

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
January 12, 2024 – 10:00am  
UNM Science & Technology Center,  
Executive Board Room  
851 University Blvd SE  
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 973 5333 7634

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:02 am 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); Joseph Montoya (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Camila romero (NM State Land Office); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Tony Lucero (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Minerva Anderson (BLM); Lesley Elser (BLM); Joaquin Arguello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Francisco Mendoza (Chilili); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Kristin Graham Chavez (NRCS); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Chantel Sandoval (NM Tourism Dept.); Jill Slaty (NM Tourism Dept.); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG); Enrique Romero (NM Department of Justice); Augusta Watson; Belinda Mollard (USFS); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Joe Benito Chavez (San Miguel del Bado 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 December 19, 2023 Regular Council Meeting**

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 19, 2023 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla 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 NM Tourism Department**

Chantal Sandoval of the NM Tourism Department presented New Mexico Clean and Beautiful Program. Its funding cycle is July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 and application cycle is March-April and requires a 25% match, including in kind. Jill Slaby (NM Tourism Department) presented the Destination Forward Program, which offers grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000. The goal is to increase out of state travel and in state travel with overnight stays. It aligns with the NM True branding, which is "Adventure steeped in culture." The Cooperative Marketing and Advertising Program requires a 2 to 1 match.

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

Belinda Mollard (USFS) reported that the Carson National Forest held a partnership meeting during the holidays and discussed co-stewardship. A weather created a blow down event and hundreds of acres need to be treated. The Carson NF is trying to meet one on one with communities to implement their plan. Councilor Padilla asked if there are wood projects in the Cibola NF. Ms. Mollard reported that she hopes so and that the Santa Fe and Cibola National Forests are working to have her position as the traditional communities liaison position in their forests.

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

Minerva Anderson (BLM) reported that the RMP for the Rio Puerco will be ready this summer. The Placitas Withdrawal elicited 750 comments, 99.8% which were in support. The Rio Grande del Norte Plan is still in process and the amendment will be completed this month. Work is still being done on the recreational shooting range project in Santa Fe. The Ohkay Owingeh Land Exchange scoping report is being drafted. Pamela Mathis left the Taos Field Office and Eric Valencia filling in.

## **8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update**

Camila Romero reported that the SLO is working on projects and will reach out if they are near land grant communities.

## **9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update - Including review and approval of list of land grant eligible for capital outlay per Legislative Council Service request**

### *State*

The Legislative Council Service requested that the NMLGC provide a list of land grants that are eligible to receive monies. Greta Archuleta and Anissa Baca created this list of land grants and OSA and DFA compliance and many land grants are in the process of getting their AUPs contracted. While the NMLGC can provide this information, it cannot unilaterally decide if they are eligible to receive legislative funding, such as junior monies or capital outlay. It is also difficult because the at risk list does not show which land grants are under contract for their AUP, even if it has not been completed. Many can be in compliance by end of session if they are awarded monies and can be by the time questionnaires are completed and grant agreements are signed from May to July. Chairman Sanchez reiterated that the Council can help provide information but this is beyond our scope and cannot say whether a land grant is or is not eligible for funding. Anissa Baca pointed out that the at risk lists on the state auditors website has not been updated since September.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that NMLGC staff send to the Legislative Council Service listing all 27 land grants as eligible and explain why the NMLGC cannot determine eligibility; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta reported the Governor’s budget recommendation does not contain details that reveals the recommended budget for the Council. The LFC recommended a flat budget. He spoke with Interim Land Grant Committee Chair Rep. Kristina Ortez, who said that the NMLGC budget should not be flat. The flat budget recommendation might be a result of the land acquisition fund, which is a competing interest. Councilor Polaco recommended that the Council prioritize the land acquisition fund over a larger budget. The deadline to prefile legislation is today.

### *Federal*

Mr. Archuleta stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Enrique Romero and one Council member to discuss the traditional use bill. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Leger Fernández returned to Washington DC, where her priority is reintroducing the traditional use bill. She is working with the USFS on using the Small Tracts Act to return cemeteries to land grant communities. She has questioned the valuation (appraisal) of cemeteries if they use Small Tracts Act and would like to attend events, connect with heirs, and visit a cemetery this spring / summer. Her office is unsure if there will be CDS/CDF (Community Directed Spending / Funding) this year. If so, information will be released in March or April with a quick turn around. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that the Senator was in New Mexico and she would share CDS information as soon as she receives it. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) stated that the Senator would be in Washington DC soon and would be discussing budget and CDS funding. The Farm Bill was extended to September 2024 via continuing resolution and discussions will begin again in March 2024.

## **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Governance Attorney Program Proposed Rule Comments**

Enrique Romero presents his edits and comments on behalf of the NMLGC to the rule change for the Community Governance Attorney Program and added that the statutory authority the commission has is included in the rule.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to adopt comments submitted by the Council regarding the Community Governance Attorney Program rule change; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Issues remain with the CGA Commission. For instance, the acequia representative can be anyone from an acequia while for land grants, it needs to be current or past member of NMLGC. Hopefully this can change to a designee as commission appointments take a long time. The program is also badly advertised and there remains confusion over the responsibilities of HED and UNM Law School.

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

Enrique Romero (Treaty Division) reported that the New Mexico Attorney General's office has changed its name to the New Mexico Department of Justice. Mr. Romero reported that he would like to convene a land grant attorneys working group. The group will consider the traditional use bill as the Division is interested in issues emanating from the Treaty and this is one of them. The Division will also consider promulgating a rule about contested elections. The Division also is planning a land grant and acequia law and policy summit, likely in the summer of 2024. The Division was also invited to participate in meeting with Taos Valley Acequia Association and the Carson National Forest. The Division is also working on complaints regarding the Anton Chico Land Grant and is still working on Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant issues.

Mr. Romero added that he would like to schedule a business meeting with the Council after the legislative session ends, either an extension of a meeting or a special meeting. He would like to revisit a statutory authority. Mr. Archuleta suggesting including a OMA and IPRA training and invite land grants to attend. March 1, 10:00am-2:00pm was identified as a tentative date for a hybrid meeting at UNM STC.

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

Kris Graham Chávez reported that NRCS is continuing to work on EQIP and CSP contracts. The deadline was in November but sign up remains open and interested parties can visit their local field office. NRCS will work with them to get a conservation plan in place. NRCS will be getting significant monies from the Inflation Reduction Act. She reported that the NRCS can present at any meeting with land grants, provide a Council training or present to individual land grants. RCPP grant programs are coming up too. Councilor Polaco discussed issues the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant has had attempting to apply for NRCS funding.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day**

Councilor Padilla reported that the Consejo executive committee met and determine lifetime achievement recipients. Entertainment will be provided by the Carlos Medina conjunto.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the NMLGC serve as a co-sponsor of Treaty Day; 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 Council FY 2024 Budget**

Mr. Archuleta provided budget update and discussed Quickbooks training for land grants.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve of invoice #5908 from CB4U for \$431.85; Councilor Polaco 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 approval of externship agreement with Alicia Ulibarri; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement**

None.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant is discussing a property purchase and are working with their own surveyor, but he is unsure if they will have a request for services.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the New Mexico Legal Aid contract is in place but no billing has been generated as of yet. NMLA continues to work on pending litigation and Elizabeth Gutierrez passed bar and is helping David Benavides. There may be an issue as NMLA can no longer use federal funds to assist land grants now that they have income that is over their threshold for free services.

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

None.

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

The Council received word from the Office of the State Auditor that Macias, Gutierrez withdrew from the AUP for the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Mr. Romero stated that he has had no contact with the Auditor's office, but I will contact them to be sure NM Dept of Justice and OSA are on the same page.

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

None.

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

Jason Quintana (Manzano LG) commented that appraisals are an issue and an additional hurdle from DFA. The purchase of the 700 acre property has been in the works for 1 year and the process

has been burdensome. Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) discussed the Water Security Planning Act that was passed last year, which requires OSE to create regional planning commissions. Acequias are engaged but mention is made of land grants. Land grants might write a letter Andrew Erdmann, coordinator of Act for the OSE.

**22. Miscellaneous Announcements**

The annual Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day commemoration will be held on February 2, 2024, 12:00pm, at the Roundhouse.

**23. Date and Location for February Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

**24. 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 12:45pm MST.

**Approved:**

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 Chair

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 Date