

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
February 16, 2022 – 12:00pm
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 928 9352 6283

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 12:10pm MST. Roll call of the Council members: Steve Polaco, Juan Sánchez, Andrea Padilla, Rebecca Correa Skartwed and Leonard Martínez 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 (LGSP); Novela Salazar (Treaty Division - NM Attorney General's Office); Adeline DeYoung (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Rita Padilla Gutierrez (Town of Tomé Land Grant); Ester Griego Health Security Campaign); A. J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Barbara Romero (Office of Congresswoman Yvette Herrell); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Mark Meyers (NM State Land Office); Julie Ann Overton (Santa Fe NF); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Alicia Muenz (NMHU student); RubyAnn Gomez (heir - Anton Chico Land Grant); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Jeff Tenorio; Benjamin Medina.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Juan Sánchez asked that item 5 be moved to 12 on the agenda.

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as modified; 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 January 27, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 27, 2022 Council meeting; 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 Presentation on Health Security Campaign - Ester Griego

Ms. Ester Griego of the New Mexico Health Security Campaign presented on the campaign. The Health Security Campaign is administered by independent, non-governmental commission. It offers healthcare coverage for eligible New Mexicans. More information can be found at www.nm.healthsecurity.org

7. Discussion and Possible Action on USDA Programs - Patricia Domínguez

USDA Rural Development State Director Patricia Domínguez presented on USDA Rural Development programs in New Mexico, including assistance for family housing and broadband infrastructure. Director Domínguez stated that USDA-RD collaborates with COGs to help them compete for federal grants and would like to collaborate with land grant communities and that there are many funding options that rural communities can apply for. Councilor Martinez asked about cell phone towers and coverage in rural areas in northern New Mexico. Director Domínguez responded that she will inquire with the field representative for the area.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Projects - MOU

Camila Romero and Mark Meyers of the NM State Land Office (SLO) discussed the draft MOU between the SLO and NMLGC. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP staff) presented the MOU to the Council to clarify the Council's and SLO's roles. The SLO would be able to fund projects through the Council and the Council can partner with local land grants to carry out projects. The NMLGC would consult the SLO for their expertise for fuelwood and other projects to create a scope of a project. Council members discussed including DFA on the MOU, sharing responsibility over the projects and cost share, as well as the theft of cords of wood from project sites. Camila Romero responded that law enforcement would be contacted and the land grant would not be held responsible for the stolen fuelwood. Mr. Archuleta added that the MOU might be adjusted to include something like the SPA agreements that are a part of an MOU in discussion between the USFS and the NMLGC.

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

Federal

Adeline DeYoung (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that H.R. 5493, Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act, may be heard by the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on March 1st. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) stated that the Senate version of the traditional use bill (S. 2708) is gaining traction and Senator Luján's office is working with Senate colleagues to continue its movement. He added that the Senate passed a continuing resolution (averting federal shutdown) through March 18 and stated that another continuing resolution may be needed. Mr. Chávez also reported that Senator Luján suffered a stroke and is recovering. Several attendees offered their support and prayers to Senator Luján. Councilor Polaco discussed a Northern New Mexico College solar energy project on former Tierra Amarilla Land Grant common lands that was initiated by past NNMC president Richard Bailey and involved federal support. Mr. Chávez responded that federal support was part of a congressional directed spending package that was tied to the appropriations package, which is held up as the Senate is still on a continuing resolution. There has been no agreement on appropriations package, though

conversations continue. He added that he will discuss the project with interim NNMC President Barbara Medina and will send a guidebook (Guidebook for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law at www.build.gov) to the Council that will discuss infrastructure projects.

State

House Bill 8, the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Act, has the State Legislature and will be on Governor Michelle Luján Grisham's desk soon. She has 20 days to sign or veto the bill. We may have a meeting with DFA to determine how the funds will be distributed. These funds will fluctuate year to year because it is a gross tax receipt. Councilor Padilla commented that the NMLGC needs to set up trainings for the land grants that are eligible to receive funds. Mr. Archuleta responded that \$2 million has been appropriated in HB 2 and would go to DFA, which the NMLGC will need to work with to set up distribution. This might take some time to organize and distributions might not be until May 2023. The Council is awaiting word on a potential signing ceremony.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM is holding public and virtual meetings regarding the proposed mineral development around Chaco Canyon. The Farmington Field office is conducting tribal consultation for the Farmington Resource Plan. The Rio Puerto management plan is still in process and a ROD is expected by the end of the year. Taos Field Office is preparing to release a management plan for Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Melanie Barnes remains the acting State Director of the BLM and the agency has no state forester.

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

Julie Ann Overton (USFS – Santa Fe NF) reported that Paul Martinez of the Santa Fe NF met with Councilor Martínez and there is a tentative meeting on February 24 to review a timber wood project. Both the Cuba and Coyote ranger districts will have timber sales in FY 2022 and 2023. The Santa Fe National Forest now has a new Deputy Forest Service Supervisor, Beth Ihle. Mr. Archuleta reported that he had a conversation with Carson National Forest Supervisor James Durán, who wants to restart the land grant quarterly meetings and wants a land grant 101. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP staff) added the USFS Region 3 will host objection resolution meetings regarding the forest plans for the Carson, Cíbola and Santa Fe National Forests in March 2022.

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

Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG's office) reported that SB 141, which addresses propane challenges in rural New Mexico, passed and is waiting for Governor's signature. He added that the NMAG's office has funds available from the Gold King Mine Spill settlement and that land grants may be eligible to send youth groups there for work. He stated that the Wildlife Federation would like to present at a future Council meeting. He thanked the UNM Land Grant Studies Program for materials for the NMAG's archive and gallery.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022 & FY 2023 Budget

The NMLGC has expended \$140,738.17 of its \$496,000 budget. It has \$14,154 of unbudgeted funds. Mr. Archuleta will meet with Malcolm Ebright the first week of March to discuss research and writing projects for land grants. The monies can also be spent on digitizing microfilm records, including SANM records and Town of Tomé baptismal records. The junior bill contains funding for projects, including \$50,000 to the Council to provide youth development programs, \$50,000 to

land grant heritage project to Crisobal de la Serna, \$50,000 to provide community support programs to Tierra Amarilla, another \$50,000 to the Council to provide youth development program services to land grants-mercedes. Council members discussed the need to hire finance staff if HB 8 passes and possible youth programs. Mr. Archuleta reported that he will contact Malcolm Ebright in the first week of march to discuss research projects and will report back at the next meeting. The Council can also opt to digitize microfilm with remaining monies. The session ends tomorrow (Feb. 17) at 12:00 noon and the governor has 20 days to sign or veto legislation. The bond sale grant agreements were made in December. Anissa Baca and Venessa Chávez are working with Dawn Webster of DFA to assist land grants. Councilor Padilla asked a question about fundraising to support scholarships and concerns with the anti-donation clause. Treaty Division Attorney Novela Salazar stated that she would look into the issue.

13. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal

The Council has partnered on a youth conservation corps project in the East Mountains this summer. The NMAA has shared with the Council their concern that SB 100 is making its way through the Senate with the resource protections portion removed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund

Anissa Baca (NMLGC staff) reported that Land Grant Support Fund grant agreements are still being processed. Once P.O's are issued, the Council will let land grants know that they can start spending their awards.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request number 4 was presented for \$22,298.87 including \$12,077.87 in personnel, \$210.00 in facility rental fees, and \$3,716.50 F&A charges.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

The Council has not received any new requests for legal services. NMLA continues to work on cases. Work continues with the NREL Clinic at UNM Law School.

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

The Council previously had a contract with surveyor Chris Chávez and he will begin survey work again under a \$40,000 contract. An additional \$37,300 remains and may be spent on other

surveying contractors. The NMLGC mapper will assist with coordinates to help the DOT install a sign delineating the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant Boundary on the highway.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center Update

The Tierra Amarilla, San Joaquín and Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grants are working on an operating agreement for the PLVC.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

David Benavides has worked on an agreement for the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant to present to the NM Game Commission. Mr. Archuleta and Councilor Polaco will review and added that the intent is to continue the operation agreement with NM Game & Fish as only 5 CFS is being transferred with the lake.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None

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

LGSP staff (LM Garcia y Griego, Arturo Archuleta, Jacobo Baca) met with the Vice President for Research Ellen Fisher and Assoc. VPR Mary Jo Daniels to discuss the LGSP and the Land Grant Institute. The reorganization of the category 3 research centers will be done by the end of the fiscal year and we will have a better understanding of the status of the Land Grant Institute at that time. Anissa Baca reported that the Land Grant Studies Program has completed the oral histories Northern Rio Grande NHA Grant. She and Dr. Baca have been working with the NMAA and NMHU on the ALGE program to develop land grant and acequia curricula. The LGSP continued to work on the next continuing education course (CLE). Dr. Garcia y Griego may have the opportunity to teach a second 8-week course on land grants.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Councilor Padilla made a motion that a letter be sent to the Senate and House sponsors of House Bill 8 endorsing the legislation and letter to Governor Michelle Luján Grisham encouraging her to sign House Bill 8; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Padilla reported that a requestor asked the Town of Tomé Land Grant for a certified copy of the land grant plat. Councilor Polaco discussed preserving digitized historical documents using technology such as blockchain. RubyAnn Gómez (Anton Chico Land Grant heir) reported that she has requested a history of the Anton Chico Land Grant from the Council.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

The 2022 New Mexico Legislative Session ends on February 17, 2022 at 12:00pm.

26. Date and Location for March & April 2022 Council Meetings

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

The April 2022 Council meeting will take place on April 20, 2022 at 12:00pm, virtually and in person at the UNM Science and Technology Center.

27. Adjournment

Councilor Polaco 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 3:06pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date