

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
January 20, 2023 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 922 0894 9911

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Div); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Kurt Weinrich (FEMA Chief of Staff); Judy Schroeder (FEMA Dept. Chief of Staff); Lois Ozier (FEMA Equity); Arsany Thomas (acting dept dir. Hermits Peak & Calf Canyon Claims office); Ashley Wright (USFS R3); Chantal Herrick (Asst. PAO, Santa Fe National Forest); Mike Peacock (FEMA); Sofia Maimome (FEMA); Jerry Holmes, FEMA; Alison Kent (FEMA); Ashley Saulcy, (NM DHS); Camila Romero, New Mexico State Land Office.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 14, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by FEMA

FEMA presented a powerpoint describing their program and effort on the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon recovery effort. Ashley Saulcy (New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management), Toby Rice and Justin Ross (FEMA) discussed lines of effort and the

strategic effort to recovery and taskforces created to implement these. Recovery is most effective when it is locally executed, state managed and federally supported. Sources of communication are streamlined to prevent from being overwhelmed and a Unified Command Group oversees all lines of effort. Included in the task forces is a land based communities task force and an acequia task force that has also not yet launched. There are 55 separate grant programs specifically for fire recovery effort, including USDA Rural Development, restoration of broadband, the US Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets, who are assisting with the burn scar and substance abuse and mental health services. There is also the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon claims office.

FEMA discussed the eligibility pyramid, which takes into consideration the cost, work, facility, and applicant and identifies state, tribal, local government, and certain private non-profits, dependent on mission. The process includes 1) Operational planning, 2) intake and eligibility determination, 3) scoping and costing, 4) final field reviews, where funds are obligated and disbursed and 5) post award. Matt Embry of FEMA discussed hazard mitigation assistance program. Applicant needs an approved plan and FEMA will provide technical assistance. Non disaster funding is provided by the FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) and BRIC (Building resilient Infrastructure and communities) programs and disaster funding through the hazard mitigation grant program. Funding available after presidential declaration with cost share is 25% local; 75% federal. The state determines priorities and New Mexico identified local communities under flood threat as the number 1 priority. Programs also offer \$37,900 for residence recovery.

Councilor Padilla mentioned that there remains a lot of debris from the fire and road access is still limited especially around Rociada. Pendaries, on the other hand, seems to be getting a lot of attention. Communities were told that the federal government was going to cover the cost as it wasn't an act of nature and the fire was caused by the federal government. This was not a tornado or a flood, which are acts of nature. If they claim on their insurance, premiums go up. The whole system is set up and less educated and Spanish speakers are not being served. When methods are set, they need to be changed to meet needs of people in light of cause of fire and unique needs of the area. People do not want to do loans and \$40,000 is way too low for home replacement. Councilor Polaco asked if FEMA takes into consideration the increased cost of building materials and housing in general. Jose Gilmontes (FEMA) responded that the individual assistance program prices are evaluated every 2-3 years and the total for individual assistance is capped at \$175,000. Other partners, including state, play an important role here. Ashley Saulcy added that these comments have been made to FEMA and the State pushed to consider these (replacement costs vs value) that hope will be made into final Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Recovery rules.

Mr. Archuleta asked for copies of the presentations and added that the acequia and land based community task forces are important and probably have a lot of overlap, as does timber industry task force. He asked if any programs are community focused rather than individually focused and for more information on recovery programs, including program opportunities for fire mitigation, especially in light of wildfires. Arsany Thomas (FEMA) discussed the HP/CC portion of the FEMA presentation, which is nearly \$4 billion in funding. The HP/CC Act increased the federal cost share to 100% for Stafford Act programs. (FEMA Stafford act programs are national level programs – designed for supplemental program assistance) The HP/CC Act is designed to compensate for losses from fires and subsequent flooding. On Nov. 14, FEMA published an interim final rule, opened 60-day comment period, which closed; reviewing comments before publication of final rule. The intention is to fully compensate for losses, as allowable by New Mexico law. FEMA

started accepting notice of loss forms in 2022 and government entities must apply under regular public assistance before pursuing HP/CC programs in order to maximize funding. If an applicant missed a deadline, they can always submit a late request and if not approved, they can come under HP/CC. FEMA also thanked Arturo Archuleta for the land grant presentation in December. FEMA is trying to hire locals. Three hire fairs netted 140 participants and it looks like 100% of line staff will come from locally effected communities.

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

Ashley Wright (USFS) introduced Pam Baltimore, the new PAO for the Santa Fe National Forest. She also reported that Shawn Sanchez has been selected as the new forest supervisor for the Santa Fe National Forest. He was the Deputy Chief of the National Wildlife System with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that public scoping will take place at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque on January 26, 2023 from 3:00-7:00pm. BLM is updating the national solar western plan and New Mexico public lands are involved. The BLM is close to hiring BLM state forester and she will try and take them in person to next council meeting, with Melanie Barnes, NM State BLM director. She also stated that the BLM would like to reschedule the Land Grant 101 that was cancelled due to inclement weather.

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

Federal

Mr. Archuleta stated that Eric Chavez sent an update that stated that Sen. Ben R. Luján's office is continuing to work with land grants on the EIN issue. \$273 million secured for Congressional Direct Spending in the Omnibus Bill. Requests will reopen in late February or early March. Mr. Archuleta reported that he is working with Mr. Chavez to schedule next congressional quarterly call and wishes to provide a month's notice, time for Congressman Gabe Vásquez's staff to attend.

State

Land grant legislation was presented, including the partition bill (House Bill 20), the Cristóbal de la Serna Bill (House Bill 33) and Senate Bill 87, which will provide \$1,000,000 for solid waste cleanup for land grants. Mr. Archuleta also reported that he and Mr. Baca joined Speaker Javier Martinez, Rep. Susan Herrera and Rep. Joseph Sanchez on a tour of PLVC (Mercedes Unidas Center) with Steve Polaco (Tierra Amarilla LG), Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG), and Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG). Bonifacio Vásquez of the Santa Bárbara Land Grant also met with Rep. Herrera and Speaker Martínez. He also spoke with Rep. Kristina Ortez, new chair of House Rural Development, Land Grants And Cultural Affairs committee, who is supportive of bill naming all land grants. There is also a natural resources trust bill and conservation funding bill this session and the Speaker committed to asking conservation groups to engage with land grant communities for input when asking for legislation.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Bill 20, House Bill 33 and Senate Bill 87;

Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero reported that the Villanueva project is starting next week and the Bearcat will start once a start date for inmate crews is set by Dee Tarr. She will attend Treaty Day on behalf of the State Land Office.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology

None.

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

None.

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

Novela Salazar reported that their office is busy reviewing legislation and they are waiting to see how the Treaty Division is being restructured. Its role might be expanded and it will continue to have a role in reviewing bills. She will forward the invitation to AG Raul Tórréz to attend the Treaty Day commemoration on February 2, 2023 at the Roundhouse. Ricardo Dow y Anaya added that he attended a New Mexico Acequia Commission meeting where they discussed outdoor recreation, the impacts of cannabis and water theft. The NMAC is trying to access the NM Conservation Fund. Their office is working to have NMAG Tórréz join New Mexico Land Grant Council and New Mexico Acequia Commission meetings to introduce himself. Their office has been receiving calls in opposition to HB 20. Mr. Archuleta offered the help of the Council for any questions on FIRs, analysis, etc.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

Total costs to date are \$5,619.72 has been billed. More billing will be generated and submitted for approval in February 2023 meeting. Youth programming budgets (\$150,000) were presented, including Cristóbal de la Serna (\$50,000), Tierra Amarilla (\$32,099); East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District YCC (\$61,001); and a small teachers institute, which Anissa Baca and Jacobo Baca will take the lead implementing.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the budgets as presented, with discretion to make adjustments in line items of budget; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

DFA did not generate a purchase order within the approved IGSA and the Council now needs to submit a full budget.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve expenses for December 2022 in the amount of \$2,835.86; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The FY 2023 IGSA has just been put into place and an index has been assigned, but no billings will be generated until February 2023.

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

Victoria Lovato and Ricardo Guaderama are serving as UNM Law School externs.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests – San Miguel del Bado

Joe Benito Chavez (president, San Miguel del Bado LG) made a request for surveying assistance for the remnants of common lands bordered by private properties, USFS, SLO, and BLM lands. Chairman Sanchez asked if specific tracts are identified, or if the grant is looking for all common lands. Mr. Chavez replied that the Grant has identified specific tracts and will meet with a surveyor soon. Small pieces are checkerboarded and the Grant wants a surveyor to look at patented boundaries as they exist as markers have been moved. The first step might be trying to ascertain current state of patented boundaries. Mr. Archuleta explained that surveyor services are provided through a contracted surveyor, Chris Chavez.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve San Miguel del Bado Land Grant’s request for surveyor services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Mr. Archuleta stated that the visit to to the Mercedes Unidas Center with House Speaker Javier Martínez and Representative Herrera was very positive. Councilor Polaco added that Leonard Martinez and Monica Rodriguez published the RFP for electrical work at the center in the newspaper.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that the Grant is still waiting on New Mexico Game and Fish.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant reported the resignation of Ernestina López from the board and the appointment of Pat Aguilar to the board.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he gave a presentation to the OVPR in February. The LGSP advisory committee has yet to meet. Chairman Sanchez and former Councilor Correa Skartwed were on the committee and someone needs to replace Correa Skartwed. There has been no movement on the Land Grant Institute. The LGSP is working on Treaty Day and participating in ALGE and prepping for another teachers institute. Anissa Baca reported that she did a write up on land grants for Katie Goetz of NMDA that will be published in newspapers.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Arturo Archuleta and Greta Archuleta provided an update on Greta’s work, including outreach to land grants that gave yet to complete their budgets and set up their budgets in LGBMS. Greta Archuleta added that she has reached out and is making progress inputting land grant budgets into the system. She has also created budget templates to help them track budget and create quarterly reports. Mr. Archuleta added that the goal is to provide trainings in the future and want to transition land grants to fund accounting, something more complex than one fund budgeting. The new secretary of DFA is Wayne Propst. Donnie Quintana is now Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs and Jeanette Gallegos is acting director of the Local Government Division.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

None.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day will take place on Thursday, Feb 2, 2023. Chairman Sánchez stated that the first treaty commemoration took place at the Oñate Center in 1998.

26. Date and Location for February 2023 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place February 17 at 10:00 am in Albuquerque, location tbd. The March Council meeting will be on March 17th at 11:00 am in Santa Fe, location tbd, with a Congressional Delegation meeting at 10:00am.

27. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:13 MST.

Approved:

 Chair

 Date