

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
September 27, 2024 – 10:00am  
UNM Continuing Education  
South Building – Room 207  
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque  
Zoom Meeting I.D. –975 4581 0604

## **Final Meeting Minutes Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:03 am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Steve Polaco, Monica Rodríguez and Juan Sánchez were present. Andrea Padilla was absent.

### **2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure**

Juan Sanchez gave an inverted quorum meeting disclosure for September 13, 2024 in Taos. September 20, 2024, DOJ meeting in Santa Fe, stating:

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez and I attended the New Mexico Department of Justice’s Land Grant and Acequia Training Program in Taos September 13, 2024, 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.”

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez and I attended a meeting with the New Mexico Department of Justice in Santa Fe on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which created an inadvertent quorum. Ms. Padilla represented the Consejo de Las Mercedes, Ms. Rodríguez the New Mexico Acequia Association and I represented the Council as Chair. 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); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Lisa Brown (DOJ); Jason Quintana (Manzano Land Grant); Crystal Romero (Office of Sen. Heinrich); Kenneth Alcon (SFNF - USFS); Amina Sena (SFNF – USFS); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Eric Valencia (RGDN); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Anima Sena (Ranger Pecos Las Vegas District); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Daniel Maes (Cristobal de La Serna); Don Bustos (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Jose Luis Ortiz y Muniz (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama); Jose Mondragon (Cristobal de La Serna); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado); Tony Benavidez (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Lujan)

### **4. Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye  
Councilor Rodríguez - aye

The motion was passed.

### **5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2024 Meeting**

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 16, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

### **6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update, including pres. Santa Fe NF**

Amina Sena gave presentation on the Forest Service’s efforts for the Hermit’s Peak Calf Canyon Fire recovery efforts and explained how NEPA is guiding their decision making. Her colleague, Kenneth Alcon, also presented and explained how the Forest Service is moving forward by providing fuel wood permits and supporting other projects that provide communities with fuelwood, working with acequias by fixing washed out areas, and creating watershed restoration plans. He stated that the Santa Fe National Forest wants to make sure they analyze project before starting the projects.

Mr. Leonard Martinez spoke to the letter he wrote to the Forest Service regarding San Joaquin del Rio de Chama’s irrigation project.

Mr. Jacobo Baca stated that he and Councilor Rodríguez attended a meeting with the Carson National Forest Service regarding the expansion of the Mayordomo projects. Rodriguez suggested that the Forest Service service the roads and build capacity when it comes to state workers assisting leñeros with the program. Mr. Baca reiterated the importance of these projects being available to communities outside of Forest Service boundaries.

Ms. Bella Mollard reported that there will be an open public comment period for the Taos Ski Valley project soon.

There is will be a prescribed burn on the Rio Tusa for 1,000 acres.

Justice 40 deadlines are coming up and will be available for land owners and state agencies to apply for money.

She shared her plans for working with the Council on a Land Grant 101 presentation to train leadership.

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

*Federal*

Ms. Crystal Romero (Heinrich) reported that Senate passed a Continuing Resolution to keep government open through December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Eric Chavez (Sen. Ben Ray Lujan) reported that the Farm Bill is currently not moving, but he will continue monitoring.

The Appropriations Package may see some movement soon, and the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant is included in the bill for over \$600 thousand to fix up its properties. People who were affected by the recent fires should submit Notice of Loss as soon as possible to the claims office.

Mr. Archuleta stated that the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant was contacted on behalf of San Felipe Pueblo regarding a bill that could give the Pueblo 7,000 acres of land from BLM. The Pueblo and Land Grant would both like this land to have designated protections since it contains sacred sites. Chairman Juan Sanchez directed staff to continue discussion.

#### *State*

The Legislative Land Grant Interim Committee will be meeting on October 3 & 4 at the Placitas Community Library in Placitas, New Mexico, hosted by the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant (*agenda in packet*).

Mr. Archuleta spoke about some policy considerations for the Council to consider adopting, including:

1. Increasing the funding for the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund
2. Raising the cap for the annual revenue on the first tier of the LGMAF bill (i.e. raise it from \$50,000 to \$100,000)
3. Eliminate the reversion clause in this bill
4. Recommend changes to Community Governance Attorney Program

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to amend LGMAF legislation to increase the annual revenue cap and fix the reversion issue; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to support changes to the Community Governance Attorney Program, including the removal of the constraints of the UNM School of Law and to add the NM DOJ and place language that is more broad and includes other programs and increases funding; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Eric Valencia (RGDN) discussed the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument plan and provided the following updates:

On September 18 BLM released the final notice for public protest which will last for 30 days. The office is anticipating this plan to be signed and finalized in January.

Mr. Jacobo Baca inquired with Ms. Lisa Morrison (BLM) about the list of land grant patents that was requested by BLM. Ms. Morrison let the Council know she is going to check on the status with Valarie Chavez.

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

Camila Romero could not attend the meeting, but provided the following SLO updates to Council staff:

There is wood available through October in Tres Pierdas.

Practice plan for Bearcat should be completed soon.

Villanueva project will be signed this week and the PO should be made soon.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund**

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve the Anton Chico Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF contingent upon DFA's approval of the FY 24 fourth quarter budget; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Merced del Pueblo de Chililí for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – abstained

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF contingent on their FY 24 third quarter budget approval from DFA; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Cubero Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve to approve the Los Vigiles Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Lower Gallinas Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF, contingent upon sending the Council a copy of their Election Proclamation Resolution; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve to approve the Manzano Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Polaco – aye
- Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye  
The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF, contingent upon passing resolutions for their LGMAF certifications on their October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting; Chairman Sánchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve to approve the Santa Bárbara Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Santo Domingo de Cundiyó Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve to approve the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve to approve the Town of Tomé Land Grant for a disbursement from the LGMAF; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDNJ Treaty Division) announced that the Honors Attorney Program will begin soon and there is a training for district attorneys and law enforcement in Las Vegas on October 15, 2024.

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

Mr. Arturo Archuleta discussed the how many land grants have decided to place land reacquisition at the top of their priorities with their capital outlay and distribution monies. He discussed the new loan option through NMFA and how the Council staff has played a role in assisting the Manzano Land Grant with this loan opportunity. This assistance is available to all land grants who are political subdivisions. Juan Sánchez, President of the Chililí Land Grant formally asked the Council for this assistance on behalf of Chililí.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve staff to help the Chililí Land Grant with a potential land purchase; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

### **13. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution**

None.

### **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget**

The Council's travel for \$1,793.24 was included in the packet.  
Council staff will order business cards for the Council members.

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

None.

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

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve payment request 1 from Legal Aide for \$9,225.00; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Mr. Arturo Archuleta shared that the Land Grant Merced Institute is officially a Category Three Center, the Institute is continuing its efforts with oral history interviews, and the Institute plans on purchasing more materials from Malcolm Ebright.

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

Mr. Baca reported that the following has been submitted to the Council and will be included in the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry and that Council staff has responded to IPRA requests on behalf of the Council

- Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú – election results and updated board membership
- Cristobal de la Serna LG – election results and updated board membership

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

The Council sent a letter to Ernesto Lujan and José Emilio Aragón addressing concerns expressed in the August Council meeting (in packet)

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

None.

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

Councilor Polaco stated that the Tres Mercedes Unidas land grants hired a grant writer, Roger Valdez, and he had questions for Arturo regarding the joint powers agreement.

Anissa Baca stated that capital outlay requests are available October 17 – December 13.

### **23. Miscellaneous Announcements**

None.

### **24. Date and Location for October Council Meeting**

The October 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on October 18, 2024 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

### **25. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye



Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm MDT.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date