

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)  
April 17, 2026 – 10:00am  
UNM Continuing Education  
South Building – Room 207  
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque  
Zoom Meeting I.D. - 924 6208 0962

**Final Meeting Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting**

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

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:02am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Steve Polaco, Monica Rodríguez, Andrea Padilla, and Juan Sánchez were present.

**2. Introduction of Guests**

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGMI); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC/LGMI); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGMI); Fabian Valdez (LGMI); Olivia Romo (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Tokey Boswell (BLM); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Sen. Ben Ray Lujan); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury); Eric Garner (USFS - Carson NF); Bella Mollard (USFS - Carson and Santa Fe NF); Pam Neely (Santa Fe to Taos Thru Hike); Camila Romero (NM SLO); Hallie Brown (DFA – Local Government Division); Chris Ferrera (Menaul School); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (Menaul School); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ -Treaty Division); Lenora Chavez (landowner - Torreon)

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2026 Regular Council Meeting**

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 20, 2026 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

## **5. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Menaul School**

Rebecca Correa Skartwed and Chris Ferrara presented regarding the history of Menaul, its serving of New Mexico land grant and acequia communities. They discussed the new New Mexico Underserved Student Opportunity Program, where students study New Mexico History over a four-year curriculum that covers land grants and acequias with an emphasis on cultural knowledge and identity. They also learn genealogical research through historical library and research center. Menaul boasts the first high school program to teach New Mexico Spanish as a living language, with Andres Armijo as its teacher. The school also offers a Indigenous Wisdom Curriculum, centering on Puebloan cultural knowledge, Community and intergenerational learning and Cooperation with Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. They also have a Navajo language program. Students attending the Menaul School also have the option to board at Menaul or to live locally and be day student.

Ms. Correa Skartwed and Mr. Ferrera stated that while Menaul primarily serves Albuquerque metro area, they seek to return to its past and serve statewide and would like for Menaul to be in service to land grant communities. New Mexico's indigenous populations have Santa Fe Indian School and Navajo Prep, and Menaul seeks to be the institute that serves land grant communities, assisting students through programs, services, and internships and educating students at Menaul and that they go back to their communities. They have already received grant funding to partially fund internships in land grant communities and are offering 12 spots for the Opportunity Program. Cost of attendance at Menaul is \$31,000 per year for boarding students, \$17,000 for day students. Applicants for the Opportunity Program must come from a historically underserved community; demonstrate financial need; show experience with environmental challenges; and academic need or limited access to consistent academic support. Councilor Polaco invited Ms. Correa Skartwed to present at a future Tierra Amarilla Land Grant meeting. Councilor Rodríguez commented that while she appreciated the program, but rural communities are facing depopulation and our schools are dying. While internships that expose students to culturally relevant curricula is good, she is unsure that fully displacing students from their home is the right thing to do.

## **6. Discussion and Possible Action U.S. Forest Service Update - Including Uranium Mining Carson NF**

Bella Mollard (USFS – Carson NF and Santa Fe NF) reported that the Santa Fe National Forest and the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant signed a first ever Memorandum of Understanding on March 27, to advance both organizations' goals of improved coordination, communication, and collaboration on land and natural resource management. The Santa Fe NF is thrilled to have entered into this agreement, and look forward to our future partnership projects. On May 7-8, the Ribbons of Life Initiative Partner Gathering will take place in Española and Field Trip/Workshop and Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Nursery field trip on May 7. On June 3, the 2-3-2 Partnership Field Trip to Walatowa Mill will take place. Contact Lily Bruce ([lily@forestguild.org](mailto:lily@forestguild.org)) for more info. On August 28, the Paseo Art Project in Taos will show Fire Ecology and Art Fusion.

The U.S. Forest Service has received a proposal for mineral exploration within the Forest. The Carson National Forest has received a proposal for exploration of uranium in an area on the Carson National Forest. It is not mining, and it does not authorize mining. We are currently in the early phase of reviewing the proposal to determine if it is complete enough for the Forest Service to consider. The Forest Service is legally required to evaluate an exploration proposal only as an

exploration proposal, not as a hypothetical mine. If any future proposal were submitted, it would trigger its own separate and rigorous analysis. Local governments and partners, including the Land Grants, will have opportunities to be engaged as the process moves forward. Your concerns matter to us, and we intend to communicate with you directly as more information becomes available. If you would like more information or feel you have information that would assist in our review, please reach out to schedule a meeting with our Leadership. Eric Garner introduced himself as the public service staff officer for the Carson National Forest (575-758-6200 (main office) 575-758-6375 (direct) [eric.garner@usda.gov](mailto:eric.garner@usda.gov)). Councilor Padilla asked for clarification on the exact location. Mr. Garner replied it is in the Canjilón Ranger District. Councilor Rodríguez commented that they submitted a FOIA request to James Durán, Carson NF Forest Supervisor. Mr. Garner replied that they have received several FOIA requests and that they will share information as soon as they can; Councilor Rodríguez replied that they would like an in-person meeting. A Canadian company is proposing uranium exploration. Councilor Padilla commented that with the RECA just expanded, why would the USFS allow for more uranium mining, which will cause more cancer issues; she stated that we cannot let them do that to us again.

Mr. Archuleta asked for clarification on the difference between application for exploration and what type of ground disturbance happens for exploration. Mr. Garner replied that the two are very different. The USFS begins with an examination of the proposal and are sure they are following necessary steps to undertake the proposed sampling. The USFS also looks for avoidance areas. Councilor Polaco commented that in their meeting they looked at the site and hydrologists and geologists stated that contamination begins with exploration, long before mining. Mr. Archuleta requested maps as soon as they are available and commented that communities want to ensure their sacred sites are not disturbed. Ms. Mollard replied that she has taken notes and will share them with leadership to be sure that all of these questions and concerns are addressed. She added that leadership will disclose information as quickly and accurately as possible. Councilor Rodríguez reiterated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant not only requests the information in their FOIA request, but also wants to engage in a conversation about the process of this mining exploration and claim.

Ms. Mollard reported that regional offices are closing and RO staff are either reassigned or will be losing their jobs. In internal townhalls, it was revealed that USFS employees received 5,600 received letters of reassignment or termination. The restructuring is set to give more forest level autonomy with leadership headquarters moving to Salt Lake City, with a small contingency remaining in Washington DC. Forests are still not authorized to hire and it remains unclear how regional agreements will work; they may be absorbed at the forest level. Leadership is trying to move forward with day-to-day operations and hub offices may replace some of the regional office functions. Albuquerque has both Region 3 offices and a service center; the service center will be open.

## **7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative & Policy Update - Including Washington D.C. Travel and House Memorial 24**

### *Federal*

Olivia Romo (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) thanked the land grants that applied for congressional funding. She reported that the Senator recently visited various communities in New Mexico, including Polk Middle School, where he announced legislation to change playgrounds into living environments. He also travelled to southern New Mexico and visited White Sand Missile

Range. He decried the Trump administration's rolling back protections of Chaco Canyon, Pecos Wilderness, Mount Taylor, and the threats against the Chama River watershed and vowed to continue his efforts to protect public lands. Ms. Romo added that the Senator appreciates community activation to protect our communities and announced that he and Senator Ben R. Luján will introduce legislation to withdraw the Chama River watershed from mineral extraction. She thanked her colleagues in Senator Ben R. Luján and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's offices and Río Arriba County leadership for leading this opposition to uranium mining. Ms. Romo announced that Kiana Salazar King has been named as the new state director for Senator Heinrich. Chairman Sanchez thanked Ms. Romo for setting up meetings with Washington DC offices last month.

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that the traditional use bill (H.R. 2785) remains in House Natural Resources Committee. The Congresswoman is pushing for markups and the bill is still not scheduled for hearing. The bill remains a top Democrat priority in committee. Their office is monitoring uranium proposal and thanked the San Joaquín del Rio de Chama Land Grant for keeping them looped into their communications with the USFS. The USDA has issued a disaster declaration for several counties in New Mexico. The primary counties eligible are: Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Cibola, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Los Alamos, Luna, McKinley, Otero, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Juan, Sierra, Socorro, Taos, and Valencia. Contiguous counties also eligible are: Colfax, De Baca, Guadalupe, Mora, Roosevelt, Santa Fe, and Torrance. (Curry, Harding, Quay, San Miguel, and Union Counties were not included in the designation). This designation makes farmers and producers eligible for "emergency loans (that) can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts." Mr. Pacheco reminded the Council of the expanded eligibility for RECA, which offers up to \$100,000 for people who have suffered from cancer, with an estimated potential of 50,000 that would qualify. The New Mexico Congressional delegation has a new federal grants coordinator, Dr. Nick Derda ([Nick.Derda@Heinrich.Senate.Gov](mailto:Nick.Derda@Heinrich.Senate.Gov)).

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that the Senator's office is still working with Congresswoman Leger Fernández's office to advance the traditional use bill (S. 1363). The Senator is working with the Senate Energy Committee to get it through committee and to floor for a vote before the August recess. Senator Mike Lee and the Republican leadership are delaying action. Mr. Chávez also shared a press release announcing Chama watershed protection legislation (see packet), as well as a letter from Senator Luján questioning the review process, NEPA, how uranium contamination can happen, and asking for the company's safety process. The Senator also introduced three bills related to federal Department of Justice, including the FBI Hiring Review Act, the Federal Prosecutorial Accountability Act and the Victims of Immigration Conduct. He and Senator Heinrich voted against mining in Minnesota and voted against additional arm sales to Israel. The Senator was in Los Lunas for an update in highway construction and met with UNM Health Sciences regarding cuts by the Trump administration. The entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation called out the Trump budget proposal and the administrations end to Pecos watershed protections. Jacob Trujillo (Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury Stansbury) thanked the Council for its work and reported that the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant submitted a community funded project request to remove septic tanks and connect to the ABCWUA systems. Mr. Archuleta reported Council staff has met with Congressional offices regarding the proposed Caja del Rio protections. Finally, the Council is set to travel to Washington

DC the week of May 11 and has received approval from Governor's office. There is sufficient budget to send two council members.

### *State Legislation*

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Interim Committee session will start soon, with Senator Leo Jaramillo serving as chair. Senator Jaramillo has the idea that the Interim focus on the infrastructure bill and other legislation rather than hearings with various information topics. The Interim will be used to workshop legislation, with key agencies that opposed the bill present at interim, where options to move the legislation can be explored and working with the Legislative Finance Committee can be discussed. The Council also needs to work on HM 24 regarding the Las Vegas Land Grant and Rep. Anita Gonzales requested that the NMDOJ and NMLGC to go to Las Vegas to present. This may be a standing item in future Council meeting agendas and has been the topic of conversations with the NMDOJ Treaty Division; Lisa Brown (NMDOJ) offered to meet next week to discuss.

## **8. Discussion and Possible Action on Infrastructure Planning and Development Division Update**

Jason Quintana (DFA IPDD) and Haillie Brown (DFA – LGD Deputy Director) reported that questionnaires due April 22 and ICIPs due July 1<sup>st</sup>. All ICIPs are due the same date as DFA is fully staffed and IPDD staff cross trained, where 25 people can now do a review of ICIP projects. Ms. Brown added that questionnaires help DFA determine project readiness and which grant agreements need to be pushed out. \$1.2 billion in capital outlay passed and General Fund funded projects cannot be funded all at once; STB (severance tax bonds) funded projects require questionnaires that generate information used to sell the bonds for the projects. Councilor Rodríguez complained of denials of pay requests and commented that training from DFA helps land grants understand the process. Ms. Brown stated that HB 247 required capital outlay changes, including the creation of different parameters. The reform of capital outlay process also requires all projects costing \$100,000 or more to have an ICIP. One time extension reauthorizations is allowed but changes in the appropriation language are not. DFA will provide new capital outlay trainings that include these changes.

Reversions now go into Capital Development Project Fund (CDPF) and entities can reapply for funds in a new process. The application based grant program will be administered by DFA and part of it is invested in the GRO fund itself. Mr. Archuleta added that the CDPF will eventually replace traditional capital outlay as funding from oil and gas will decline by 2030 and oil and gas monies are projected to be gone by 2050. He added that CMAs (certified market analysis) were first considered a benchmark on property purchases since real estate is negotiable. Now, DFA will only fund based on tax appraisal, which is typically low. DFA also will not allow expenditure of capital outlay monies for the repayment of loans. While this is understandable for a traditional loan to ensure that a public asset is lost when payment doesn't happen, NMFA loans do not result in seizure. Ms. Brown responded that capital financing often happens where entities take out a bridge loan, so this needs to be fixed and suggested the issue be taken up in next administration.

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

Camila Romero (NM SLO) asked Chairman Sanchez about his availability for a meeting on Tuesday (4/21) at 11:00am with Dee Tarr (Claunch Pinto SWCD) and the contractor for the Bearcat Project, which will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Sanchez stated that the wood will be

hauled out immediately and branches chipped. Mr. Archuleta added that he can try and reach out to participating land grants to send representatives. Ms. Romero also reported that the San Miguel del Bado Grant contacted the SLO regarding an access road. The SLO was told the Grant needs to apply to with the NMSLO right of way division.

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

Tokey Boswell provided the following update:

- BLM-NM released a notice of intent to revisit the withdrawal around the Chaco Culture NHP earlier this month. We received approximately 70,000 comments during the 7 day scoping period. The next step is to analyze those comments and develop an environmental assessment with alternatives for how to proceed. This area of San Juan and McKinley counties is not in the vicinity of any known Land Grants, though it is interspersed with Navajo allotments.
- BLM is tracking several proposals for new pipelines and transmission lines to move energy and minerals from Texas and New Mexico west into Arizona and California. The majority of these proposals are in a corridor from El Paso through the southwest corner of the state and into AZ. It is unclear if these projects would intersect with any land grant communities - we know that area around Santa Theresa has seen several development proposals in the last year.
- BLM continues to work on the next set of requested patents that was requested. While we suffered some additional staff losses I have reallocated other staff to help this group continue to do their work; I hope we will be able to deliver that next batch in coming months.
- We are still under an acting State Director, Gera Ashton is based out of the Arizona state office. Steve Pearce has not yet received full Senate confirmation as the BLM director, he is still the nominee and we are under acting leadership in DC.
- The Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture have signed an MOU on advancing grazing operations on federal lands. More information can be found here: [Advancing Grazing on Forest Service and BLM Lands MOU](#)
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) announced the cancellation of their joint Upper Pecos River Watershed Area withdrawal application for 163,483 acres of National Forest System lands and 1,327.16 acres of public lands in northern New Mexico. [Federal Register :: Notice of Cancellation of Withdrawal Application for the Upper Pecos River Watershed Protection Area, New Mexico](#)

## **11. Discussion and Possible Action on DFA-Local Government Division – Including Introduction of Hallie Brown, DFA-LGD Deputy Director**

See “IPDD update” above. Mr. Archuleta reported that Hallie Brown replaced Jeanette Gallegos (now at Board of Finance). He and Ms. Brown met to discuss the NMLGC and its administrative connection to DFA through LGD. Ms. Brown stated that she was Deputy Director at IPDD, where she supervised the rural ombuds, federal grants bureau, NM Match fund, and capital navigation. She is from Edgewood and was in non-profit sector and worked at village of Tijeras. The LGD has no director and she and another deputy are running the Division. Sandra Ortega is the contact supporting Council. Mr. Archuleta also reported that DFA legal counsel opined that the bequest of the late Sen. Bill O’Neill is going to revert, even though it does not come from the general fund. He stated that DFA does not have the authority to create another fund for the Council. Mr. Archuleta discussed the issue with ASD director Mackie Romero, who thought that another option in the

short term is alternative place for the monies. UNM is an option but they move very slow and won't get it done in time. The Council can also partner with a land grant and they take the funds, hold them in trust. The best solution is to create a JPA or MOU in the short term. Ms. Brown added that the Council will need to do an RFP to give it to a non-profit. Mr. Archuleta stated that the Council can do an RFP where funding only can be used for political subdivisions and the Council retain control. Ms. Brown added that the Council needs to document that it supports the public, meeting the two-prong test to meet anti-donation of clear documentation of public benefit and goods and services (payments) need to document public benefit. This needs to be clear in a JPA. Mr. Archuleta added that if a land grant partners, we want to make sure that it (\$300,000) won't throw them into a full blown audit. The prospective land grant needs to have no financial issues, not a lot of activity and have a relationship where NMLGC staff assists with budget oversight. It should not be a land grant of any of the Council members to avoid appearance of conflict of interest. The Santa Bárbara LG was identified as ideal, though we have yet to approach them. Ms. Brown added the that Council subject to DFA-LGD, whose budget is all general fund monies that revert where land grant funding does not revert.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to direct NMLGC staff to work to move monies from the late Sen. Bill O'Neill's estate to the MLECT, Santa Bárbara Land Grant, or another land grant in good standing with a working fiscal management relationship with the NMLGC; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Jones Firm, representing the O'Neill Estate, contacted the Council regarding the sale of property in Idaho, offering the opportunity to contest the sale.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve consent to sale of property of the Bill O'Neill estate; 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 discussed the misappropriated GRO monies (formerly junior bill funding) sent to the Los Vigiles Land Grant rather than the Council. Rep. Miguel García intended for the funding to go to the Council. Ms. Brown offered that the best idea is to do a JPA with the Los Vigiles LG. The Council would submit disbursement request to DFA for these monies and Los Vigiles would need to go into PARS system and approve the request. The \$180,000 can be spent over two fiscal years and could be used to hire staff.

## **12. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns**

None

## **13. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice Treaty Division Update & Requests**

Lisa Brown (NMDNJ Treaty Division) reported that the Treaty Division will hold a Cristóbal de la Serna Joint Memorial meeting on April 29. The Division is assisting the Grant with its appeal in the sovereign immunity case at the court of appeals. The Division also assisted the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG with its MOU with the USFS. Enrique Romero presented to a UNM Law School class. Mr. Romero and Mr. Archuleta will co-teach a land grant and acequia course at the UNM Law School in Spring 2027. The Treaty Division also filed an amicus brief to accept writ of cert with the New Mexico Supreme Court on the Juan Bautista Baldes case. The appeals court decision potentially created bad law by creating the notion that a patent can be interpreted for title issues, creating a fifth way that lands can be alienated in a tenancy in common under the notion “if you are an heir and can trace title to patent, you can create title.” The Treaty also is addressing HM 24, the Las Vegas LG request to be re-organized as a 49-1 political subdivision, which directs the NMDNJ and the Council to figure out how it might happen. The San Antonio de las Huertas quiet title case continued as the judge did not grant motion to dismiss the complaint and the Sandoval County property tax issue remains as the state tax board found in favor of grant, after which Sandoval County appealed to the district court.

## **14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2026, FY 2027 and FY 2028 Budget**

### *FY 2026*

A budget update was provided, including \$4,509.26 in council travel, \$274,514.85 in staff, \$17,735.94 in facility rental, \$64,534.02 in F&A for grand total of \$428,925.90 spent and \$197,974.10 remaining.

### *FY 2027*

Mr. Archuleta presented two budget scenarios (*in packet*), one with the base budget and appropriation for \$626,900 and the second, the base appropriation plus the GRO monies (\$90,000) for \$716,900.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the budget, based on the base appropriation of \$626,900; Councilor Rodríguez 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 budget, based on the appropriation with the GRO monies for \$90,000, for a total of \$716,900; 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 presented the FY 2027 Legal Services SOW (Scope of Work, *in packet*) with New Mexico Legal Aid. NMLA is the cheapest rate at \$150.00 per hour. The total contract cannot exceed \$60,000. Timely approval will help ensure that there will not be a gap in services with the beginning in the new fiscal year.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve the scope of work and statement of value for the FY 2027 legal services contract with New Mexico Legal Aid; 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 the scope of work for the UNM IGSA for FY 2027; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:  
Councilor Rodríguez – aye  
Councilor Padilla – aye  
Councilor Polaco – aye  
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

*FY 2028*

Next meeting

### **15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2026 Intergovernmental Services Agreement**

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #8 for \$46,515.73 including, but not limited to, \$30,413.54 in project personnel, \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$7,752.62 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #8 for \$46,515.73; 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 made a motion to approve the Scope of Work for the Youth Fly Fishing Camp. For \$6,000; Councilor Polaco 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 on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests**

Alicia Ulibarrí (CGAC recipient) passed bar and will begin working with NM Legal Aid.

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

The Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla requested surveyor services for a 27 acre parcel recently purchased at the delinquent tax auction.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla's request; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Territorial Land Surveying submitted invoice 04172026 for \$2,693.25 for work on the Cristóbal de la Serna court case.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Territorial Land Surveying invoice 04172026 for \$2,693.25; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Baca reported that the following items were submitted to the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry.

- Bylaws for the Lower Gallinas Land Grant
- San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant - 2026 election results
- Updated board membership -for the Town of Tomé Land Grant

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he participated in a meeting with UNM faculty regarding natural disaster mitigation and fire recovery. The group will later meet with stakeholders (meeting will be convened by NMLGC / LGMI staff) to scope unmet needs. Agency partners will include the U.S.

Forest Service, BLM, New Mexico State Forestry Division, the State Land Office, and likely certain soil and water conservation districts and NRCS offices. He also reported that the LGMI purchased a new map printer. Mr. Baca reported that he presented to a UNM Valencia course and Anissa Baca participated in ABE – New Mexico ALGE pre-conference meeting.

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

None.

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

Staff will provide the Torreon Land Grant an election update on Sunday, April 19. Mr. Baca discussed staff research to create an application and lists of land grant members and Torreon residents, using land grant records, census information and a 1918 court case.

**22. Public Comments – discussion only**

Councilor Padilla inquired about the Consejo de las Mercedes. Mr. Archuleta responded that, to his understanding, the Consejo will likely meet in the early summer. It will be involved in planning a retreat in 2026; the last land grant retreat was held in December 2016.

**23. Miscellaneous Announcements**

None

**24. Date and Location for May Council Meeting**

The May 2026 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on May 29, 2026 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00am.

**25. Adjournment**

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sanchez - aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm MDT.

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date