

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
January 27, 2022 – 2:00pm
Virtual Meeting
Zoom ID: 978 6180 5948

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 2:03pm MST. Roll call of the Council members: Steve Polaco, Juan Sánchez, Andrea Padilla and Leonard Martínez were present. Rebecca Correa Skartwed was absent.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (LGSP); Sofia Sánchez (Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury); Novela Salazar (Treaty Division - NM Attorney General's Office); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury); Lauren Via (Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury); Rita Padilla Gutierrez (Town of Tomé Land Grant); Brenda Romero (Office of Rep. Yvette Herrell); Thomas Winter.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Leonard Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2021 Council meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 8, 2021 Council meeting; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

Sofía Sánchez (Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury) reported that Congresswoman Stansbury looks forward to her second land grant tour in April 2022. She will work with NMLGC staff to coordinate.

Arturo Archuleta: no recognition of traditional use bill in the senate. Leger-Fernandez Continental Divide Bill asked for feedback on language.

State

The Council discussed the dissolution of the House Local Government, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee by Speaker of the House Brian Egolf and the resignation of Rep. Miguel García, who chaired the committee. Land grant leaders met with House Majority Leadership and representatives in early January and Speaker of the House Egolf announced the creation of the Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee, which will be chaired by Rep. Susan Herrera. House Bill 8, the newest version of the guaranteed revenue streams bill, was introduced by Rep. Matthew McQueen, Speaker Egolf, Rep. Kristina Ortez, Rep. Andrea Romero, Rep. Roger Montoya. Senator Linda López will be the lead sponsor in the Senate. Acequias were added to a standing committee that was renamed the House Agriculture, Acequias And Water Resources Committee. Rep. Miguel Garcia is sponsoring bills for the Anton Chico and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants. Senator Liz Stefanics is sponsoring Senate Bill 87, which appropriates funding to the Council for youth programming, and Senate Bill 88, which offers funding to Torreon/Tajique volunteer fire departments. Several other legislators are giving junior monies to the NMLGC or land grants.

House Bill 36, which was House Bill 265 in the 2021 Legislative session, has been changed and no longer makes changes to the governing council. It simply funds and amends the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, explicitly allowing for the acquisition of land. The Council send language to sponsors Rep. McQueen and Rep. Ortez suggesting amendments to try to include a more specific definition of traditional land uses to be sure that they are eligible for funding under the act. No bills were endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to endorse House Bill 8, creating the land grant-merced assistance fund; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Bill 19, providing funding for the Anton Chico Senior Center; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Bill 20, funding to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant for the purchase of equipment for office, community center, and other properties; Chairman Sánchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to endorse House Bill 21, providing funding to the Anton Chico Land Grant for youth services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse Senate Bill 87, providing funding to the NMLGC for youth programs; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to endorse Senate Bill 88, providing funding to the Torreon and Tajiue volunteer fire departments; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse Senate Bill 46 and House Bill 121, which provides funding to the acequia and community ditch fund act; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Council's endorsement for House Bill 36, the Heritage Conservation Act, with amendments suggested by the Council; Councilor Steve Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that the Council endorse House Bill 98, the General Appropriation Act of 2022, which includes junior monies; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2022 & Y 2023 Budgets

FY 2022 Budget update was provided by Mr. Archuleta. Pay requests were received from NM Legal Aid to be approved by the Council. Council travel, UNM contract, etc. are totaling \$118,259.30 in expenditures. \$14,154 of unbudgeted funds may be used for the *US v. Sandoval* analysis.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Service Agreement

Pay request number 3 was presented for \$15,569.19, including \$12,894.32 in personnel, \$80.00 in facility rental fees, and \$2,594.87 in F&A charges.

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve pay request number 3; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Pay request number 2 for New Mexico Legal aid was presented for \$5,387.50 for the month of October 2021.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid pay request number 2; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Pay request number 3 for NM Legal aid was presented for \$2,600.00 for the month of November 2021.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve pay request number 3; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Pay request number 4 for NM Legal aid was presented for \$2,787.50 for the month of December 2021.

Councilor Leonard Martinez made a motion to approve pay request number 4; Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Chris Chavez is quickly recovering and is able to take on some work. He is at UNM on a multiyear contract and we are executing an extension of the contract for an estimated \$40,000. We will still have an estimated \$37,300 to spend on other vendors for survey work. We have a sub-contractor for the Juan Bautista Case. No action is required.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund

Land Grant Support Fund grant agreements have been executed.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

In the packet is a letter from Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury to Speaker Egolf regarding the dissolution of the land grant committee and importance of land grants and acequias in New Mexico.

Councilor Martínez made a motion that the Council send a letter to the House Leadership regarding the dissolution of the House Local Government, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

In the packet is a draft MOU between the State Land Office and the NMLGC. We will discuss this further in the next meeting.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Mr. Archuleta announced that Venessa Chávez is resigning at the end of March. She has decided to be home her with family and granddaughter. Mr. Archuleta thanked her for her hard work and stated that she will be missed in the office. Councilor Martínez added that he is sad to see her go and expressed his deep admiration for both Venessa and her spouse, Andrew Gutiérrez, and for their work they do for their community. Councilor Padilla will serve as an interviewer when her position is rehired. Mr. Archuleta announced that Vidal Gutierrez is leaving the Council for a fellowship with the Indigenous Planning Institute, where he will help NACA (Native American Community Academy) with planning on a 50-acre site near La Madera. Council members and staff thanked both Venessa and Vidal for their hard work and expressed that they will be missed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion allowing Arturo Archuleta to serve as an expert witness in the case effecting the Truchas Land Grant (Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Santiago y San Fernando del Río de las Truchas Land Grant) case; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Martínez made a motion allowing Jacobo Baca to serve as an expert witness, including creating a report, for Armando Sanchez case (which involves the Santa Bárbara Land Grant and area acequias); Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Public Comments – Discussion only

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Ben R. Luján met virtually with local leaders in the East Mountains and New Mexico Tech University to discuss infrastructure wins for New Mexico, including broadband and resources for school infrastructure. The Build Back Better bill will be broken into phases and Congress will be looking for feedback on the Farm Bill. Mr. Archuleta reported that the State Auditors Training will probably be in May.

14. Miscellaneous Announcements

The executed grant agreements for the Land Grant support Fund have been signed and will be sent off to DFA. The Council will send Open Meetings Act Resolutions and Letters of Disbursement to the land grants that have received funds.

15. Date and Location for February 2022 Council Meetings

The February 2022 Council meeting will take place on February 16, 2022 at 12:00pm, virtually and in person at the UNM Science and Technology Center.

25. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:13pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date