

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
December 13, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –975 5477 6418

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:01 am MST. 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); Bella Mollard (Carson NF); Lesley Elser (BLM); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Peggy Durán (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Jason Quintana (DFA); Elizabeth Cervantes.

3. 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
- Councilor Polaco – aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 22, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Lesley Elser provided an update for the BLM, including the 2 year segregation of lands in the Pecos Watershed. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-initiates-two-year-protection-pecos-river-watershed-mining-claims>. The BLM hopes to issued the decision record for the approved EA for the RMP for the Rio Grande del Norte in January, as well as the ROD for Rio Puerco RMP.

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

Bella Mollard (Carson National Forest) reported that the USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management are announcing a public comment period regarding a joint application to the Secretary of the Interior that seeks to administratively withdraw approximately 163,920.99 acres of National Forest System Lands and 1,327.16 acres of public lands in the Upper Pecos Watershed near Pecos, New Mexico from location and entry under the United States mining laws; and leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The purpose of the administrative withdrawal is to protect and improve the health of the watershed, preserve traditional and cultural uses and benefit the local economy, and address significant ecological, and environmental issues in the watershed from the potential impacts that may arise from the exploration and development of federally owned minerals. A Notice of Withdrawal Application will publish in the Federal Register on Friday December 13, 2024. Publication of the notice initiates a two-year segregation period of the lands requested for withdrawal and a 90-day public comment period.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the State Land Office is developing a proactive plan for the Bearcat Project with Dee Tarr and that the Villanueva Project will start again in January.

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

Federal

The Traditional Use Bill is likely dead as the Congress will adjourn without action. Representative Stansbury is trying to be ranking member of House Natural Resources Committee. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján is working on the continuing resolution, supplemental disaster funding, and the National Defense Authorization Act. The Senator also reintroduced the End Threat of Default Act, which would to repeal national debt ceiling.

State

Bill numbers have not yet been assigned to prefiled legislation. Once they have been assigned the Council will discuss endorsement.

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

Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) introduced Nicole Silva, the new coordinator for the Treaty Division, who came over from DFA, where she managed legislative funding. Ms. Silva replaces Ricardo Dow y Anaya, who is retiring at the end of month. The Division attended the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant monthly meeting where they presented on the 2004 GAO Report and the NMAG's response and reported that they received a letter from Grant regarding the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case. Mr. Romero also discussed the scholarship question that was posed to the Division and the memo that his office issued regarding the issue. He stated that the anti-donation anti-donation law is clear and this prohibits land grants and other political subdivisions from granting scholarships. He also reported that the Treaty Division attended the San Antonio de las Huertas protest board hearing and stated that the NMDOJ will offer a land grant and acequias training to district attorneys and law enforcement possible in February but likely after the end of the legislative session.

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

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that he attended the hearing regarding taxation of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant and Sandoval County argued that in regard to taxation, the political subdivision bill is unconstitutional. He clarified that the amount of taxes paid by the Grant is insignificant and that the minute impact would be offset by equalization. The FY 2026 budget includes natural resource assistance through the position of an environmental planner. Water resources is important and the Council could consider contractual work with persons like Elizabeth Cervantes, who was a retired water administrator with the Office of the State Engineer. Land grant water declarations were denied in the past. Enrique Romero (NMDOJ – Treaty Division) clarified that this was the case for streams under adjudication as there is a rule that they cannot accept declarations during adjudication. Councilor Polaco asked for clarification on consent orders and final decrees in water adjudications, which Mr. Romero provided.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day will take place on February 3, 2025 at the New Mexico State Capitol. Councilor Polaco made a motion that NMLGC sponsor the 2025 Treaty Day; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). \$3,301.52 has been expended in travel and \$144,952.62 under the IGSA.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approval Estimate 13960 of \$136.00 from the State Printing Office for business cards, with leeway in the event of a price change; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #2 for \$36,159.05, including \$28,161.88 in project personnel, \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,026.51 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 for \$36,159.05; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented New Mexico Legal Aid LA pay request 2 for \$19,425.00 for work with the Cristóbal de la Serna, Tierra Amarilla, Juan Bautista Baldes, Tajique, Manzano, and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$19,425.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the contract with Territorial Surveying is in place and the Council will continue to prioritize those land grants that are in litigation, which currently includes the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant and Arroyo Hondo de Arriba Land Grant. The Manzano also needs a survey for land for their land purchase from the Archdiocese.

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

None.

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

Jason Quintana (DFA Rural Ombudsman) shared handouts for the New Mexico Match Fund and discussed the new Infrastructure Planning and Development Division.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for January Council Meeting

The January 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on January 17, 2025 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 11:43pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date