

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
April 12, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education, South Building, Room 204
1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 931 2393 0245

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:05 am MDT. 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); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG heir); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz e la Cañada LG); Christine Bustos (Santa Cruz e la Cañada LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Edward Sena (Las Vegas Land Grant); John Anthony Gonzales (Ojo de San José Land Grant); Cathleen Gonzales (Ojo de San José Land Grant); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG heir); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba LG).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor 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 March 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 8, 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 Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

Traditional Use Bill: Council members reviewed analysis from Enrique Romero of the DOJ Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division and the current Senate version of the traditional use bill is in the packet. The bill identifies traditional uses and gives parameters for federal agencies working with

land grants. The “New Mexico Land Grant-Mercedes Historical or Traditional Use Cooperation and Coordination Act” does not create any new rights, but does define traditional uses and provides for new uses. It provides for MOUs with federal agencies and does not create an inherent authority for uses. It calls for MOUs with federal agencies and requires that any land management plan updates need to consider traditional uses.

In the Council’s work with the federal agencies, agency staff follows law, statute and code and this legislation will help create the authority for them to work with us and manage for our uses. The NM Land Grant Merced Consejo endorsed the bill in their March 2024 quarterly meeting. The bill was distributed to New Mexico tribal nations for their input. Tribal nations concerns include fear of infringement on their uses and priorities and tribal attorneys advised tribes in their opposition, where they seemed to look at long term potential impacts. Land grants now need to cultivate relationships with tribes to educate them on the intentions of the bill. Chairman Sánchez stated that the Council needs to turn to work on the MOU and that land grants have made progress in work with the USFS.

Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Maritn Heinrich) reported that the NM Congressional delegation will hold a virtual Q & A on April 18 for youth interested in attending military academies. Senator Heinrich also entered forever chemical legislation, made sure monies for New Mexico were included in the appropriation bill and reported that FEMA opened a claims office near the courthouse in Mora. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that there are monies in the appropriations bill for more than 100 projects in New Mexico. They also announced a new sobering center in Albuquerque and asked the public to reach out to him regarding Congressional spending requests.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the draft legislation of the Traditional Use Bill; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

State

Senator Leo Jaramillo will be Chair of the Land Grant Interim Committee; Representative Kristina Ortez will be the vice-chair.

6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

None.

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

None.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the Rio Grande del Norte management plan draft will hopefully be released by April 23. There will be a May 7 in person meeting and virtual on May 9th for management plan. Plans for shooting ranges on public lands in Santa Fe County, including the

release environmental assessment, will come in May. The Rio Puerco plan should go out for a comment period soon. Councilor Polaco asked for information about wood permits on the BLM lands obtained from the Ohkay Owingeh land exchange. Ms. Morrison said that she would get back to him.

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

None.

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

Jason Quintana (Manzano LG) expressed concern over the use of water in the Estancia Basin for windmill development. Chairman Sanchez stated that he sits on the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation Board, and learned that Bill King is going to retire water rights for 250 acres and says that he will be selling less than half of what he normally irrigates. Mr. Quintana stated that he doesn't think you can remove water from the basin and contacted Senator Liz Stefanics.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 & FY 2025 Budget

FY 2024

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update. Recent billing includes \$3,679.18 in Council travel; \$282,713.73 under IGSA, including \$207,785.65 in salaries and fringe, \$19,985.30 in surveyor contract.

FY 2025

The FY 2025 Council budget is \$626,900.00, which is a flat budget with no additional junior monies. A simple budget recommendation in packet. The LGSP budget changed as well as monies are no longer direct and are now a part of the UNM I&G budget.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the staff recommendation for FY 2025 NMLGC budget; 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 on Trip to Washington DC

Council members agreed to travel to Washington DC from May 5-8 to discuss the traditional use legislation and the farm bill with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented the updated scope of work for FY 2025 IGSA.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Service Agreement ; Councilor Polaco 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 purchase QuickBooks and renewals for subscriptions for a full year; Councilor Polaco 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

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Invoice 04122024 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$7,069.78; 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 the Town of Tomé Land Grant request for surveyor services; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

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

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that she and Mr. Baca hosted a workshop at Mesa Vista High School in April and worked with her old science teacher to recruit teachers, some community members and this time we had a couple of students. More lesson plans were created to contribute to NMHU/CESDP's ALGE website. She added that they both participated in a workshop hosted by Highlands at the NM Association for Bilingual Education conference and also organized panel discussions for the conference. Her panel showcased the different efforts we've had for youth outreach like the oral history interviews, YCC crew and how it can be tied into the ALGE Project.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that the following land grants have submitted their April 2024 election information to the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry

- Santo Tomás del Río de las Las Trampas
- Santa Bárbara
- San Antonio de las Huertas

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Mr. Baca presented 500+ pages of e-mails received from Rob Sierra.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

NMLGC staff has been requested to serve as election clerks for the Torreón Land Grant election.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG) requested more information on the NMFA loan program, as the Grant interested in acquiring three properties in San Miguel del Bado. Mr. Archuleta responded that he reached out to NMFA and made a presentation to the NMFA Board of Directors. Kendra Lucero-Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG) stated that the USFS has proposed a North Sandia fuels reduction project that includes Las Huertas Canyon. The Grant has tried to get USFS to maintain roads and appreciates the support and guidance of the Land Grant Council. Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) reported that Río Arriba County approached the Grant to look into donating the Old Coyote Ranger Station and 418 acres and the Grant responded that the Juan Bautista Baldes LG might be involved because property lies between two grants. The Juan Bautista Baldes LG, in turn, raised objection and asked that they receive the property solely. This has caused friction and the grants might need to enter into negotiations. Edward Sena (Las Vegas LG) stated that the Las Vegas Land Grant wants to become a political subdivision of the state and out from under the control of the 4th Judicial District. Chairman Sánchez reminded land grants that ta protests were coming due and the Council will send information and offer assistance soon. He added that questionnaires for land grants that received capital outlay are due Wednesday, April 24th 5:00pm. Greta Archuleta (NMLGC) added that the Quickbooks training was held on April 11th and was well attended and was excellent. The next training will be held on Saturday, April 20th. Mr. Baca added that Council staff participated in a meeting of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant with Senator Leo Jaramillo.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for May Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on May 17, 2024 at 10:00am in Las Vegas, New Mexico, location to be determined.

23. 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 12:25pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date