

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 16, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 998 3442 9792

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:03am 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); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General’s Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Erick Stemmerman (USFS, R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Jolene Molina (Cebolleta Land Grant); Marty Molina (Cebolleta Land Grant); Jason Quintana (Merced de Manzano); Jason Martin Mondragón (NRCS); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Vicente Abeyta (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Kathy Roxlau (Sunstone Compliance); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant); Avedona Lucero (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Jose Mondragón (Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant); Kimberly Korbas (USFS); Lee Few; Lorrie García (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Manuel Trujillo (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Phillip Benavidez (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Vidal Gonzales (Northern New Mexico Economic Development District); Frank Trujillo (Don Fernando de Taos LG – manager).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended; 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 May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 25, 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 U.S. Forest Service Update

Erick Stemmerman (USFS) reported that the meeting between the Council and USFS in Washington DC was productive. Mr. Arturo Archuleta reported that Council staff met with the USFS legislative affairs director Jake Donnay and legislative affairs specialist Josh Nadas to discuss the bill and were joined by representatives of Senator Ben R. Luján and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's offices. The meeting was productive and a good line of communication has been established between the USFS Legislative Affairs office and the Congressional offices. Included in the packet is the USFS response to the NMLGC letter (August 2022) regarding Sipapú and the Santa Bárbara Land Grant. There is also a letter from the Santa Bárbara Land Grant regarding priorities on the Camino Real Ranger District in the packet. Jason Quintana (president, Manzano Land Grant) reported that the Manzano Land Grant and the Tajiue Land Grant both have road graters and are working with the Cibola National Forest to maintain roads. They have had issues with getting a SAMs number and have been requested to provide a letter of incorporation. The agreement gives land grants access to these roads even when closed in order to maintain them.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update, including Cooperating Agency Approval

Lisa Morrison reported that they are considering an amendment to the Public Lands Rule and are allowing the public comment period to be extended. Another rule is proposed, reducing fees on solar and wind energy production. Alyssa Duran is the new state forester for BLM and will attend a future meeting. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) reported that he met with Maureen Joe and Jeff Tafoya of the BLM to discuss the Farmington-Gallup-Mancos on the RMP, which is moving forward. There are no shovel ready wood projects and the San Joaquin Grant is interested in power generating wind mills and solar projects. The Grant did get 10 cords of wood near Lindrith, but there is not much in the area. He also reported that he learned that the BLM online wood permits are getting phased out because they are too easy to cheat and duplicate. Ms. Morrison stated that was the case and that they are looking for alternatives. She added that with the Chaco withdrawal they can move forward with the RMP. Regarding wood permits, there are a lot of cultural artifacts in the area, making it difficult. Mr. Archuleta added that the online permits were helpful and perhaps an MOU between land grants and the BLM could allow land grants to issue permits for BLM as a government entity. He added that the meeting with the Department of the Interior in Washington DC was successful and that the BLM and Dept. of Interior had previously testified in support of the bill and will continue to do so. He thanked Ms. Morrison for her assistance setting the meetings up. In the packet is a letter from the BLM Taos Field Office inviting the New Mexico Land Grant Council to serve as a cooperating agency on the Rio Grande del Norte plan.

Councilor Padilla made a motion approving the New Mexico Land Grant Council to serve as a cooperating agency for the Rio Grande del Norte land management plan; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) asked how the meeting with the DC staff went and offered his assistance with traditional use legislation. He reported that he has continued to reach out to the Congressional Liaison of the IRS regarding the EIN issues for Tomé and San Joaquín Land Grants. He added that Senator Ben Ray Luján's co-sponsored the introduction of the Headwaters Protection Act and has continued his work on the Farm Bill, which is a slow process. They have received comments regarding the Farm Bill from the New Mexico Land Grant Council and are working on reviewing them. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández) thanked Council members and staff that travelled to Washington DC and reiterated that the traditional use legislation is still a priority for the Congresswoman. He added that his office reached out to NRCS to provide more guidance on accessing programs under the Farm Bill.

Mr. Archuleta reported that Chairman Sánchez, Councilor Polaco, Mr. Baca and himself travelled to Washington DC to meet with Congressional offices and federal agencies, and were joined by Monica Rodriguez, who represented the New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo. They met with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, Congressman Gabe Vásquez, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, Senator Ben Ray Luján, and a staff member of Senator Martin Heinrich's office. At these meetings they discussed the traditional use act and the 2023 farm bill. The congressional direct spending awards have yet to be determined.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee met on July 9th in Santa Fe and adopted their work plan, with meetings in July, August, October and November in Las Vegas, Carnuel, Peñasco, and Santa Fe. Once the Legislative Council meets we will know the dates.

8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

The fuelwood projects in Villanueva and at the Bearcat site are wrapping up.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation on Northern Central New Mexico Economic Development District Programs, by Vidal Gonzales

Vidal Gonzales (North Central New Mexico Economic Development District) provided a background on NCNEMDD and discussed their grant program. He provided guidelines and a letter template. (in meeting packet). Mr. Archuleta thanked Mr. Gonzales for his presentations and congratulated him on his new position at NCNEMDD. Mr. Gonzales was a student employee at the Land Grant Studies Program while a student at UNM.

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

Jason Mondragon-Martin (NRCS – Assistant State Conservationist) presented NRCS programs, including EQIP and CSP. He discussed the RCPP program, which requires partnership with SWCDs, and other programs like ACEP, CIG and VPA. EQIP in New Mexico last year granted \$28 million and CSP \$23 million. He discussed the nine step process to apply, including obtaining a farm number and making a conservation plan. Applications are accepted year round for two grant cycles. The cost share is raised up to 90% for those applicants that are “historically underserved,” including Hispanic populations. Land grants will be eligible for this reduced cost share as they are

mostly Hispanic. Councilor Padilla inquired about agricultural easements; Mr. Mondragon Martin stated that he would look into them and get back to her. He was asked if the can 10% cost share come from a state grant or from federal funds and Mr. Mondragon Martin responded that it did not matter as long as the money was not from NRCS and not from the Farm Bill. Mr. Quintana commented that the NRCS in his area serves the large farmers and ranchers and ignores smaller operators. Mr. Mondragon Martin responded that he should not be experiencing this and stated that a good public forum to express your needs and where we develop recommendations to our state and national offices. Chairman Sanchez asked if he had a conservation plan template that he could share. Mr. Archuleta asked if NRCS could provide a training for land grants that goes step by step through the application.

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

Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya commented that the Treaty Division is celebrating its 20th anniversary and he has been tasked with writing a report on the last 20 years. Joseph Dworak, the deputy Attorney General, wants to meet with Chairman Sanchez and Arturo Archuleta in next few weeks and will attend July 2023 meeting. He provided Mr. Dworak with a list of eight questions that Mr. Archuleta provided to the NMAG's office several years ago. He reported that Cheyenne Trujillo has been hired pending her passing of the New Mexico State Bar exam.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant) presented a resolution from the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant asking for the return of the Cañón de Chama to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that the New Mexico Land Grant Council support the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant's resolution for the return of the Cañón de Chama; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023, FY 2024 & FY 2025 Budget FY 2023

Mr. Archuleta reported that he spoke with Marsh regarding insurance yesterday, and spoke with Jeanette Gallegos of DFA deadline is June 21. The bonds will be taken care of but Marsh had questions and concerns over some land grant properties, like the cemetery and the jail site. He is hoping that those land grants that originally submitted the local public body applications in the winter can at least get tort liability coverage directly rather than through Marsh. Under publishing, new law books will be published, hopefully before June 30th.

FY 2024 – nothing

FY 2025

The Council's budget recommendation for FY 2025 is due in July. In packet is a recommendation that was built from the FY 2024 budget request.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve FY 2025 budget recommendation; 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 ERASWCD voucher 1 – \$17,531.10; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve ERASWCD voucher 2 – \$17,627.59; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – including IBR

Pay request #6 for was presented for \$99,159.49, including \$39,372.32 in project personnel, \$1,041.45 in in state travel, \$1,941.94 in out of state travel costs, \$6,200.00 in payments to law school externs, \$4,500 in UNM Law School Clinic waiver, \$27,811.10 in youth development, and \$16,526.58 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #6 for \$99,159.49; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Council discussed an internal budget revision presented by Mr. Archuleta (in packet) for a total of \$58,700.00.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the internal budget revision totaling \$58,700; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Council members discussed a Quickbooks purchase to provide annual subscriptions for land grant boards of trustees. The enterprise annual subscription is downloaded desktop software that only provides one user access on one computer. One possible issue would be unintentional downloads where more than one user from a land grant might unintentionally and that the NMLGC cannot have access and assist.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve purchase Quickbooks at cost of \$6,864.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta also presented a proposed purchase of an all in one camera and audio meeting system called the Owl at a cost of \$2,099 for two units.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve purchase Owl cameras at cost of \$2,099.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Invoice #06162023 for \$9,951 from Territorial land surveying was presented.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #06162023 for \$9,951.00 from Territorial land surveying; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Chris Chavez (Territorial Land Surveying) did a presentation on surveying on the Las Trampas and Santa Barbara Land Grants and issues created by shortcuts taken by the deputy surveyors general over a century ago (Trampas 1891, Santa Barbara 1895).

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

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco commented that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is reviewing a letter to respond to NM Game and Fish.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None

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

Mr. Baca commented that the LGSP participated and helped put on an acequia and land grant education teachers in Peñasco on Saturday June 10. Ms. Baca reported that the LGSP will be putting on another acequia and land grant workshop on Española on Saturday, June 17th.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

22. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Padilla commented that she would like to send eight students to the Consejo meeting in Cañones on June 24th (10:00am).

23. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

24. Date and Location for July Council Meeting

The July 2023 Regular Council meeting will take place on Friday, July 14 at 9:00am in Albuquerque, New Mexico at location tbd.

24. 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 1:42pm MDT.

Approved:

 Chair

 Date