

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 18, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –986 3705 5255

**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: Steve Polaco, Monica Rodríguez, Andrea Padilla and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (NMDOJ); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ); Heidi McRoberts (Cibola NF); Representative Melanie Stansbury; AJ Pacheco (Rep. Leger-Fernandez); Sofia Sanchez (Rep. Stansbury); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado Land Grant); Camilla Romero (SLO); Aurora Valdez (Sen. Heinrich); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Meghan Veech (NMDOJ); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant)

3. Approval of Agenda

Juan Sanchez asked to move agenda item number 7 to number 5.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye
Councilor Padilla – aye
Councilor Rodríguez – aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 27, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye
Councilor Padilla – aye
Councilor Rodríguez – aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury stated that Congress is currently on recess until Veteran's Day. Rep. Stansbury let the Council know that the Traditional Use Bill has hit a stop and suggested we talk with other Congressmen to form a strategy now that language has been amended. Mr. Arturo Archuleta asked Rep. Stansbury about the likelihood of the Farm Bill passing. Rep. Stansbury said she thinks the bill has a good chance of passing and suggested the Council touch base with Sen. Ben Ray Lujan regarding the issue.

Anthony Pacheco (Rep. Leger-Fernandez) stated that Congressmen approved language on the traditional use bill this morning. He is still working with San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant on funding for a fencing project, which may be included in the forest plan. He has begun working with another land grant on cemetery issues. The Congresswoman is working on legislation for affordable housing.

Aurora Valdez (Sen. Heinrich) stated that it may be possible use funding for land grant archives or digitalization. She would like to meet to speak of potential projects. Other announcements included the new homes tax credit to handle housing crisis, the chief of staff met with FEMA, began working directly with constituents to see what the process is and to make sure people affected by aide for Hermit's Peak / Calf Canyon Fire are receiving funds. She shared that she recently visited Cristobal de la Serna and met about leñero projects.

State

Mr. Archuleta presented all Council recommendations for the 2025 legislative session (in packet), including raising the cap on the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund, expanding the Community Governance Attorney Program and excluding land grants from the Subdivision Act.

Next Interim meeting is November 18th.

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

Lisa Morrison announced today was the last day to protest the Rio Grande del Norte management plan. Deb Haaland is creating a 15-member advisory committee to determine how to manage public lands. Nomination period closes on November 18 and Council staff have the news release and link.

Council staff's requests for land grant patents are in progress and the BLM is working with Mr. Louis Gallegos on cemetery issues. The nomination form for the RAC is included in the packet. The next meeting is January 28.

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

Bella Mollard gave the following updates:

The US Forest Service has treated 9,000 plus acres with prescribed burns, and will treat more this fall. La Jara prescription burn is finished. The USFS will complete two more burns soon.

The scoping period for Ghost Ranch is now open and closes on October 30th.

Taos Ski Valley draft decision will be released this week.

Heidi McRoberts gave the following updates for the Cibola National Forest:

There are several prescribed burns planned for the fall, and they may begin this week. They USFS is close to reaching a decision on North Sandias Project.

Chairman Sanchez suggested to Ms. McRoberts that the USFS take a look at the Consultation Use Rights Bill regarding land grants and incorporate it into an MOU. The Council and staff would like to have a conversation and Land Grant 101 training with the Cibola soon.

Councilor Padilla stated the Town of Tomé Land Grant would like to acquire firewood from the Cibola NF for people in need in the Tomé community.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camilla Romero announced that the fuelwood area Tres Piedras is still open and the Bearcat Project is still in the works.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund

All 17 land grants on the LGMAF list met their contingency requirements. Council staff sent the list to DFA and DFA has processed. The distribution plan is included in the packet.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Dept. of Justice & Treaty Division Update

Enrique Romero(NMDOJ) introduced Megan Veech, the new honors attorney. He would like to meet with Council staff and Chairman Sanchez to discuss expanding the Treaty Division’s services. Ms. Veech submitted a FIOA request for GAO report. Treaty Division staff met with Mr. Baca and board members from the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant to discuss the process and/or problems with receiving historical documents.

Councilor Padilla let Treaty Division staff know that the common lands of the Town of Tomé Land Grant are suffering from destruction and misuse, and the land grant is not receiving the support it needs from the county’s police or sheriff’s department.

Mr. Romero let the Councilor know that it’s a complicated situation and its important they encourage law enforcement to participate in DOJ’s trainings regarding land grants.

Chairman Sanchez asked Treaty Division staff what for possible options might be for land grants that are interested in the Sandoval Seven case.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to add language to the expand the duties of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Leonard Martinez (SJDRDC) asked for an update on U.S. vs. Sandoval. Jacobo Baca let him know he spoke with Treaty staff about archives and plans on setting up a meeting with archive center on possible solutions.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

The IGSA will be executed soon. The only figure reported is Council travel for \$2,342.24.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

We don't have a billing because the agreement is not in place yet.

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

There were no billings from Legal Aide. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant had come forward with a request when they first became a political subdivision. They have a new separate item where they're acquiring a new property and wanted to ask Legal Aide for a new issue.

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

Council staff let the Council know that the Anton Chico need surveying services once the contract is approved with Chris Chavez.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update

Council staff is seeking avenues for expanding the Land Grant Merced Institute.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the following has been submitted to the Council and will be included in the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry and that Council staff has responded to IPRA requests on behalf of the Council

- Tierra Amarilla Land Grant – updated bylaws

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Council staff reported one correspondence from Mr. Rob Sierra. Email correspondence was included in the packet.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Rodriguez invited everyone to San Joaquin del Rio de Chama's Thanksgiving lunch on November 9th in Capulin. Mr. Archuleta informed everyone of the Manzano Land Grant's matanza on October 19th. Councilor Padilla announced that candy will be given at the jail site for Halloween. Chairman Sanchez announced that capital outlay forms opened on October 17th.

22. Date and Location for November Council Meeting

The November 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on November 22, 2024 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:56 pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date