

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
November 17, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 982 2255 0689

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:04 am 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); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NMAG – Treaty Division); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG’s Office – Treaty Division); Melvyn Apodaca (TA Land Grant); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Aurora Valdez (Henrich); Eric Stemmerman (USFS); Camila Romero (SLO); Richard Valdez; Mark Montoya (NMFA); Joe Benito Chavez (San Miguel del Bado); Ron Cruz (NMFA); AJ Pacheco (Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández); Tim Hegerman (NMEDD).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor 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 October 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and October 27, 2023 Special Council Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 20, 2023 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 27, 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 State Land Office Update

Camila Romero reported that there is still fuelwood in the White's Peak area for \$15 per cord and can send interested parties a permit. Regarding the Villanueva fuelwood project Ralph Vigil is working on getting the last payment submitted.

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

Federal

AJ. Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that his office was briefed on the small tracts act and it can be used as an option for land return for land grant cemeteries. The land does not have to be contiguous to land owned by the land grant. They will have a briefing with the Congressional Research Service as to how cemeteries have been valued in the past. Aurora Valdez (Sen. Martin Heinrich) reported that Senator Heinrich, Senator Ben R. Luján and Rep. Leger Fernández reintroduced the Pecos Watershed Protection Act to protect the area from mineral development. They are also in discussions regarding the replacement of the Chimayó Post Office. Mr. Archuleta shared a report from Eric Chávez from Sen. Ben Ray Luján's office that stated that the continuing resolution passed funding government and the Farm Bill has been extended to 2024. Mr. Archuleta stated that he spoke with Alana Purdy Montesinos and she expressed concerns that fishing, hunting and water being included in the bill. They are unsure that RS 2477 and RS 2339 should be specifically included in the bill and are unsure of specifically mentioning the Treaty and including a savings clause.

State

The Land Grant Interim had a final meeting in November. Mr. Archuleta met with Mark Edwards and Chairwoman Kristina Ortez to begin drafting the land acquisition fund bill. She would like to have it pr-filed early so the bill can get moving.

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

Erick Stemmerman stated that he attended the briefing the regarding the Small Tracts Act and would like to set up meeting with NMLGC to discuss technical aspects of Small Tracts Act. The USFS sees the withdrawal of lands in the Pecos watershed from mining as very important and supports the legislation. The Enchanted Circle Project is providing fuelwood and forests are working to make fuelwood available. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Rio de Chama LG) reported that they are working on the irrigation project at the Cañón de Chama and is meeting with the NRCS and USFS on Dec. 20 at 9:00am at the Hernandez SWCD. He would like NMLGC staff to attend.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that San Antonio de las Huertas LG president Augustine Lucero attended a mineral withdrawal discussion of a proposed 50 year stop on oil and gas production in an area near the Grant. The comment period is through December 15. The Rio Grande del Norte Monument Management Plan will have a recreation focused meeting on December 21st. The BLM is working on a scoping report for the Ohkay Owingeh exchange. Christmas tree permits are available \$5.00 per permit.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Economic Development

Department – Tim Hagaman

Tim Hagaman (NM EDD) presented regarding the programs, including LEDA, LEEDS and CBRD programs. The LEDA infrastructure fund can be used to build economic opportunities. It is often used for airports and business parks and land grants can use this to develop business real estate. The Community Business and Rural Development (CBRD) program is another program that land grants can apply for, as well as the Outdoor Recreation Division Grants and marketing grants. There are also grants for creative industries and an entrepreneurialism program from the Northeast New Mexico Economic Development Organization (NEEDO). There is also a 3 week course on trades where a bus visits local communities and meets with youth and they can build relationships with local contractors. The collateral assistance program pledges collateral to help close a loan gap with loans at \$250,000. Once the loan is ready to close and bank is satisfied that it has been paid off, the monies goes back to NM EDD.

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

Mark Montoya and Ron Cruz from the New Mexico Finance Authority gave a presentation to the Council where they spoke of the different programs and funding they offer. Recently, they have been working with NMLGC staff and DFA to create a loan to fund an 800-acre property purchase for the Manzano Land Grant. NMFA staff is still trying to work out logistics of this loan since the Land Grant will use funds from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund and capital outlay appropriations to repay the loan.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

The only expenditure extracted from the budget so far is the Council's travel for \$1,824.10. The IGSA is close to being executed, which will allow for more expenditures.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work from Holland and Hart, LLP for \$6,000.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the SOW for \$6,000; Councilor Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented scope of work for Community and Economic Development support to land grants for up to \$9,000.

Councilor Sanchez made a motion to approve the SOW for \$9,000; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained from the vote

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work for natural resources for fuelwood project development which would allow for more projects similar to the mayordomo projects in the Taos area.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the SOW; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

The IGSA is close to being fully executed and has gone back to the secretary for signature.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Arturo presented invoice number 1 for Territorial Land Surveying for \$9,180.60.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Invoice for Territorial Land Surveying; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

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

David Benavidez is potentially donating portions of his research collections to the Land Grant Studies Program. Malcolm Ebright is also potentially donating his collection to the LGSP.

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

Enrique Romero (NMAG) spoke of his presentation that was heard by the Interim Land Grant Committee. In his presentation, he discussed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division's goals for 2024, which includes trainings on OMA and IPRA.

Mr. Romero also stated that the Office of the Attorney General will internally determine how things are addressed based on the materials received from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence – including Juan Bautista Baldés Response

Councilors received a letter from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant after the Council's October 27 meeting in Cañones. Councilors have still not received the corresponding exhibits. The response letter does have requests and questions.

Mr. Archuleta shared that he and Enrique Romero met with the Office of the State Auditor to discuss the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Mr. Romero agreed with the OSA's opinion on the Land Grant and stated that the Council had a duty to report, adding that the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant also has a duty to report to the OSA. The Attorney General's Office is going to take an affirmative step in determining what the next steps are if / when the land grant comes forward. Mr. Romero discussed his ideas for next steps in resolving this issue, including help with procurement and additional trainings for the Land Grant.

Mr. Archuleta asked the Councilor if they would like to send a response letter to the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Chairman Sanchez stated it would be best to wait until the exhibits were received.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Ricardo Dow y Anaya announced that Enrique Romero and himself held a meeting with the IT department in the Office of the Attorney General. The department was impressed with the Land Grant and Acequia repository website. Leonard Martinez announced that the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant will host their Thanksgiving lunch tomorrow, Saturday, November 18.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Padilla announced that the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo will have its next meeting in Tomé on December 2nd. Councilor Polaco announced that surveyor Chris Chavez has completed plats for the community center in Tierra Amarilla.

22. Date and Location for December Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on December 19, 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 12:18 pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date