

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
November 22, 2024 – 10:00am  
UNM Continuing Education  
South Building – Room 207  
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque  
Zoom Meeting I.D. –926 1836 7916

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

**2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure**

Chairman Sánchez read the following statement.

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Steve Polaco and I attended the Land Grant Interim Committee hearing in Santa Fe on November 18, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

**3. 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); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMDOJ); Camila Romero (SLO); Lisa Morrison (BLM); A.J. Pacheco (Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Senator Martin Heinrich); Bella Mollard (Carson NF); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada LG).

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2024 Meeting**

Councilor Monica Rodríguez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 18, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Councilor Polaco – aye  
The motion was passed.

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

### *Federal*

Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that Senator Martin Heinrich was re-elected and has pressed President Biden on HPCC compensation delays and FEMA for more information and to work on the more complex claims. He is also working to ensure ACA (Obamacare) is secure and reported that the USDA Secure Rural Schools Program passed Senate (Senator Ben Ray Luján worked with Senator Heinrich on the bill). A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that the Traditional Use Bill is essentially dead as the House Natural Resource Committee did not accept a request to hear the bill and it was not included on the Federal Lands Subcommittee either. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's office also received technical feedback from the US Forest Service and her office will have to rework the cemetery bill. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that Eric Chávez of Senator Ben Ray Luján's office sent a copy of the Farm Bill and a summary of where it stands.

### *State*

Mr. Archuleta presented the bills endorsed by the Interim Land Grant Committee, including (sponsors in parenthesis): An adjustment to the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund, increasing the caps and ending the reversion of remaining balances (Rep. Matthew McQueen/Sen. Liz Stefanics); a bill to recognize Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico (Senator Leo Jaramillo and Representative Susan Herrera); the land grant merced infrastructure act, which is modeled on the tribal and colonias infrastructure funds and apportions a percentage of the severance tax funds into a fund from which land grants can apply (Rep. Miguel García); changes to the Community Governance Attorney Commission (Rep. Miguel García); amendments to the subdivision act to exclude land grants from getting approval from counties when subdividing land (Rep. Herrera / Senator Antonio "Moe" Maestas). The Council will discuss the legislation and endorsement at its December 2024 meeting. Council members and Dr. Dow y Anaya (in his person, not professional capacity) discussed internships and apprenticeships and potential partnerships with other government and non-government organizations.

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

Lisa Rivera Morrison (BLM) stated that the BLM is interested in helping communities and urged the Council to keep the BLM involved in discussions related to land grants. She reported that BLM fuelwood permits are online and available from the Taos, Farmington and Las Cruces Field Offices. Christmas tree permits are also available at \$5.00 per tree. The BLM is working to get the Rio Grande del Norte, Rio Puerco and Organ Mountain Resource Management Plans (RMPs) finalized. The Northern New Mexico RAC is accepting nominations (Dr. Jacobo D. Baca currently serves on the Northern New Mexico RAC and reported that the NNM RAC will meet in early 2025). Ms. Morrison (J.D.) also asked about the status of the NMLGC's request for patents and offered her assistance. Representatives from the San Miguel del Bado and San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grants discussed issues on their grants and cemeteries on their respective land grants that are managed by the BLM.

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

Bella Mollard (Carson NF) provided updates regarding pile burning in the Carson National Forest and the likelihood that smoke would effect the communities near Tres Piedras and Canjilón. She thanked NMLGC staff (Jacobo Baca and Arturo Archuleta) for their presentations for the Joint Leadership Team meeting in Taos last week and discussed the importance of educate USFS leadership on the needs of traditional communities. Region 3 will work on a new MOU with Council. Mr. Archuleta commented that a report from the Cíbola National Forest is provided in the packet.

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

Camila Romero (NM SLO) reported that the SLO will have a site visit at the Villanueva (Gonzales Ranch) fuelwood project site on December 17. They are awaiting to hear from the Claunch Pinto SWCD re: Bearcat project. She asked that a 'Land Grant 101' presentation be provided during the NM Legislative Session as attendees will be in Santa Fe.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDNJ – Treaty Division) thanked Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya for his work at the New Mexico Department of Justice (formerly Office of the New Mexico Attorney General) for his work with the Treaty Division. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ) thanked Council members and staff for their work and support during his tenure with the NM DOJ and reported his last day with be December 31<sup>st</sup>. Council members and staff thanked Dr. Dow y Anaya for his work.

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

Council members discussed easement issues, donation of common lands, taxes, and county assessors and the taxation of common lands.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget**

In packet. Total Budgeted Expenditures are \$111,615.45 with remaining \$515,285.00 The delay in the approval of the IGSA with UNM have delayed the proper billing of the contract, which explains the small expenditure in the total contract.

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

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 for \$108,793.57; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve invoice 2024-07 from UNM Law School for \$3,500; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Councilor Polaco – aye  
The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve a contract for Territorial Land Surveying for \$40,000;  
Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

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

None.

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

The latest issue of the *El Grito del las Mercedes* newsletter is in the meeting packet.

**17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update**

None.

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

None.

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

None.

**20. Public Comments – discussion only**

None.

**21. Miscellaneous Announcements**

None.

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

The December 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on December 13, 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 Padilla – aye  
Councilor Rodríguez – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye  
The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:25pm MST.

**Approved:**

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Chair

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Date