

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 27, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 936 1796 5382

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:03am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Leonard Martinez, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sanchez were present.

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 (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Michel Luján (Ranger, Camino Real RD); Chantal Herrick (Assistant PAO, Santa Fe NF); Jeremy Kruger (USFS R3); Adam Livermore (USFS R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Sterling Few (NM Environment Education); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Cong. Melanie Stansbury); Claressa Romero (San Miguel del Bado LG); Jennifer McRae (USFS R3); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Camila Romero (NM SLO); John D. Márquez.

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 Polaco - aye
- Councilor Martinez - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 20, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on USFS

Michael Luján (Camino Real District Ranger) reported that both the Carson NF and the Santa Fe NF are working to allow people to get firewood in light of closures from earlier in the 2022. Both forests looked for areas and issued free use permits. The Carson NF has issued permits for 3,000 cords and the Santa Fe has issued a similar amount. Wood is coming from the contingency lines around Peñasco and Taos. With repair work, the wood that was cut has been removed and the USFS is working with working with communities to send fuelwood to those most effected by the fires and the closures. Land grant communities within the Santa Bárbara, Trampas and Cristóbal de la Serna Grants have received firewood, as have Picurís and Taos Pueblos. Range allotments were burned and the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will look at damage to acequias and will share the information with the New Mexico Acequia Association. The Talpa Trails project in the Taos Wild and Urban Interface is on pause and is not in the NEPA process. The Enchanted Trails Association got grant monies but did not consult the community and stakeholders, including the Cristóbal de la Serna Grant and local acequias in Talpa. Mr. Luján also commented that the Carson National Forest does not support the U.S. Senate Bill that will encourage the retirement of grazing on USFS lands.

Jeremy Kruger (USFS) reported that the USFS is in the assessment and recovery stage for the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fires. The Emergency Reforestation Program includes a FS enterprise team that will meet in November and includes 20 to 30 peoples, including representatives from the FSA, USFS, State Forestry, and NRCS. They will work on a long term water rehabilitation and restoration vision, developing it with communities and partners. Given the size, scope and scale, the needs are large, including those of range holders that need trails open to access forest and acequias that irrigate portions of winter range. Jennifer McRae (USFS) added that the structure is set up like a incident management team, where the State of New Mexico will have the largest reach and USFS will work under the FEMA and the State. The state emergency reforestation program has received 500+ applications. Councilor Padilla questioned the reported 100% cost share as she has heard that people were asked to cover 25% of the recovery costs. Ms. McRae responded that USDA just informed the USFS that the cost share has been waived and that FSA will no longer ask for the 25% match in the form of a loan.

Mr. Archuleta reported that he, Dr. Jacobo Baca, Councilor Polaco, Trampas LG president Alex López and Santa Bárbara Land Grant President Bonifacio Vásquez participated in the Carson NF's traditional communities discussion. Employees of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forest attended virtually and in person and Carson and Santa Fe NF Forester James Durán and Regional Forester Michiko Martin attended and gave comments as well. James Durán (Carson and Santa Fe NF Forester) reported that community based stewardship programs are gaining momentum in Taos County and the County's WUI coordinator, J.R. Logan, is convening meetings and working to involve land grants.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) commented that the SLO extended the Cebolla Project for 6 months. They have a contractor for the Villanueva fuelwood project and a contract in place and will meet with the contractor and the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant to discuss the inception of the project. Mr. Archuleta commented that the grant still needs to determine the transportation of wood and Ms. Romero responded that they will meet next Tuesday. Mr. Archuleta added that the Council and the Grant would like exact numbers on risk management insurance so that Council can help with

project. Councilor Martínez discussed issues with SLO projects and the amount of work that it took for the San Joaquín Grant to complete the Cebolla Project.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) is interested in LG 101 for Taos, Farmington and Rio Puerco managers. Northern New Mexico Advisory Council will be meeting in December regarding target shooting areas. Mr. Archuleta reported that the New Mexico Wildland Urban Fire Summit will take place on Nov. 16-18. It will discuss wildfire preparedness and planning, but charges a \$75.00 fee, despite sponsorship, which makes it difficult for participation. Ms. Morrison stated that she will discuss with the BLM and will see what she can do.

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

Federal

AJ Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) gave an update on the traditional use bill. Cong. Leger Fernández hosted a meeting in the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire regarding LEED funds and will hold another meeting at the Maria Elena Gonzales Senior Center on Monday at 11:00 regarding health care costs. Mr. Archuleta gave updates on behalf of Ben Ray Lujan's Office the Traditional Use Bill and has been assisting NMLGC staff with EIN numbers for land grants. The Council discuss S.B. 2980 (sponsored by Sens. Heinrich and Luján) to voluntarily retire grazing allotments to the Forest Service and recommended that the Council offer amendments to this bill, if it moves forward. Farm Bill titles have been culled for areas that apply to land grants and both Councilors and staff will review to prepare recommendations to the Congressional delegation. The Council can inquire about listening sessions regarding the Farm Bill. Chairman Sánchez expressed concern over SWCDs benefitting large farmers more than small farmers. The NRCS should set aside programming and funding for smaller disadvantaged farmers and oblige SWCDs administering programs to work with small farmers and producers. Land grants have yet to receive guidelines from NRCS for land grants to begin applying for EQIP. An issue may be that land grants were limited to the titles that related to water conservation and the Council might suggest other areas where land grants can be included. Land grants also have a cash match that they can use to qualify for programs.

State

The latest Land Grant Interim Committee hearing took place in Chililí. Chairman Sánchez gave a presentation on Chililí Land Grant history and led the committee on a tour the second day. Updates were also given by the Tajique and Manzano Land Grants. The final meeting will be held on November 22 in Santa Fe.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues and Concerns – Local, State and Federal

The second request for comments for 30 by 30 has been released. Comments can be submitted by November 15, 2022.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya gave a presentation on the Gold King Mine Spill settlement. The NMAG's office is working on getting permissions for videos recorded at the Chililí, Tierra Amarilla, San Joaquín del Río de Chama and Tomé events. Members of the Interim Land Grant Committee will be invited to visit the gallery at the last Interim Committee hearing on November 20th.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Archuleta gave an update on the October budget for FY 2023. UNM required some changes, so we are still waiting for the contract to be put into place.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

Land grants will make an appointment with their designated Budget Bureau Analyst to input their information in the LGBMS system and have their budget approved. Money is set to be disbursed on Friday, October 28th.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council is looking for new office space as a new employee will be joining our team.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract – Update and Requests

Legal service contracts are being processed by DFA.

15. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests

The contract is under the IGSA and the surveyor won't be available to work until the IGSA is in place.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martínez reported that the center looks great and much of the cleaning is complete. Councilor Polaco added that Rep. Herrera suggested that the three land grants create a 501(c)3 to help the grants for grant eligibility. Mr. Archuleta suggested that Larry Montano of Holland and Hart review their options.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that the recent New Mexico Game Commission meeting (held virtually) had the Laguna del Campo on its agenda. The Commission went into executive session and still no decision was made. Attorney David Benavides e-mailed Director Mike Sloan, who replied that after 2 years the deed was still held up in legal.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Dr. Baca reported that the Council received the updated list of board members for the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant.

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

Dr. Baca gave a presentation at the latest Interim Committee in Chililí hearing regarding the ALGE project. He and Anissa Baca participated in a ALGE meeting where the final report was shared with participants. The Land Grant Studies Program also recently completed a three year planning report, which was submitted to the OVPR and will be shared at the next meeting. The LGSP will

work with the Tajiue Land Grant to closeout the Merced YCC project, which was funded by an Outdoor Recreation Grant, and is working with the NMLGC to implement projects funded by one time legislative funds in Taos and Tierra Amarilla. The LGSP will also review send digital copies of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico files to land grants.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the letter to support for the tenure advancement of Law School Professor Gabriel Pacyniak; 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.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

23. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Leonard Martínez submitted his resignation from the New Mexico Land Grant Council, stating that the next generations needs to take up the cause. He stated that until land is returned or compensation is given that the movement is not going away. Councilor Padilla stated that she was sorry to hear of his decision, that his knowledge is important and thanked Councilor Martínez for his service. Chairman Sánchez wished Councilor Martínez well and thanked him for his work. Mr. Archuleta thanked Councilor Martínez for his mentorship.

24. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

25. Date and Location for November Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on November 17th at 10 am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

26. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date