

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
February 23, 2024 – 10:00am  
UNM Science & Technology Center,  
Executive Board Room  
851 University Blvd SE  
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 965 3606 9003

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:05 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); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Erin McElroy (New Mexico State Forestry Division); Francisco Mendoza (Merced del Pueblo de Chililí); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Kristin Graham Chavez (NRCS); Josh Nadas (USFS); Erick Stemmerman (USFS); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Dept. of Justice, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division); Enrique Romero (NM Dept. of Justice, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division); Joaquín Argüello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community 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 January 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 12, 2024 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 on U.S. Forest Service Update**

Erick Stemmerman (USFS R3) introduced Bella Mollard (Carson National Forest traditional community liaison), who announced that the Carson National Forest is hosting a workshop for

small businesses interested in contracting with the USFS, to be held on February 24, 2024 at Bataan Hall in Taos, NM. Mr. Stemmerman introduced Josh Nadas, the Legislative Affairs Specialist for the USFS in Washington DC, who was visiting New Mexico to learn about projects in Region 3 and recovery efforts nearly two years after the Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire and watershed issues on the Gallinas and Pecos Rivers. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP) thanked Mr. Nadas for attending the Council meeting and stated that Council members and staff visited with Mr. Nadas in Washington DC in June 2023 to discuss USFS comments on the traditional use bill. Mr. Archuleta added that he has spoken with Carson NF Supervisor James Durán about the Council offering a Land Grant 101 in conjunction with an acequia training for the Carson NF and other national forests in New Mexico. Mr. Baca will do a “Land Grant 101” training for Region 3 in March in Corrales. Ms. Mollard suggested two days or one long training day that discusses the history and current partnerships and discusses Treaty Rights and misconceptions about land grants. Councilors Polaco and Padilla discussed the need to assist communities and individuals effected by the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) stated that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández has been pushing FEMA to provide prompt assistance and has been working with their case workers on HPCC claims.

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

Lesley Elser from the BLM State Office reported that the Rio Puerco RMP is in process. 99.8% of public comments regarding the Placitas withdrawal were in support. Mr. Archuleta asked if the withdrawal included the Buffalo Tract and crest of Montezuma; Ms. Elser was uncertain but would find out and report back. The draft EA for the Rio Grande del Norte is being prepared by a contractor, who is working on the Taos Resource Management Plan Amendment. The EA for the Santa Fe County recreation shooting range is in process. The scoping report for the Ohkay Owingeh land exchange is available and the draft EA will be ready by April or May 2024. Mr. Archuleta reported that the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant, which reorganized and will seek political subdivision status in the next legislative session, submitted comments on the exchange. In the packet are redline edits by Enrique Romero (NM DOJ – Treaty Division) on the draft MOU between the Council and the BLM for the Rio Grande del Norte plan. Mr. Romero discussed his edits, including FOIA and IPRA issues.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the MOU when all language and changes are approved by BLM and designating Jacobo Baca as the NMLGC representative; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta stated that the SLO is working to identify fuelwood projects.

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

*Federal*

Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) discussed the Hard Hats Program, created to fund an apprenticeship program. She also discussed the Congressional Directed Spending and

discussed a land grant records digitization project. Requests are between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. Mr. Archuleta added that this would likely be a collaboration between the Council, the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, the UNM Library, and the Treaty Division. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) stated that they will know soon if we can apply for FY 2025 funds. His office is working with Senator Ben R. Luján’s office to finalize text on the Traditional Use Bill and hope it can be introduced in early spring. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Romero led a discussion on the traditional use bill, which changed from a consultation bill to coordination and cooperation between land grants and federal land management agencies and a definition of traditional uses and facilitating with federal agencies specifically through MOUs. It does not directly mention the Treaty, but includes broader language and simplifies areas controlled by the state, such as hunting, game and water management, with language that states uses will be “in accordance with state law.”

### *State*

Mr. Archuleta presented a list of land grants receiving capital outlay funds in the 2024 New Mexico Legislative Session. Collectively land grants received \$3.25 million, the most ever. He thanked Anissa Baca (NMLGC) for her work with land grants in creating and submitting capital outlay requests. The Governor has yet to sign the capital outlay bill.

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

Enrique Romero (Treaty Division) reported that the NM Department of Justice has created ten goals for the Treaty Division, including Treaty issues, developing laws and policies for land grants and acequias, respond to complaints against land grants and acequias, engage with the NMLGC and NM Acequia Commission, provide trainings for land grant-merced boards of trustees and acequia commissioners and provide general education and outreach. The Division has received and is assessing complaints regarding the Arroyo Hondo Arriba and Anton Chico Land Grants. Three applicants have applied for an attorney position in the Division. The Division also plans to host an acequia and land grant policy and law conference with policy makers and attorneys.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMLGC is co-hosting a meeting with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department’s Property Tax Division and the NM Justice Department’s Treaty Division on March 1, 2024. The meeting will be held at the New Mexico State Records and Archives in Santa Fe and will begin at 9:30am. About 85% of Land Grant Merced Property Tax questionnaires have been returned, which will help NM TRD-PTD work with the land grants to file protests with their respective county assessors.

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

Chairman Sánchez and Councilor Padilla thanked the NMLGC / LGSP staff for their work on Treaty Day, which was well attended and was a huge success.

## **12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget**

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update. \$246,900.54 of the \$701,900.00 budget has been expended thus far, leaving a balance of \$455,000.00.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve BAR for \$23,012.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement**

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay request 1 for July through December 2023 for \$201,055.03, including \$155,891.72 in project personnel, \$1,746.23 in travel, \$9,180.60 in surveyor costs, and \$33,509.17 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request 1 for \$201,055.03; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request 2 for the month of January for \$42,963.79, including \$25,953.65, \$3,334.13 in surveyor costs, \$3,500 in Law Clinic fee waivers, \$559.96 in copier expenses, \$240.00 in facility rental for Council meetings and \$7,160.63 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request 2 for \$42,963.79; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the Internal Budget Revision for \$23,012.00, moving funds from computer software, participant stipends and office rental to professional services.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Internal Budget Revision Request for \$23,012.00; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests**

Mr. Archuleta presented invoices from Territorial Land Surveying, LLC.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Invoice #01182024 from Territorial Land Surveying, LLC for \$3,334.13; Councilor Padilla 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 Invoice #02222024 for Territorial Land Surveying, LLC for \$2,500.88; Councilor Padilla 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 Legal Services Contract Update & Requests**

Councilor Polaco asked if David Benavides has completed his review of Laguna del Campo documents. Mr. Archuleta stated he is waiting to hear back from him.

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

None.

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

Robert Sierra sent in a complaint regarding the Anton Chico Land Grant (in packet).

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

None.

**19. Public Comments – discussion only**

None.

**20. Miscellaneous Announcements**

The UNM Land Grant Studies Program and Town of Tomé LG will host a ALGE teacher’s workshop tomorrow (Feb. 24) in Tomé. Councilor Padilla announced the next Consejo Quarterly meeting is March 16 in Cebolleta.

**21. Date and Location for March Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on March 8 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

**22. 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 1:15pm MST.

**Approved:**

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Chair

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Date