in its settlement, though the NMLGC could ask all land grants to identify properties. Mr. Chávez stated that Trampas Land Grant president Alex López and his brother Bonifacio Lopez found a deed that gave the church in Las Trampas to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, but the deed was never recorded with Taos County, begging the question: Is a conveyance valid if deed is unrecorded? He has reached out to David Benavides of NM Legal Aid for his opinion. Councilor Polaco stated a similar issue took place in in Ensenada, where the previous priest condemned the church and no longer offered services. Councilors, staff and attendees discussed the matter. Most, if not all, land grant communities paid for and constructed churches and chapels so the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (or is predecessors) would provide a priest and later deeded it to Archdiocese. Land grants might consider an injunction to prevent the sale of these church properties being that they were donated to the church by the community to provide for religious services, not as a partible asset. They may need to take collective action. The Councils can request from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe information to ascertain if there are any properties that are for auction within land grants. Once we have the information, individual or collective of land grants could take action.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #6 from Territorial Land Surveying LLC for \$6,927.77; 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.

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

Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division) stated that the Treaty Division did receive a complaint from Jeffery Tenorio regarding the disqualification of Eric Sandoval from the Anton Chico Land Grant election, which is treated as an action against the decision of board, alleging board misconduct. The NMAG’s office has received both complaints against the Board of Trustees and complaints from heirs against Lorenzo Flores and the Eastern Slope Sangre de Cristo LG Committee. The NMAG’s office will send a letter to a group of complainants regarding complaints and tort action notice, stating that they have investigated complaints in collaboration with the New Mexico State Auditor and thus far have found no evidence supporting the allegations set forth in the complaint. It will likely come down to Anton Chico Land Grant board attorney and the group, should they choose to hire an attorney. Ms. Salazar added that she will continue to request information from all parties.

### **18. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Agreement – FY 21 & 22**

Pay Request #8 was presented, for \$14,994.31. This includes \$12,471.75 in personnel expenses. \$23.52 in supplies and \$2,499.04 in the 20% Facility and Administration Fees. Included in packet is narrative associated with Pay Request #8, as well as the UNM invoice.



Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #8 for \$14,994.31; Councilor Martínez 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 FY 2022 contract will need to be worked out. In packet is the scope of work from last year (FY 2021). There will be some changes because of budget options as we may need to add something reflective of surveyor work.

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve the scope of work and to make any amendments based on approved budget, as well as authorizing the chairman to sign off on any changes to the scope of work; Councilor Martínez 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 Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center was purchased March 26 and the deed was recorded.

Purchasers will walk the boundary tomorrow with Ghost Ranch, the adjoining property owners.

May 15 was the planned date for the celebration, but Carson NF supervisor James Durán asked to delay the celebration until later in May. They will hold a planning meeting on April 30. Rio Arriba County moved from turquoise to yellow and mass gatherings capacities dropped from 150 to 10.

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

David Benavides of NMLA attended the last New Mexico Game Commission meeting, which went into closed executive session. The Commission appointed two commissioners to work with Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the NMLGC on the issue regarding water rights to be transferred with property. Councilor Polaco remarked that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board was unclear about splitting water rights issue.

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

None.

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

LM García y Griego stated that the new Vice President for Research Ellen Fisher has started and Assistant VPR Steve Graves will request a 1 hour rather than 30-minute meeting to discuss the need for the proposed Land Grant Institute. He has asked that Mr. Archuleta and Dr. Baca join in

the presentation to new VPR. Mr. Graves is an enthusiastic supporter of the concept. Mr. Archuleta reported that the Land Grant Studies Program took a cut to its budget. The LGSP should still be able to accommodate a student and will be digitizing more records and distributing to land grants. Jacobo Baca reported that the LGSP has been participating in the Acequia and Land Grant Education project, partnering with the New Mexico Acequias Association and New Mexico Highlands University's Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations in convening listening sessions with stakeholders to develop acequia and land grant education recommendations to the Public Education Department and Higher Education Department.

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

The Council received correspondence from an individual concerning Moises Gonzales of the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant. Quit claims were made from an individual heir to the Grant and were later used by the Grant in a deal with the City of Albuquerque, where the Grant quitted claim on a potential ownership claim as part of quiet title suit on 3 acres in exchange for co-management on a 10-acre site where their historic village is located.

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

The New Mexico Department of Information Technology (DOIT) is working on broadband expansion and looks to partner with land grants. One option that they proposed is to directly fund land grants to develop infrastructure and/or equipment that they can lend to community members. The land grant could also contract directly with the ISP to host a sub network. DOIT wants to work through the Council to assist with negotiations.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that staff write a letter to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe requesting information regarding church properties that are up for auction and/or that they own on community land grants that are active political subdivisions of New Mexico; 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.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the Council sends a letter to Larry Montaña of Holland and Hart thanking him for his work on the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center purchase; Councilor Martínez 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.

Councilor Padilla reported that she met with Frank Giron from the Pueblo of Isleta. Both the Town of Tomé Land Grant the Isleta Pueblo got access to the bosque from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District to retrieve dead and down wood. The Grant worked on ½ mile of bosque and retrieved a lot of wood and there is a quite a lot of wood near Isleta Pueblo and Bosque Farms. She would like to set up a meeting between the Town of Tomé Grant, Isleta Pueblo, local fire departments and the MRGCD to discuss this as option to get wood, which would improve water access and clean up the bosque of fuels, and requested Council staff assistance to organize such a meeting.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that NMLGC staff assist the Town of Tomé Grant to set up meeting with stakeholders in the area regarding fuelwood in the Rio Grande Bosque; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Correa-Skartwed - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Councilor Padilla – abstain

Councilor Martínez- aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

None.

## **26. Miscellaneous Announcements**

DFA offers trainings that may prove important to land grants. NMLGC staff will send an announcement with the list trainings offered, which include travel, capital outlay and others. The New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo meeting is scheduled to be held on June 5, but may face issues with the color designation of the county, which will restrict the size of the gathering. The host and site may need to change because of county restrictions. Tim Hagaman of the New Mexico Economic Development Department stated that the Mainstreet Frontier project applications are due June 15, 2021. If there is a project that communities need assistance with, this is a good opportunity for funds for everything from business development, architectural redesign, historical preservation and more, including anything related to creating economic wealth in a community. Councilor Martínez stated that the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center might be an ideal fit and representatives from the three grants would like to meet to discuss. Vice-Chair Correa-Skartwed stated that the San Antonio de las Huertas Grant is also interested.

Councilor Padilla announced that the Town of Tomé Land Grant is hosting a craft fair, yard sale, and plant sale on May 8 at the Thome Domínguez Center. Mr. Victor Savedra of the community of La Parida in Socorro County stated that he is seeking recognition of La Parida, which he calls a “pueblo encampatada” as a land grant. He stated that the La Parida Pueblo Grant on the camino real and predates the Socorro treaty from 1598. He raises traditional sheep and runs the old community grant of private land bought from his uncle, which includes a pre-platted claim. Mr. Savedra is asking how La Parida can be recognized as a land grant and how he can set up heirship to be a community grant. He claimed that La Parida is separate from the Socorro Land Grant, which he claimed is one square league from center of church and are outside of the Socorro community land grant and become they are their own community land grant. He added that he

has BLM records and GLO records and records older than the state and that they lost the bosquecito side of the pueblo and lost their cemetery when it was sold to private individual who bulldozed half the cemetery and the church. Vice-Chair Correa Skartwed thanked Mr. Savedra for sharing and suggested that he discuss La Parida further with Mr. Archuleta after the meeting.

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

The May 2021 Council meeting will take place virtually on May 20, 2021 at 10:00am, online via Zoom.

**28. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm MDT.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date