

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 15, 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: 960 8191 0445

**FINAL - Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:13am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Rebecca Correa Skartwed, Leonard Martínez, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (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 (NM Attorney General's Office); Novela Salazar (NM Attorney General's Office); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Ashley Wright (USFS); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Julie Anne Overton (PAO, Santa Fe NF); Barbara Romero (Herrell); Anna Jaramillo Scarborough (USFS – Regional BAER Coordinator); Melinda Evans (heir, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant); Alfonso Duran.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Rebecca Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Andrea 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.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 17, 2022 Council meeting; 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.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM will be selling permits in Canjilón on June 28 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Councilor Polaco asked Ms. Morrison about access to the Mesa de las Viejas as a private landowner in the area does not allow access. Ms. Morrison stated that she would report back.

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

Federal

S. 2708 – (in packet)

The Traditional Uses Bill was heard in front of the Natural Resources Committee. The NMLGC provided additional materials to Ben Ray Lujan’s Office. The bill will be sent back for a markup on June 23. It will soon be ready for a vote.

Mr. Archuleta asked if there are any local governmental entities (land grants and acequias) who are eligible to receive compensation for fire damages.

Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) answered that Senator Ben Ray Lujan has raised these concerns to federal agencies, and the office staff has continued to raise these concerns to the US Forest Service and the NRCS. Delegation requested 100% “cost waiver,” with the cost being covered by the federal government.

Councilor Andrea Padilla asked who is eligible for full coverage for fire damages. Her sister’s property was affected by the wildfires, and she was told she would receive financial assistance for 75% of the damage costs and she would need to cover the remaining 25% of the costs.

Eric Chavez (The Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) Bidens commitment was very recent, trying to implement higher cost coverage for fire damages.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee held its organizing meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022 and a presentation was given by Susan Sasser, the newly appointed ombudsman for Rural Development. The Committee created the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

August 18-19 in Taos (hosted by Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant); September 22-23 in Chililí, October 20-21 in Abiquiú and November 22 in Santa Fe.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service

Ashley Wright (USFS)- Following the President’s visit on Saturday, an additional visit by USDA and Forest Service Staff was agreed upon to focus on traditional uses communities and fire recovery. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Anna Jaramillo Scarborough (USFS) gave an update on the post fire recovery efforts. The Hermit’s Peak / Calf Canyon fire recovery plan has been broken into phases. The team is currently assessing the northern area, which includes Mora and further north.

Councilor Martínez asked for an update on the Midnight Fire.

Anna Jaramillo Scarborough (USFS) shared the following: 4,905 acres, about 12% contained, 382 personnel on the fire.

Councilor Martinez raised the following questions: What amount of land grant properties bordering the Forest Service were damaged and what is the plan for getting fuelwood to these areas?

Councilor Padilla asked what work has been done in Mora for the flood control? And what do grazing permit holders do with their animals that need to be grazed?

Anna Jaramillo Scarborough (USFS) responded the assessment is still being developed.

Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) gave an update on the different precautions and work currently underway for flood and fire control, such as volunteers filling sandbags. And placed a link for livestock grazers to use. His office has reached out to the NM Livestock Board to find feed for displaced animals.

Chairman Juan Sanchez raised his concerns for the damages and destruction the fires have caused for the fencing used to contain the cattle. The NEPA process often delays the repair of fencing.

Councilor Polaco also raised his concerns regarding the process for the distribution of fuelwood for the affected communities.

Dr. Jacobo Baca gave an update on with the most recent developments on the Forest Service Management Plans. The NMLGC staff is continuing the objection process.

9. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal – Including presentation & request by Town of Tomé

Camila Romero (State Lands Office) updated the Council on current projects. The State Land Office is placing many of their projects on hold at this time due to fire concerns. The Santa Barbara Land Grant's project is currently on hold, but they are hopeful the project will start up again. The San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant has continued with their fuelwood project.

Councilor Andrea Padilla expressed her concern for an overlay zone Harvey Yates is seeking approval for drilling, fracking and resource extraction. The county has had two meetings and the many constituents are against the overly zone. The Tome Land Grant would like to take action. The drilling could take place on many former common lands. The land grant is requesting the Council send someone to the hearing on July 14, 2022 and send a letter of objection.

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

Ricardo Dow y Anaya gave an update on the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced y Acequia Historical Gallery and Repository. The Council and Council Staff has been invited to the Grand Opening on July 15, 2022.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported the NMLGC staff has been meeting regularly with the Auditor's Office and DFA to determine exactly how the Assistance Fund and HB 8 will be distributed.

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

FY 2022 Budget Update: NM Legal Services has been expended to date \$55,739.26; the remainder is \$4,261.00 and will be spent in a new invoice just receive today. Publishing will be spent to near \$4,000.00 budgeted. In state travel amounts to \$6,500.14, YTD. Out of State Travel has not been spent. The UNM Contract total, YTD, is \$225,217.56, including staff salary and fringe amounting to \$152,566.88 and \$37,536.30 in F&A. Total NMLGC budget expended to date is \$311,605.89. Total reversions, including UNM IGSA, is \$63,063.86. 86% expended – 14% reverted

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice 3573 from Portable Micrographocs for \$9,083.08; Councilor RCS seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the staff budget recommendation for FY 2023.

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to staff budget recommendation; Councilor AP 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.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) gave an update on Land Grant Support Fund recipient's status.

- Manzano Land Grant had their AUP executed and spent \$1,068 spent and have approximately \$1,500 to spend on a fireproof cabinet and \$500 tables and chairs.
- San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant purchased their propane tank and gravel and expended \$3,500.
- San Miguel del Bado Land Grant spent their \$3,500 award on a shed for their equipment.
- Tajique Land Grant purchased a lawnmower and expended \$5,575.18 of their award for \$6,000, they will revert \$424.82
- Town of Tomé is on track to spend their award for \$9,000 on computers and an ATV for the land grant
- Torreón Land Grant has identified a vendor and will likely spend their entire award for \$6,000

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request number 8 was presented for \$41,317.63, including \$15,438.05 in project personnel, \$12,721.09 in the surveyor's contract and \$6,886.28 in F&A charges.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve pay request number 8 for \$41,317.63; 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.

Mr. Archuleta presented the Scope of Work for the IGSA for FY 2023. The only changes are to those areas highlighted, including:

- Provide assistance with implementation of Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund
- Provide support and assistance to Council and individual land grants with expenditure of SB 1 appropriations from 2022 special session related to land grants-mercedes, including but not limited to: youth development and educational cultural programming for Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant and other land grants-mercedes.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Scope of Work FY 2023 IGSA; 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.

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

Invoice number 3 for Chris Chavez’s research work in Taos County, survey of Trampas Plaza for So tomas del Rio de las Trampas LG drafting time, and fieldwork.

- Mr. Chavez will give final report during the next Council meeting

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve invoice 3 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$14,974.04 Councilor AP 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

One pay request was presented by Mr. Archuleta.

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to approve Invoice #3 from Joe Lennihan for \$4,254.21; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

No updates.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martinez and Councilor Polaco updated the Council on the final report for the Mercedes Unidas Center.

- Councilor Steve Polaco updated the Council on the roofing repairs currently underway at the Mercedes Unidas Center.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco gave an update on the Laguna del Campo site.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

The following items were sent to the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry.

- election and organization of board for Las Trampas Land Grant
- election for organization of board Santa Bárbara Land Grant

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

Mr. Archuleta updated the Council on UNM’s new RPSP process. The deadline was extended until June 15, 2022.

Anissa Baca reported she presented to La Mesa Presbyterian Church on June 5, 2022. She also reported that Dr. Diane Torres-Velasquez, a UNM faculty member, is currently writing the report for the 2022 ALGE Institute which took place in April and May.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Al Durán attended the meeting and reported on behalf of Santa Cruz de la Cañada. He expressed his concerns about the land grant’s property and boundaries.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

Al Duran made a comment regarding the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant property.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Archuleta reported he presented at the Natural Resources Law Clinic.

Mr. Archuleta was invited to be a guest on TJ Trout’s show with guest host Gene Grant.

Mr. Archuleta gave an update on the Summer Youth Projects this year. There have been some changes because the Bearcat Project was placed on hold due to the wildfires.

The next Consejo meeting will be held on June 25th at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Tim Hagamann (NM EDD) reported he received an application from the Anton Chico Land Grant. The land grant will be awarded for a commercial kitchen.

26. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The July 2022 Council meeting will take place on July 13, 2022 at 10:00am virtually and in person in Albuquerque.

27. Adjournment

Councilor Polaco made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Correa Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:03pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date