

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
March 8, 2024 – 10:00am  
UNM Science & Technology Center,  
Executive Board Room  
851 University Blvd SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 996 0865 1780

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:03 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); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMDOJ – Treaty Division); Enrique Romero (NMDOJ – Treaty Division); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Senaida Anaya (Torreón LG), Melvin Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG); Minerva Anderson (BLM); Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Senator Martin Heinrich); Kristin Graham Chávez (NRCS); R. Chavez; Avedona Lucero (Lower Gallinas LG); Sandy Escarcida (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas 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 February 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 23, 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 Bureau of Land Management Update**

Minera Anderson of the BLM provided the following update via chat.

All documents and maps for the Placitas Withdrawal can be found on the following ePlanning page: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026585/510> Page one of the maps, <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026585/580>, gives an overview of the four tracts that are included in the Placitas Withdrawal Proposal: Tract A: The Buffalo Tract; Tract B: The Crest of Montezuma; Tract C – Unnamed; Tract D - The San Francisco Tract. The Environmental Assessment is currently open for review and comment. The comment period ends on **March 15, 2024**, and we welcome your comments. Mr. Arturo Archuleta added that the Congressional withdrawal is a 50-year administrative withdrawal.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve NMLGC staff to submit comments regarding the withdrawal; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

### *Federal*

Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that her office learned Congressional project funding will open today but they do not know accounts that will open. Requests will be due at the end of the month and the Congresswoman will have two information sessions next week. She reported that Adeline DeYoung of the DC office has been pressing USFS on the valuation of cemeteries. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández plans to introduce the traditional use legislation for introduction in early Spring and is working with Senator Ben R. Luján’s office on introduction. The Congresswoman also will be in the state in August and October and would like to attend community events at land grants. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that her office is also working on Congressionally Directed Spending. Mr. Archuleta reported that Alana Purdy Montesinos of Senator Luján’s office is leaving for a position with the legislative committee staff and sent her final correspondence regarding the bill. Enrique Romero (NM DOJ – Treaty Division) shared his analysis of the Traditional Use Bill. And commented that he would like to do additional research and meet with Council staff to discuss further.

### *State*

Mr. Archuleta reported that it appears that no land grant capital outlay was vetoed. The budget bill was signed and the Council’s budget stayed flat (\$626,900).

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

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the State Land Office is working with Claunch Pinto SWCD to expand the Bearcat Project but wants to talk to Chairman Sánchez and NMLGC staff before making plans for the expansion.

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

The San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG has requested maps for Cañón de Chama irrigation project. They have met with the NRCS for plans for the irrigation project. The USFS wants specifics to set up

a special use permit and Chris Chávez of Territorial Lands Surveying completed a survey and monumented the tract and has offered to meet with SJRC to work on a project map.

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

Enrique Romero (NM DOJ Treaty Division) reported that they met with NMLC staff to discuss an acequia and land grant law and policy leadership conference, most likely to be held in September. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Baca shared the 2016 Land Grant Retreat report at a template for planning. The Treaty Division has reached out to the New Mexico Acequia Association and will reach out to the New Mexico Acequia Commission and New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo soon. Mr. Romero added that staff support from the Council (facilitating and notetaking) will be great and the same has been requested from NMAA. Mr. Romero also reported that he visited the UNM School of Law to perform outreach for employment opportunities and a UNM law student applied for an internship with the NM DOJ. He also met with acequias in Mora to facilitate a discussion regarding the shared acequia madre and the DOJ participated in the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division meeting in Santa Fe on March 1. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ Treaty Division) reported that the NM DOJ hosted a delegation from Austria and the executive team had them visit the land grant and acequia gallery.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the meeting with the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division on March 1 in Santa Fe was informative, and we were able to lay out a path to become tax exempt through tax protests. He also had the opportunity to go before the New Mexico Finance Authority board to pitch the idea of a loan fund and their initial feedback seemed supportive. Chairman Sánchez asked Kris Graham Chávez how many land grants applied for EQUIP this year. Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS) responded that the deadline is in November and encouraged would be applicants to sign up as soon as they can. Councilor Padilla reported that the Niagara Water Company wants more water for their bottling plant in Los Lunas and the Town of Tomé Land grant sent letters of opposition. The Los Lunas City Council granted them a larger lease from their own water right. Chairman Sánchez suggested reaching out to the Office of the State Engineer involved and Mr. Romero suggested reaching out to the NMAA.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget**

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update (in packet).

Councilor Polaco made a motion to repeal the BAR of February 23, 2024; Councilor Padilla 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 repeal the BAR for the Internal Budget Review; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

The only changes to the budget since the February meeting are in council travel as no billing has been generated. The new BAR includes a confirmed QuickBooks price, which includes the purchase of two more licenses. Mr. Archuleta met with UNM Continuing Education regarding office space and they cannot get NMLGC office prepared until April. A move of \$14,088 is required for this lease. Budget adjustments include \$3500 out of office supplies, \$3500 out of law school externs and \$9,000 more into the surveyor contract. (see packet for details).

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Budget Revision Request; Councilor Polaco 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 the purchase of QuickBooks for Torreon and Lower Gallinas; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #6033 from Checks and Balances for QuickBooks trainings; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

There will be two options for training in April, one on Thursday April 9 and another Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, both via Zoom.

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

Mr. Chris Chávez of Territorial Land Surveying completed the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG historic property boundary survey and will record the survey and plat today.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the invoice 03082024 from Territorial Land surveying for \$4,969.69; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG also requested assistance on producing a map for their irrigation project in the Cañón de Chama.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Chris Chavez to work with San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG to produce map for their irrigation project; 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 Legal Services Contract Update & Requests**

Mr, Archuleta reported that the NMLA may co-counsel on Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant case as the UNM NREL Clinic is off this summer. Councilor Polaco asked if Mr. Benavides had any updates on Laguna del Campo; Mr. Archuleta responded he was meeting with Mr. Benavides next week.

#### **15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Program Update**

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that a workshop was held in Tomé on February 24 to continue building lesson plans to contribute to the ALGE curriculum. It was a fairly small workshop, we had about 8 or 9 participants, but I thought it went really well. We had three groups we separated to write lesson plans for different age groups and left with 12 new lesson plans for the day.

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

None. Council staff have responded to several IPRA records requests.

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

None.

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

None.

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

Councilor Padilla thanked James Chávez of the Valencia SWCD and Rob Barr of the Valencia County Fire Department for their clean up efforts, which produced salt cedar and russian olive fuelwood, which was blocked and distributed by the Town of Tomé Land Grant

#### **20. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Dawn Webster has left DFA for a position at HED and Carmen Morin will take her duties in the short term. The New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo will meet on March 16 in Seboyeta, hosted by the Cebolleta Land Grant.

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

The next Council meeting will be held on April 12 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

Chairman Sánchez suggested that the May 2024 Council meeting be held up north, perhaps in Las Vegas.

**22. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:51pm MST.

**Approved:**

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Chair

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Date