

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
December 19, 2023 – 10:00am  
UNM Science & Technology Center,  
Executive Board Room  
851 University Blvd SE  
Zoom – Meeting I.D. –948 0174 0791

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

**1. Call to Order - Roll Call**

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:01am MST. 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 – Treaty Division); Lenora Romero (Manzano LG); Frank Trujillo (Don Fernando de Taos LG); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Francisco Mendoza (Chililí LG); Abel Sillas; José Arnaldo López (Trampas LG); Minera Anderson (BLM); Joe Benito Chávez; Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Priscilla Rael; Leandro Ortiz; Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Jessie Ontiveros Senaida Anaya (Torreón LG).

**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 November 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting**

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 17, 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 Federal and State Legislative Update**

*Federal*

None.

*State*

Mr. Archuleta received a draft from the Legislative Council Service of land grant-merced revolving land fund bill. There are issues with language that states that “disqualification of eligibility if total debt service exceeds 45% on average of five fiscal years.” This runs contrary to the plan to cap off payments at 45% of annual revenues and would just extend loan. The bill draft also contains limiting language that states that purchases must be “wholly located within the original boundaries of the U.S. patent of land to land grant-merced,” which would unfairly injure those land grants that were effected by the *U.S. vs. Sandoval* (1897) case and received no common lands in their patent. Councilor Polaco asked if there was a cap on the amount granted to one land grant; Mr. Archuleta responded that no more than 25% of the monies in the fund can be granted to any individual land grant. This may need to go through rule making to ensure to ensure this policy stands.

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

None.

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

Minera Anderson (BLM) reported that the final decision on the RMPA for the Rio Grande del Norte will be complete by October 14, 2024. The scoping report for the land exchange with Ohkay Owingeh will be available in early January and the BLM hopes to have the Rio Puerco RMPA done by 2024. The last day for comments for public withdrawal in Placitas is today.

#### **8. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Tourism Department**

None.

#### **9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update**

Camila Romero working on getting payment for from Villanueva, still handing out Christmas tree permits for the Mora and Ocaté area.

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

Enrique Romero (NMAG Treaty Division) reported that he is drafting a portion of the annual report for the first time in a couple of years and thanked the Council for assisting with some language. In working with Ricardo Dow y Anaya in drafting the Treaty Division section, they are reporting on accomplishments, current importance of the Division and formulating a plan looking forward. The NMAG’s office held a training on OMA and IPRA in Hernández for the Soil and Water Conservation District and they’re looking to hold another in the Taos area. The NMAG’s office is looking into the access to vaccinations in rural communities. Following up on Leonard Martínez’s questions and concerns regarding the opioid crisis, the NMAG’s office is continuing to having discussions on having counties give presentations to land grants on how resources can be obtained and used. Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that it makes so much sense to have land grants partner with behavioral health professionals to offer these services in rural communities. They learned from a DFA presentation that ARPA funds are still available and encourage communities to reach out to DFA or NMAG’s office to see how money can be spent. Issues regarding common waters, including dwindling water resources and adjudications, continues to be a priority of the Treaty Division.

#### **11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and**

## **Federal**

None.

### **12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget**

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). The FY 2023 NMLGC Annual Report was submitted to the Governor, DFA, Legislative Finance Council, and the Interim Land Grant Committee / LCS.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement**

The IGSA is in place and the UNM can now bill DFA.

### **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests**

Mr. Archuleta reported that Chris Chavez is working with UNM NREL Clinic and may request to use Council funding if he uses all of the funding available through the clinic. Anton Chico has requested a boundary survey and does need some survey work related to encroachments. Chairman Sánchez ask that they submit a new request as their request was several years ago.

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

The contract is out for signature and should be fully executed soon.

### **16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update**

Jacobo Baca (LGSP/NMLGC) reported that the Santa Cruz de la Cañada submitted their annual report.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he met with LM Garcia y Griego, who did an analysis of *US v. Sandoval* and is planning to turn it into a law review article. They may approach *Natural Resources Law Review* to do a land grant issue. The LGSP advisory committee will likely change as Cliff Villa is on leave and Durwood Ball will be retiring. He added that the LGSP purchased materials from Malcom Ebright / Center for Land Grant Studies. Anissa Baca (LGSP/NMLGC) reported that the LGSP is planning for a ALGE teacher workshop in Valencia County in March. Mr. Baca added that he and Ms. Baca worked with David Benavides of NM Legal Aid assessing and securing on their archive.

### **18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence**

Materials from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant were received via e-mail and Cy Martinez seems to have resigned from their Board.

### **19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments**

None.

### **20. Public Comments – discussion only**

Abel Sillas stated that his family is looking to restore their membership in the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant.

### **21. Miscellaneous Announcements**

None.

**22. Date and Location for January Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on January 12, 10:00am, in Albuquerque, location tbd.

**23. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am MDT.

**Approved:**

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Chair

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Date