

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 20, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 971 2573 0960

**Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:02am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NM Attorney General’s Office); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Melvyn Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla Land Grant); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Fransico Mendoza (Chililí LG); Cornelio Salazar (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Adaline DeYoung (Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez); Aurora Valdez (Sen. Martin Henrich); Linda Gallegos (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján);

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Polaco 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 September 29, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 29, 2023 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 Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison was unable to attend, but Mr. Archuleta gave the following updates on her behalf. The scoping period for the Rio Grande del Norte Monument Management Plan ended on September 20, and a draft will be released in spring of 2024 followed by a public comment period. BLM is proposing to develop shooting ranges in Santa Fe County. The comment period for the BLM land exchange with Okay Owingeh will close on November 25.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (State Land Office) announced that there is still fuelwood available in White's Peak area. The road has been improved and it is easier to access. The SLO has received payment from each of the land grants that participated in the Bearcat Project.

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

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee meeting will take place on October 23-24 in Carnuel. Presentations will be heard on Monday, and legislators will be given a tour of the Manzano and Carnué Land Grants the following day.

Federal

Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Heinrich) announced that Sen. Heinrich has visited Las Conchas to view the burn scars from the recent fires. The Cerro Pelado Fire Assistance Act was introduced by the Delegation, which would help those affected by the recent fires apply for FEMA funds. The Pecos Watershed Act has been introduced, which would protect portions of the Pecos Watershed from mineral development. The Senator is working towards keeping claims office for damages from the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire open until 2027.

Leonard Martinez (SJDRDC) asked if there has been any progress on returning cemeteries on federal lands back to the land grants. Ms. Valdez has been working with AJ Pacheco from the Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez to research legislation that may be helpful in returning these cemeteries.

Adeline DeYoung (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez) announced that her office has been working with the Office of Sen. Ben Ray Lujan on the Traditional Use Bill.

Melvyn Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG) shared his concerns regarding the time it has taken for those affected by recent fires to receive financial assistance from the federal government, meanwhile land speculators have been making offers for these properties. Ms. DeYoung let the Council know that her office has been working with claims offices and the payments should be made faster.

Councilor Padilla shared that her sister has already received offers for her land and wants land grants to do their part in helping those affected by the fires.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on US Forest Service Update

Belinda Mollard (USFS) announced that there are prescription burns scheduled this weekend near the Taos Ski Valley. Ms. Mollard also shared that the Forest Service has partnered with the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant for a mayordomo fuelwood project in the area.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Attorney General & Treaty Division Update

Enrique Romero (OAG) shared that he has had a regular standing meeting with Council staff. During one of these meetings, he would like to discuss the 2016 letter from the Attorney General to create a list of priorities.

The Treaty Division was asked to present to the Land Grant Interim Committee during the November hearing.

Councilor Padillia asked if there is a place on the Office of the Attorney General’s website where complaints regarding scams can be submitted. Mr. Romero confirmed that complaints can be submitted on the website and there is a division that deals with these issues.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal

None.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Concerns

Mr. Archuleta shared a letter (in packet) received by the Council on October 10 from the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant. The Council and Council staff agreed to meet with the Land Grant in response to the letter. Both parties agreed to meet on Friday, October 27th to allow for enough time to advertise a special meeting. The meeting will be held at the Land Grant’s community center in Cañones.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

The contract has still not been approved at this time. The Council has \$1,035.69 in expenditures.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including Approval of FY 2024 Contract

Mr. Romero (OAG) reviewed the IGSA (in packet) and found only minor changes to be made.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Services Agreement with UNM and the Department of Finance and Administration; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Mr. Archuleta stated that there are now executed contracts with the Surveyor and Quickbooks trainings.

The SOW (in packet) for Holland and Hart, LLP has been created. If approved today, the procurement process at UNM can begin.

Chairman Sanchez made a motion to approve the contract with the scope of work and a compensation of \$6,000 for Holland and Hart, LPP for Las Mercedes Unidas Center; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained from the vote

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

The FY 2024 contract with New Mexico Legal Aid is still not in place.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

Malcom Ebright is donating items to the Land Grant Studies Program.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Polaco announced that he and his land grant are in support of creating legislation for a revolving loan fund to purchase property. He also asked how the Land Grant might be able to file a water declaration with the State Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Romero (OAG) responded to this by stating there may be issues with this given the ongoing adjudications, and asked if there are other land grants attempting something similar.

Mr. Martinez (SJDRDC) stated that his land grant attempted to file a water declaration with the Office of the State Engineer in 2007 and did not hear a response.

Mr. Apodaca requested that he be included in emails with agendas and meeting minutes.

Mr. Martinez (SJDRDC) announced that there were community members who want the Land Grant’s help purchasing fencing materials for the local a cemetery.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Anissa Baca announced that DFA has changed the process for requesting disbursements for capital outlay funds. Rather than sending a letter to DFA, there is now a link that leads to a Google Form that land grants will need to fill out. She will send an email to land grants with the link and instructions.

22. Date and Location for October Council Meeting

Th next Council meeting will take place on November 17, 2023 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, NM, location to be determined.

23. 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 12:03pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date