

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
May 29, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 999 6110 3010

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call – 10:03 am

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure

None.

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Mike Howsden (Cristobal de La Serna LG); Bella Mollard (USFS); Leslie Elser (BLM); Eric Chavez (Sen. Ben Ray Lujan); Camilla Romero (State Land Office); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Lisa Brown (DOJ Treaty Division); Meghan Veech (DOJ Treaty Division); Virginia Moore (DOJ Treaty Division); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG); AJ Pacheco (Rep. Teresa Leger-Fernández); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG)

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 11, 2025 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

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

Eric Chavez (Sen. Ben Ray Luján) Sen. Luján and Rep. Stansbury held a joined town hall this week in Albuquerque regarding federal program cuts which would affect programs such as SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid. Luján reintroduced legislation to protect SNAP programs and the Farmer to Farmer Education Act which focuses on agriculture workers in underserved areas.

AJ Pacheco (Rep. Teresa Leger-Fernandez) Rep. Leger-Fernandez hosted a townhall in Clovis and Portales to address farmer's concerns about SNAP. Her team is currently drafting a letter to request a hearing on the traditional use bill. The Representative's team is currently seeking a republican assist with the cemetery bill and held a meeting with the USFS to take a closer look into the small tracts act.

Mr. Archuleta announced that Council members and staff traveled to Washington DC to meet with the NM delegation where they were able to talk about cemetery and traditional use bills. They also discussed state legislation like the Infrastructure Bill which we were able to receive support on. Councilor Monica Rodriguez gave her thanks to NMLGC staff and was able to discuss Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) with members of Congress. Mr. Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG) announced that USDA / NRCS have been impacted by the federal budget cuts and natural disasters. The land grant has not been able to receive a necessary engineering plan because the staff is currently overwhelmed by natural disaster support. Councilor Steve Polaco announced that the Tierra Amarilla LG submitted a request for CDS for an elevator, however, it is unknown if CDS will continue this upcoming year.

State

The Land Grant Interim Committee will host a meeting this Friday (May 30). Mr. Archuleta presented the agenda for the meeting (included in packet) where the Committee will adopt the schedule for the interim meetings.

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

Lisa Elser announced that the state is in critical fire danger. BLM's website lists the current fire restrictions in the state. Ms. Elser also announced that wood permits are being sold online for Taos, Santa Fe and Farmington.

Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG) asked Ms. Elser for help locating maps for the San Miguel del Bado LG and the Sandoval Seven Land Grants.

Mr. Archuleta asked Ms. Elser for an update on the land grant patents the NMLGC had requested. Ms. Elser will follow up with Lisa Morrison.

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

Bella Mollard (USFS) announced that Anthony Madrid will be the new Forest Supervisor for the Santa Fe National Forest. She also announced that Camino Rael District staff are meeting with three land grants in the surrounding area regarding the Mayordomo/wood distribution projects. Ms. Mollard also announced that there will be forest road repairs for Taos Canyon and Sipapu is currently undergoing a scoping period for the infrastructure improvements.

Lisa Brown (DOJ Treaty Division) asked Ms. Mollard for a point of contact for Taos Canyon.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camilla Romero (SLO) announced that the Bearcat Project has been put on hold due to issues with the contractor. They hope to start the project in July. The Villanueva Project is almost complete and there is an estimated 50 cords of wood that can be hauled off upon completion.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Dept. of Justice & Treaty Division Updates and Requests

Lisa Brown (NM DOJ) introduced the Treaty Division's summer fellow, Virginia Moore. Ms. Brown also announced that the Treaty Division met with Department of Game and Fish regarding the Laguna del Campo property transfer where they discussed the disposal process for the parking lot and road which were purchased with federal funds. They are hoping to transfer the lake in three months and the road and parking lot in about twelve.

Meghan Veech (NM DOJ) announced that the Acequia Commission shared two letters of support for the Taos Valley Acequia Association and the Pecos Watershed Protection. She also announced that the Treaty Division filed an amicus brief in defense of Cristobal de La Serna LG.

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

Mr. Archuleta stated that Lisa Brown (NMDNJ) mentioned there is a presentation to the Taos Land Trust and Taos Valley Acequia Association on conservation easements. She asked if Land Grants would also like to participate and we are exploring options to see when land grants can have a presentation. Land grants are eligible to hold the conservation easements. Chairman Sánchez commented that he would prefer a presentation for land grants at a later time. Mr. Archuleta added that in the packet is the Sandoval County valuation protest board's decision that favored the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025, FY 2026, and FY 2027 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented the updated budget for FY 2025 for the NMLGC. The total expenditure of the \$626,899.98 budget is \$446,310.26. He also shared staff recommendations for the FY 2026 budget. The FY 2026 NMLGC operating budget stayed flat at \$626,900.00.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the amount and staff recommendations for FY 2026; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta shared the staff recommendations for the FY 27 budget request, which included a recommendation for an increased budget.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to adopt staff's recommended budget request; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Approval Service Contractor Invoices and purchases for FY 2025 and Approval of FY 2026 Scope of Work

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #7 for \$40,653.12 including \$28,148.67 in project personnel, \$3,291.75 in surveyor contract, \$456.65 in copier and printer maintenance, \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,775.51 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #7 for \$40,653.12; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve CB4U for \$565.03; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve CB4U invoice for \$201.80; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve payment for Intuit invoice for \$930.20; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve payment for Portable Micrographics, Inc. invoice for \$5,529.73; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the updated scope of work for FY 26 IGSA; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

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 provided an update on New Mexico Legal Aid (David Benavides) legal work. The most pressing case at the moment is Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant. They are currently on the list for services and the Court has yet to issue its decision. The Grant will need assistance submitting its appeal or defending the appeal from the opposing party.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Arroyo Hondo Arriba LG's request for legal assistance; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant has also submitted a request for legal services for a land dispute and tax protests.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant request for legal services; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

The Manzano Land Grant has requested legal services for a parcel of land that was acquired through the county for delinquent properties and is now being disputed by previous owner.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to approve Manzano Land Grant's request for legal services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve payment for Territorial Land Surveying LLC invoice for \$12,093.98; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Land Grant Merced Institute Update

The LGMI is working on its purchase of materials from Malcolm Ebright, including translated documents and microfilm.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Anissa Baca reported that the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant has submitted its updated membership.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council can now provide in house and direct legal services now that he has passed the New Mexico State Bar. He can also supervise the interns / externs.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Arturo's new staff assignments to provide direct legal services and supervise interns / externs who can assist with legal services; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla asked for assistance with a comprehensive plan for newly purchased properties for the Tomé Land Grant. Mr. Archuleta responded that this might be a project for a planning student that the Council is paying a portion for. Mr. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) asked for assistance with a comprehensive plan for the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land grant as well.

Mr. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) thanked Jacobo Baca for his help in submitting the comments on the Encino Vista Landscape Restoration.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) commented that he spoke with Mark Zietek of the Congresswoman's Washington DC office, who asked if anyone else would attend tomorrow's briefing on the Small Tracts Act. Mr. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) stated that he will attend.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Interim budgets are due to DFA on June 1, 2025. ICIPs are due June 13, 2025.

22. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The June 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on June 20, 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 Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:56pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date