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NEW MEXICO LAND GRANT COUNCIL

Annual Report

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New Mexico Land Grant Council Annual Report FY 2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of New Mexico Land Grant Council is to establish and maintain a land grant support program, which provides advice and assistance to land grants and serves as a liaison between land grants and other federal, state and local governments (49-11-3 (A), NMSA 1978). In addition, the Land Grant Council works with the Office of the State Auditor and the Department of Finance and Administration in making land grant-merced eligibility determinations for distributions from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund (49-11-6, NMSA 1978). In fiscal year 2023 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received a \$496,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature, as well as \$330,000 in one-time junior appropriations targeted towards youth development and general support for land grants. Information about the Council's FY 2023 budget expenditures can be found in the Council's Activities and Expenditures Section starting on page 7. The Council's FY 2024 approved budget can be found on page 27 and the Council's FY 2025 budget request and justification narrative can be found starting on page 28.

The Land Grant Council provided direct services and support to community land grant-mercedes throughout New Mexico in the following areas (detailed descriptions of each can be found starting on the pages noted in parentheses): Technical Assistance and Financial Support to Land Grants-Mercedes (pg 10); Liaison Work (pg 15); Policy Work (pg 20); Research Work (pg 23); and Youth Development Work (pg 25). This included governance capacity support, legal services, professional surveyor services and direct financial support for small capital purchases. Land grants-mercedes that received services and/or support from the Council in FY 2023 included: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Cañón de Carnué, Cebolleta, Chililí, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldés, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Agustín, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Domingo de Cundiyó, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas, Tajique, Tecolote, Tierra Amarilla, Torreón and Tomé. More information about activities for specific land grants-mercedes can be found in the State of Land Grant Section beginning on page 2.

The major policy accomplishment for land grant-mercedes at the State level in Fiscal Year 2023 was the passage of the 2023 Legislative Session House Bill 268. HB 268 amended the Land Grant General Provisions, §49-1-2, NMSA 1978 to specifically name all land grant-mercedes that have been operating as political sub-divisions of the State. In addition to naming existing political sub-divisions it also recognized four additional land grants as local units of government (Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas and San Agustín). There are now twenty-seven land grants specifically named as political sub-divisions of the State of New Mexico in Statute. This is an important public policy accomplishment for several reasons. First, listing land grants specifically by name in statute allows other governmental entities and agencies, as well as the general public, know which land grants are units of government and which are not. Second, it makes clear which land grants are potentially eligible for distributions from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund (§49-11-6, NMSA 1978) and for legislative capital outlay appropriations. Third, it sets the bar for a land grant to be recognized as local unit of government, requiring that the legislature pass a bill which must then be signed into law by the Governor. At the federal level the Council continued its work with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation related to the

passage of a bill to recognize the importance of traditional uses by land grant communities on federal lands that were once a part of the original common lands of certain land grants.

STATE OF LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES

Below is rundown of some of the challenges faced and projects being undertaken in the past year by land grants-mercedes around the State. While the information below is by no means comprehensive and does not cover every single active land grant in the State of New Mexico, it is a good sampling of the types of issues faced and initiatives being pursued by land grants-mercedes.

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La Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú (Abiquiú Land Grant) completed work on its clinic renovations. The Grant continues to pursue ownership of the Joe Ferrán Gymnasium. The Merced has also continued to negotiate with the Office of the State Engineer concerning the adjudication of the water rights owned by the land grant. The New Mexico Land Grant Council, through its staff and its contract with New Mexico Legal Aid, has continued to assist La Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú with their water rights declaration. La Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú continues to support traditional uses of their common land, including grazing, hunting and fuelwood gathering, regulating these uses to protect these precious resources.

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The *Anton Chico Land Grant* received junior bill appropriations for youth and senior services for communities within the grant. The grant continues to support traditional uses of the common land, including grazing through permitting and range management and continues to work to regulate rock hauling, which has damaged the common lands and impacting other uses, including grazing. The Grant also works with Anton Chico Economic Development to promote economic development for communities within the Anton Chico Land Grant.

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La Merced de Cañón de Carnué (Cañón de Carnué Land Grant) continues to support local economic development through the use of their common lands and facilities, including leases to a landscaping business and a craft brewery taproom. The Grant also contended with encroachment issues on their common lands. The Grant has also been actively engaged in several watershed restoration projects to remove invasive plant species from several riparian areas and maintains a camping and picnic area on common lands, which were improved in their participation in the Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. The Cañón de Carnué Land Grant also collaborated with the New Mexico State Land Office and other East Mountain land grants on the Bearcat Fuelwood Project.

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The *Cebolleta Land Grant* elected a new president, Marty Molina, in FY 2023. The grant was taken off of the Office of the State Auditor's at risk list after completing several years of audits and becoming up to date on all of their budgeting and reporting requirements. The

Cebolleta Land Grant has taken over several domestic water systems within the grant from mutual domestic associations that have gone defunct and is assessing repair and replacement of waterlines in their communities.

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La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí (Chililí Land Grant) has completed its work on the construction of their fire station facility as an addition to their existing multipurpose community center. The facility allows for the housing of a fire truck as well as shower bays for hosting wildlands firefighting crews in the event of any future wildfires. Chililí also collaborated with the New Mexico State Land Office on the Bearcat Fuelwood Project, taking the lead for all participating land grants (Cañón de Carnué, Manzano, Tajique and Torreón) and providing a secure distribution site for all fuelwood harvested from SLO lands. The Chililí Land Grant continues to share concern with other East Mountain Land Grants (Tajique, Torreón and Manzano) with the regional water plan proposed by EMWT. Chililí also purchased several parcels within the exterior boundaries of the Grant, repatriating former common land for their community. Finally, in FY 2023, La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí continued its ongoing dispute and negotiation regarding property taxes with the Bernalillo County Assessor.

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The **Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant** has continued to purchase *liñas* with capital outlay monies awarded to the Grant by the New Mexico State Legislature. The Grant is still trying to protect what is left of the common lands, including 5,000 acres of lands that were mapped for tax assessment purposes into long narrow strips of land stretching from the valley floor to Picuris Peak. These properties, known as *liñas* have been the cause controversy for the community for several generations. The goal is to return the lands in questions to the status of common lands of the land grant. The Grant's primary goal is preserving the mountain from development and abuse for their heirs and the greater community.

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The **Cubero Land Grant** is preparing for the renovation of their community center, including the replacement of floors and repair of water damage. The land grant continues to limit grazing on their grant to allow forage to recover from years of drought.

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The **Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant** continued to furnish and equip their administrative center in Taos on Cruz Alta Road on the former common lands of the Don Fernando de Taos Grant. The Grant is working to acquire a library of historical materials for public research.

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La Merced Comunitaria Juan Bautista Baldés (Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant) The Grant continued to fight encroachments and claims on the common land and has received support from

the New Mexico Land Grant Council and New Mexico Legal Aid to fight claims on common lands. The Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant continued its partnership with the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant and La Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla in the renovation of the Piedra Lumbre Visitor’s Center (renamed the *Mercedes Unidas Center*) which was purchased from the U.S. Forest Service in FY 2021. The Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant also gained ownership of the Cañones Community Center from Rio Arriba County.

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La Merced del Manzano (Manzano Land Grant) continues to renovate and improve the historic community center, which also serves land grant administrative office and multipurpose center for use by the community. The Grant is working to acquire large tract of land and has had conversations with New Mexico Finance Authority regarding a long-term loan. Manzano and other East Mountain land grants remain opposed to the EMWT regional water association plan, as land grant communities were never consulted and are concerned about the effect that the system will have on their water supplies. Manzano also collaborated with the New Mexico State Land Office and other East Mountain land grants on the Bearcat Fuelwood Project.

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La Merced de la Comunidad de San Antonio de Las Huertas (San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant) continues to work to protect its water from diversion and impoundment by developers and trespass on their communal lands by non-heirs, typically for recreation purposes. The Grant continues to develop their outdoor recreational space, El Campo del Oso, which serves as a rental space for community functions and for campers. The Grant is reconsidering their plans for a rural health clinic as they are concerned that staffing the clinic could become an issue. They are exploring options to use that funding for another purpose that will serve their land grant and the larger community.

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The ***San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant*** continued to work on the renovation of their community facilities, including renovations to their *sala* (land grant hall). The Land Grant is interested in pursuing ownership or easement rights to a historic cemetery in the community of Las Llaves. The Grant has also approached the Rio Arriba County Commission regarding the old USFS Coyote Ranger District building, which the County received from the U.S. Forest Service. San Joaquín is also continuing its plans to develop an irrigation project in the Cañón de Chama. The San Joaquín del Río De Chama Land Grant also continued partnering with the Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla and Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grants on the renovation of the Piedra Lumbre Visitor’s Center, which has been renamed the Mercedes Unidas center.

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The ***San Miguel del Bado Land Grant*** has continued improving their community center building in San Miguel. The Center serves as a senior meal site for senior citizens in the valley. The needed

improvements include security upgrades, parking lot improvements and new kitchen equipment. The Grant elected an entirely new board that is interested in the preservation of historic buildings within the grant.

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La Merced de Santa Bárbara (Santa Bárbara Land Grant) continued to renovate the old San Acasio Church in Llano Largo, New Mexico, which the Grant purchased from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in FY 2022. The grant also continues to negotiate with the Peñasco Independent School District for the old Peñasco dental clinic, which the grant would like to use as an administrative center. They continue to engage the Carson National Forest on a number priority issues for their community especially the desire to engage in forest restoration project work aimed at protecting the watershed and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire burned some of the historic common lands of Santa Barbara Land Grant and severely damaged the watershed of the Rio Pueblo that feeds land grant communities. The grant has also protested the use of waters by Sipapu during the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fire, which they believed was in excess of their water right. Finally, the Santa Bárbara Land Grant has worked to provide fuelwood opportunities for their heirs and worked to with the U.S. Forest Service on a mayordomo fuelwood near Ojito, New Mexico and purchased and distributed hundreds of cords to community members in need from the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire containment lines.

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With the support of the surveyor service provided by the Council, the ***Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grant*** received a survey of the historic Trampas Plaza, enabling the grant to prevent further encroachments. The closure of the National Forests during the Hermit's Peak / Calf Canyon fire halted all activities on the Carson National Forest, including the Las Trampas Forest mayordomo project. The Las Trampas Grant has engaged in conversations with the Peñasco Independent School District, seeking the transfer of the historic schoolhouse in Las Trampas to the land grant. The Grant successfully won a capital outlay award that will allow them to purchase a wood processor, which will help with their community fuelwood projects.

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In FY 2023, ***La Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla*** continued conversations with Rio Arriba County to acquire the former school administration building in Tierra Amarilla, which would provide an administrative site for the grant. They continued to improve the 215-acre *Colonia de José María Martínez*, which is on former common land. La Merced continues to work with the New Mexico State Game Commission and the Department of Game and Fish to complete the transfer the 40-acre parcel and Laguna del Campo to the Tierra Amarilla Grant, ensuring that the community controls adequate water rights to support their ownership and operation of the lake. Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla also continued its partnership with the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant and the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant in the renovation of the Mercedes Unidas Center (formerly the Piedra Lumbre Visitor's Center), which was purchased from the U.S. Forest Service in FY 2021. La Merced continues to advocate for communities and help locals and heirs obtain fuelwood.

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The *Town of Tomé Land Grant* continued to serve the people of the Tomé area, providing a community gathering space that hosts a variety of activities throughout the year including farmers markets, arts and crafts fairs, community meetings, and youth activities, as well provide their history museum and genealogical library to the public. The Grant completed its renovation of the historic jailsite and casita and purchased additional properties near their historic plaza and Cerro Tomé. The Grant still maintains and protects the sacred Tomé Hill, an annual pilgrimage site during Holy Week.

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La Merced del Pueblo de Tajique (Tajique Land Grant) continued to improve their community center and park through improved drainage and improved playground equipment. The community center serves as a community rental facility for weddings, graduations, showers and funeral receptions. The Grant purchased several parcels within the exterior boundaries of the *merced* and continues to seek opportunities to acquire more properties for inclusion in their common lands, including a parcel that will allow them to move the transfer station further from their community center. In FY 2023, the Grant completed work related to the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division Grant, which includes improvements at the Tajique Community Center. Tajique also collaborated with the New Mexico State Land Office and other East Mountain land grants on the Bearcat Fuelwood Project.

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The *Torreón Land Grant* received \$275,000 in capital outlay funds for their community center and fire station and is working through the process of becoming up to date in their financial reporting to DFA and OSA so that they can begin expending their monies. The Torreón Grant also collaborated with the New Mexico State Land Office and other East Mountain land grants on the Bearcat Fuelwood Project.

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The Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, San Agustín and Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grants all became political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico in June 2023 with the signing of House Bill 268. The Council has worked with each respective board to bring them up to date on their reporting requirements and inform them of the land grant statutes (Chapter 49) and laws applicable to all political subdivisions. The Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas Land Grants both continue to assess damages from the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires and plan their recovery efforts. The Los Vigiles Land Grant is working with the Las Vegas School Board to obtain a community building that is currently owned by the local school district. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant hosted an interim Land Grant Committee meeting in August of 2022. It continues to participate in the forest mayordomo projects, collaborating with Taos County and the Carson National Forest to thin the forests surrounding their community while providing firewood to heirs and residents. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Grant continues its concern with Taos Ski Valley's expansion and its impact on the watershed and use of water.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

FY 2023 APPROVED BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

In fiscal year 2023 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received a \$496,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature as well as \$330,000 in one-time junior appropriations, targeted for youth development and general support to land grants, for a total fiscal year budget of \$826,900. The junior funds were used for four separate youth related initiatives, including 3 youth development pilot programs in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties (see page 25 for more details). In addition, junior funds were used to hire a full-time staff person to assist land grant-mercedes with the preparation and continuous reporting of their annual budgets. Expenditures for FY 2023 totaled \$731,723, which amounted to 88% of the total combined budget of funds appropriated from the legislature. The funds were utilized by the Council in a variety of ways to support land grant-mercedes. This included: \$288,696 on salary and fringe benefits for Council staff; \$53,750 on direct legal services for land grants; \$6,200 for two law school externs to work with the legal services contractor; \$4,500 for support to the Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic at the University of New Mexico School of Law for taking on land grant-merced clients; \$48,963 on surveyor services for land grants; \$20,367 to purchase treasurer's bonds for 13 land grant-mercedes; \$15,000 for three, \$5,000 grants, to the Santa Bárbara, Cristóbal de la Serna, and Santo Tomás Apostól del Río de las Trampas Land Grant-Mercedes for assistance with operating their wood distribution programs in collaboration with the United States Forest Service; \$61,001 for a youth conservation corps project collaboration with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District; \$56,821 for cultural youth project with youth from the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant focused on their Comanche dancing heritage focusing on middle school aged students; \$10,100 for a youth development project with youth from the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant focusing on high school aged students; \$13,783 for a land grant curriculum development educator's workshop; \$10,118 in out-of-state travel for two of the Council members to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation as well as the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture regarding the land grant traditional uses legislation; \$5,561 in-state travel expenses for Council members to attend meetings; \$6,219 in personnel out-of-state travel expenses for two staff members to accompany Council members in Washington D.C.; \$5,974 in personnel travel expenses for attendance at various meetings, legislative hearings and to meet with individual land grants; \$4,963 to publish updates to the Land Grant-Merced Laws and Statutes for distribution to land grants; \$5,829 for the purchase of a Quickbooks one year online annual subscription for 15 land grants; \$2,627 for supplies; \$2,485 for a laptop computer for the Council financial budget specialist; \$2,225 for the purchase of an Owl video and audio conference system for use at monthly Council meetings to allow for virtual attendance by members of the public; \$1,122 on postage including for the shipment of copies of the Land Grant-Merced Laws and Statutes Update; \$1,177 on the Council's copier maintenance contract; \$1,175 on facility rental expenses for the Council monthly meetings; \$103,661 on the facilities and administrative overhead costs for the University of New Mexico Intergovernmental Services Agreement for housing the Council at UNM.

The Council ended the fiscal year with a revision of \$93,627, mostly from its one-time junior fund appropriations. The unspent junior appropriation funding was intended to go toward the acquisition of tort liability coverage for land grants (\$45,000), and 2 additional legal services contracts (one for \$30,000 and one for \$6,000) and well as \$2,700 in unspent funds for the youth development projects. The remaining unspent balance was from: \$6,250 in unspent funds for the

Council main legal services contract, which was the result of loss of personnel at New Mexico Legal Aid; \$1,050 unspent funds budgeted for Surveyor Services; \$1,750 in unspent funds budgeted for DFA administrative costs; and the remaining balance in other small miscellaneous unspent budget items including the UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement F&A costs, salary expenses, facility rental costs, etc. The unspent funds returned to the State's General Fund. There are several reasons the funding went unspent. First, the Council worked throughout the entire fiscal year with the General Services Department Risk Management Division (RMD) to try and obtain tort and other liability coverage for land grant-mercedes. RMD attempted to shop the entire coverage out through their brokerage firm but unfortunately the coverage premium quotes per land grant were too high to cover for all land grant-mercedes. Coverage premium quotes did not come in until the very end of the fiscal year, which did not give the Council or RMD to identify an alternative option. Second, DFA-LGD was never able to execute the two legal services contracts prior to the end of the fiscal year. Although the Council provided DFA-LGD with the contract scopes of work and awardee information, staff changes at DFA-LGD inhibited their ability to execute the contracts before the fiscal year ended. The funds left unspent from the youth projects were the result of participants dropping out of projects before completion. Finally, the unspent funds from the NM Legal Aid contract were the result of one of the organization's attorneys leaving the firm prior to the end of the fiscal year.

On the next page, is Table 1 which compares the budgeted expenditures versus actual expenditures for FY 2023.

Table 1 – FY 2023 Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

FY 2023 Budget Line Item	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2023 Actual Expenditures	Unexpended Ending Balance
DFA Admin Fee - 200	\$3,300	\$1,550	\$3,300
Operating Funds to LGs - 400	\$80,000	\$35,367	\$44,633
Legal Service Contract - NMLA - 300	\$60,000	\$53,750	\$6,250
Legal Support Fund - 300	\$30,000	\$0.00	\$30,000
Legal Service Contract - PLVC - 300	\$6,000	\$0.00	\$6,000
Publishing - 400	\$5,000	\$4,963	\$37
In State Travel - 400	\$9,800	\$5,561	\$4,239
Out of State Travel - 400	\$5,600	\$10,118	-\$4,518
UNM IGSA* - 300	\$627,200	\$621,964	\$5,236
F&A	\$104,533	\$103,660	\$873
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$288,696	\$288,103	\$593
Personnel In State Travel	\$5,975	\$5,974	\$1
Personnel Out of State Travel	\$6,220	\$6,219	\$1
Office Supplies (General)	\$1830	\$1,827	\$3
General Media Supplies	\$500	\$500	\$0
Computer Software	\$5830	\$5,829	\$1
Computer Supplies	\$300	\$300	\$0
Non Capital Equipment <\$5,001	\$2225	\$2,225	\$0
Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers)	\$2485	\$2,485	\$0
Postage	\$1126	\$1,122	\$4
Law School Externs	\$6200	\$6,200	\$0
Surveyor Contract	\$50,000	\$48,963	\$1,037
Law Clinic Fee Waiver LG	\$4500	\$4,500	\$0
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$1200	\$1,177	\$23
Youth Development and Land Grant Education	144,380	\$141,705	\$2,675
Facility Rental (meetings)	\$1,200	\$1,175	\$25
Totals	\$826,900	\$733,273	\$93,627

** Line items below the UNM IGSA are the Inter-Governmental Services Agreement budget line items specific to Council contract with UNM. All these line items roll up into the total shown for UNM IGSA.*

FY 2023 COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Fiscal Year 2023 the Council held twelve regular monthly meetings and two special meetings. Council meetings are held as hybrid meetings, through use of Zoom, to allow for the public and partners to attend in-person or virtually. The majority of the meetings were held at the UNM Science and Technology Park Executive Board Room, one meeting was held at the UNM School of Law, one at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and one at Northern New Mexico College in Española. FY 2023 Council meeting dates were: July 13, 2022; July 22, 2022; August 25, 2022; September 20, 2022; October 27, 2022; November 29, 2022; December 14, 2022; January 20, 2023; February 17, 2023; March 24, 2023; April 13, 2023; April 20, 2023; May 25, 2023; and June 16, 2023.

Council meeting agendas have standing updates from the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Land Office, New Mexico Congressional Delegation, and Office of the New Mexico Attorney General Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division.

The Council utilizes its meetings not only to interface with federal and state partners, but also to consider issues facing land grants-mercedes, develop policy solutions and set work priorities. As per NMSA 1978, § 49-1-23 the New Mexico Land Grant Council oversees and maintains the official New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry. The Council utilizes its meetings to formally recognize items that have been submitted by land grants-mercedes to the Registry. In FY 2023 the Council processed materials submitted to the Registry for four different Land Grant-Mercedes, which included: Don Fernando de Taos, San Miguel del Bado, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas, and Arroyo Hondo Arriba. Submissions included election and bylaw updates and a comprehensive plan.

Throughout the fiscal year the Council focused its work on a variety of areas. These areas included: direct technical and financial assistance to land grants-mercedes; serving as a liaison for land grants-mercedes with other government entities and dissemination of information; policy review and development at both the state and federal level; and research and related work and youth development work. Additional information about work completed within each category can be found below.

TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES

The Council provides direct technical assistance to land grants in a variety of areas. The goal of this technical assistance is to help land grants to better serve their communities and build their governance capacity. In addition, the Council provided direct financial support to land grants for small projects through the Land Grant Support fund. Below are specific details about direct technical and financial assistance work conducted by the Council in FY 2023.

Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

In FY 2023 a major portion of the Council's focus was on getting land grant-mercedes prepared for eligibility to receive a distribution from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund. This included working with the Department of Finance and Administration Local Government

Division, Office of the State Auditor and State Treasurer's Office to plan for the implementation and administrative procedures required for the first distribution from the Fund. The Council established criteria for determining compliance with statutory requirements for distributions from the fund and developed certifications for land grants to complete as part of the process. The Council disseminated the certifications and provided assistance to land grants showing mercedes how to properly complete them. The Council also assisted land grants with obtaining or correcting their Federal EIN numbers and completing substitute W-9 forms so that they could be set up in the State's financial management system in preparation for a distribution from the Fund. A total of eighteen land grant-mercedes were deemed eligible for a distribution in October of 2022. In accordance income tiers set in the statute, seventeen of the land grant-mercedes receiving a distribution were entitled to a one-hundred percent distribution (\$111,111) and one land grant received a seventy-five percent distribution (\$83,333).

Financial Management and Reporting

In FY 2023 the Council provided direct technical assistance to land grants with preparing and submitting their annual budgets to DFA-LGD-Budget & Finance Bureau through the online Local Government Budget Management System (LGBMS). To accomplish this the Council created a new financial budgeting specialist position through the use of a junior fund appropriation. The financial budgeting specialist provides direct assistance to land grants with preparing and adopting their annual budgets, uploading the approved budget and budget resolutions into LGBMS, preparing and submitting quarterly and year-end budget reports, and preparing and submitting Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) as needed. Submittal of budget became necessary for many land grant-mercedes in FY 2023 as a result of receiving their first annual distribution of money from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund, which placed their annual revenues over the \$50K threshold requirement for the submittal of a budget to DFA-LGD-BFB. Prior to the creation of the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund most land grants had annual budgets well below the \$50K threshold. In total the Council assisted twenty land grants, including: Abiquiú, Don Fernando de Taos; Manzano; Tierra Amarilla; Cristóbal de la Serna; Juan Bautista Baldés; San Joaquín del Río de Chama; San Miguel del Bado; Santa Bárbara; Santo Domingo de Cundiyó; Santa Tomas Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas; Tajique; Torreón; San Antonio de Las Huertas, Town of Tomé, Chililí, Cubero, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas.

Additionally, the Council provided support to land grants with compliance with annual reporting requirements to the Office of the State Auditor, which may include assistance with completion of tier certifications or procurement of a CPA to complete an Agreed-Upon-Procedures (AUP) engagement. Specific support was given to four land grants in FY 2023, including Tecolote, Cristobal de la Serna, Chililí and Tierra Amarilla.

Bonding and Tort Liability Coverage

Throughout FY 2023 the Council work directly with the Risk Management Division (RMD) of the General Services Department to obtain liability coverage for land grants as well as public official's bonds. This work began in the Summer of 2022 where it was determined by RMD that the Council would need to conduct a survey of land grant assets and activities to determine potential liability. The Council developed a spreadsheet survey and sent out to land grants for completion. The returned questionnaires were submitted to RMD in the Fall of 2022. RMD

determined that it would seek coverage options for land grant-mercedes through its brokerage firm. This required that land grants complete a coverage application to obtain premium quotes for coverage. Applications to land grants went out in late fall and were returned to RMD in December. In the spring RMD determined that it needed a different application completed by land grant-mercedes seeking coverage. Simultaneously, applications for public official financial surety bonds were sent out to land grant-mercedes as well. Both sets of applications went out to land grants and were returned to RMD as they trickled in throughout the months of May and June of 2023. Council staff provided support to land grant-mercedes with correctly completing both application forms. The public official surety bonds submittals resulted in the Council being able to obtain bonds for twenty-three individuals from thirteen different land grant-mercedes. The Council funded acquisition of the public officials bonds through use of junior funds appropriated to the Council for provide support to land grant-mercedes. Land grants that received financial support to purchase their bonds included: Cubero, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas, Don Fernando de Taos, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Chililí, Tomé, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Cristobal de la Serna, Manzano, Los Vigiles, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Tierra Amarilla. Unfortunately, the liability coverage cost estimates came in too high to allow the Council to provide one-year of coverage for any of the land grant-mercedes that submitted coverage applications. However, on a positive note RMD determined that they would offer Tort Liability Wavier Coverage in-house to ensure that land grant-mercedes have coverage in the future.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning (ICIP)

In FY 2023 the Council provided assistance to twenty-one land grants with updating their Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans in the DFA-Local Government Division online ICIP database. This included helping land grant-mercedes to update existing projects, create new projects, update project priorities and make any corrections requested by DFA-LGD. Council staff worked closely with DFA-LGD to track submittals and request extensions for land grants when necessary. Assistance with updating ICIPs was provided to the following land grants: Abiquiú; Anton Chico; Cañón de Carnué,; Cebolleta; Chililí; Cristóbal de La Serna; Cubero; Don Fernando de Taos; Juan Bautista Baldés; Manzano; San Antonio de Las Huertas; San Joaquín Río de Chama; San Miguel del Bado; Santa Bárbara; Santo Domingo de Cundiyo; Tajique; Tecolote; Tierra Amarilla; Town of Tomé; Torreón; and Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Trampas.

Capital Outlay Assistance

During FY 2023 the Council provided assistance to twelve land grants relating to capital outlay appropriations. This included assistance with filing new request forms and reauthorization requests in the Legislative Council Services online system, filling out Board of Finance capital outlay appropriation questionnaires to initiate grant agreement process, submittal of disbursement approval letters, notices of obligations and pay requests, updating the projects in the State's Capital Projects Monitoring System, and procurement of services and expenditure of award. Council staff also interface regularly with DFA-LGD and the Board of Finance to trouble shoot any issues related to the award and drawdown of capital outlay dollars. The Council provided capital outlay assistance to the following land grants. Tajique, Anton Chico, Manzano, Don Fernando de Taos, Torreón, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Abiquiú, Chililí, Santa Bárbara, Juan Bautista Baldés, Tierra Amarilla, Town of Tomé, and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants.

Junior Fund Assistance

Several land grant-mercedes received junior fund appropriations from the New Mexico Legislature and requested assistance from the Council to properly expend their funds. The Council provide support and advice to the Anton Chico Land Grant with properly procuring contract services for youth and senior services; the Tajiue Land Grant with preparing and submitting reimbursement requests for the acquisition of property to relocate a waste transfer station; and the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant with preparing and submitting payment requests for upkeep and maintenance projects on the common lands and real property of the land grant.

Election Support

During the fiscal year the Council provided technical support to the San Miguel del Bado, Cristobal de la Serna, Manzano, Tomé and Tecolote Land Grants relating to their board of trustees elections. This work included providing the land grants with instructions and guidelines for running an election in accordance with the statute, as well as sample election materials. It also included assisting two of the land grant-mercedes with the drafting of their election proclamations. Council staff also provided advice and assistance to the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant with preparing and conducting an election to instate a new board of trustees after a several year absence of an active board.

Legal Assistance

The Council continued to provide legal assistance to land grants in variety of ways. First, the Council provided direct legal support to land grants through a service contract with New Mexico Legal Aid. Second, the Council provided support to New Mexico Legal Aid, through research and assistance with coordination of meetings with land grants. Third, the Council provided additional support by funding two law school externs to work directly with New Mexico Legal Aid on land grant legal issues. Fourth, the Council provided funding to the UNM School of Law Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic to cover fees and expenses for land grant related legal work from the clinic. The Council also provided assistance to land grants with the intake process for the Clinic. In total, the Council provided legal assistance and support to eight land grants, including San Antonio de Las Huertas, Manzano, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldés, Tierra Amarilla, Abiquiú, Chililí and Tajiue. Legal assistance ranged from legal advice and contract review to active litigation.

Professional Land Surveyor Services

During the fiscal year the Council contracted with a professional licensed land surveyor, Territorial Land Survey, to provide direct services to land grants-mercedes. The surveyor provided direct services to five land grants. These included the Santa Bárbara, Tajiue, Tiera Amarilla, Tomé and San Joaquín del Río de Chama. In addition, the Council funded the acquisition of orthographic photographic of these land grant communities from the Earth Data Analysis Center at UNM in support of these survey projects.

Land Grant Support Fund

In FY 2023 the Council provide direct financial support to the Cristobal de La Serna, Santa Bárbara and Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grants. Each land grant-merced received a \$5,000 Land Grant Support Fund award in support of their community fuelwood projects. The projects were a collaboration with the Carson National Forest resulting from the excess fuelwood supplies created from the contingency lines cut as part of the Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak Wildfires in 2022. The Forest Service provided both wood and funding to help land grants process and distribute the wood. The Council's funding allowed the land grants to provide a local match for the fuelwood projects. Each land grant was given approximately four-hundred cords of wood in log form, which then needed to be blocked and distributed to the elderly and most in need.

Mercedes Unidas Property (Formerly Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center)

The Council continued to provide support to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tierra Amarilla, and Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant-Mercedes with their development of the Mercedes Unidas property in Rio Arriba County. Work in FY 2023 included assisting the land grant with procurement of an electrical contractor to reinstall and improve power to the site. Council staff helped: coordinate virtual calls with the electrical engineer that designed the project; review request for bid documents; advise on bid and review process; schedule calls with the General Service's Department to help with procurement issues. Staff also provided support to the attorney working with the Land Grant-Mercedes on the transfer of the water rights associated with the property.

Exploring Financing Options for Land Grant-Merced Property Acquisition

The Council provided assistance to the Manzano Land Grant with seeking financing options for the acquisition of 763 acres of former common lands. This once in a lifetime property acquisition is a challenge for the land grant given the purchase price. While the land grant has obtained capital outlay funds to put towards the acquisition it still lacks a sizeable amount to complete the purchase. The Council reached out to NMFA to determine if a loan would be possible given the new revenue stream from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund. In FY 2023 the Council help scheduled meeting between NMFA and the Manzano Land Grant and also helped the Land Grant complete the funding application. The Council simultaneously helped negotiation terms for the acquisition with the seller. Because of the nuances of the Assistance Fund and the NMFA lending policies to date a loan has not yet been approved for the purchase, but Council staff has continued to work with the Land Grant and all parties to try and bring it in to fruition in FY 2024.

Other Governance Support

The Council also provided the following support to individual land grant-mercedes on a one to one basis. The Council: assisted the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant with obtaining an EIN number as a unit of government in order to open a bank account; assisted the Tajique Land Grant with administration of an outdoor recreation grant; assisted the Manzano Land Grant with

gathering necessary information for obtaining a Federal DUNS number; assisted the Santa Bárbara Land Grant and San Joaquin del Río de Chama with the process for generating NTTC certificates on the New Mexico TAP online system. The Council also provided advice and assistance to the Santa Bárbara, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas, Manzano and Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant-Mercedes with the acquisition of property and provided the Manzano and Arroyo Hondo Land Grants with bylaw amendment recommendations. Finally, the Council assisted the Chililí Land Grant with negotiations with Bernalillo County regarding tax exemption on the common lands.

In FY 2023 the Council also began providing direct support to the Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Arroyo Hondo Arriba and San Agustín Land Grant-Mercedes. All three of this land grant-mercedes recently obtained political sub-division status with the passage of HB 268 during the 2023 Legislative Session. Work has included hosting joint and land grant specific training sessions to review requirements under the Land Grant General Provisions (§49-1-1 et seq., NMSA 1978) and for political subdivisions in general, such as the Open Meeting Act, Inspection of Public Records Act and Audit Act.

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LIAISON SUPPORT TO LAND GRANTS MERCEDES

Throughout the fiscal year the Council served as a liaison between land grants and a wide array of federal and state agencies. Below is a breakdown of liaison services provided among the different entities.

Office of the Governor

During fiscal year 2023, the Council provided information to the Governor's Office concerning land grant affairs and activities. Council staff helped coordinate and attended a meeting with Governor Michelle Luján Grisham and land grant and acequia representatives in Española, NM. The Council provided information to the Governor's office during the 2023 Legislative Session concerning land grant priorities. The Council also worked with the Governor's office and coordinated the attendance of land grant leaders for a signing event at the Governor's office for HB 268. Staff also help the Town of Tomé coordinate the grand opening event for their Historic Jail property, which was attended by Governor Luján Grisham.

New Mexico State Legislature

The New Mexico Land Grant Council worked with the Legislative Council Service to coordinate the participation of land grants at Interim Land Grant Committee hearings, which were held in Santa Fe (June 13), Taos (August 18-19), Abiquiú (September 22-23), Chililí (October 20-21) and Santa Fe (November 22). Staff also assisted Taos County land grants (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant) in preparation for August 2022 Interim Land Grant Committee meeting in Taos and provided contacts for the Cerro Negro Project to the LCS for Interim Land Grant Committee hearing in Taos in August. Council staff also provided information regarding the Truchas Land Grant to LCS, and assisted coordinating their attendance at September 2022 interim

LGC hearing, and sent LCS staff contact info for Manzano, Tajiique and Torreon Land Grants as well as the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant U.S. patent, which was used in drafting legislation. Staff also assisted with the set up and coordination of Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day at the New Mexico Legislature on February 2. This work included preparation of Land Grant display posters, printing materials, planning and coordinating the event. Staff also assisted the Speaker of House's staff with coordinating a reception for land grants and acequias at the Palace of the Governor's on Treaty Day. During the report period staff also sent out legislative updates to land grants concerning land grant related legislation making its way through the session. Council staff also arranged a tour and meeting land grants in Rio Arriba and Taos County with New Mexico Speaker of the House of Javier Martinez and other members of the House of Representatives. Council staff also contacted Legislative Council Service regarding reauthorization requests for Capital Outlay funds. Staff also help coordinate land grant elected officials' attendance at opening day of the 2023 Legislative Session.

State Land Office

In FY 2023, Council staff continued to provide liaison between the State Land Office and the land grants of San Miguel del Bado, Chililí, Torreón, Tajiique, Manzano, and Cañon de Carnué relating to Bearcat and Villanueva fuelwood projects on State Trust Lands. This included coordinating and facilitating meetings and site visits. The projects were partnership between the State Land Office and land grant-mercedes to provide fuelwood for the elderly and most-in-need in the respective land grant communities. The projects generated approximately thirty-five cords of wood for each participating land grant community for local distribution.

US Forest Service

Council members and staff visited Washington DC in June 2023 and met with USFS legislative affairs team regarding traditional use legislation. Staff served as a liaison to connect the president of the Santa Barbara Land Grant with the U.S. Forest Service and the State Forester to discuss the option of utilizing the National Guard to help deliver fuel wood from the contingency lines to the communities in need in the region. Staff participated in roundtable discussions with the Carson, Santa Fe and Cibola National Forests and the USFS Regional Office on traditional uses of the forest. In addition, staff shared information from the Carson National Forest regarding the Taos Ski Valley gondola and other improvements draft environmental assessment to Arroyo Hondo Arriba LG. The Council also shares contact information for land grants with USFS offices and disseminates information from the USFS to land grants throughout the state.

Bureau of Land Management

Council members and staff visited Washington DC and visited with the representatives of the Department of Interior, including their legislative staff, regarding traditional use legislation. NMLGC staff member Jacobo Baca was appointed to the BLM's Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. The RAC serves in an advisory capacity concerning the planning and management of the public land resources controlled by the BLM. Council staff presented Land Grant 101 to the Bureau of Land Management state office

and collaborating with the BLM New Mexico State Office, providing land grant contact information for land grants to BLM officials and disseminating BLM news releases to land grants.

Office of the Attorney General

In FY 2023, Council staff prepared for, attended, and participated in opening of New Mexico Attorney General's Land Grant and Acequia Gallery and Repository. This includes selecting and providing copies of maps and historical documents for inclusion in the gallery and making recommendations on books and other materials for inclusion in the gallery. Council staff also provided the FY 2020, 2021 and 2022 NMLGC Annual Reports to NM Office of the Attorney General. Office of the Attorney General – Treaty Division (Ricardo Dow y Anaya, Novela Salazar) regularly attended NMLGC monthly meetings and collaborated with the NMLGC.

Office of the State Auditor

Council staff worked with the Office of the State Auditor on behalf of the Chililí, Don Fernando de Taos, and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants regarding Agreed Upon Procedures contracts, and on behalf of the Manzano, San Miguel del Bado, and Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant regarding Tier Certificates. During the period, staff also met with OSA to discuss the land grants in need of assistance with financial reporting and supported a special legislative appropriation to assist land grants and acequias that are out of financial compliance with past due audits. Staff also worked with the OSA and the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant to create an OSA account and submit their tier certification. Council staff also worked with the OSA to discuss reporting requirements for land grants that become political subdivisions of the state under House Bill 268. Staff also worked with the Office of the State Auditor to create new accounts for the new political subdivision land grants of Arroyo Hondo Arriba and Los Vigiles.

Department of Finance and Administration

In FY 2023, Council staff also contacted DFA to discuss a reauthorization request for the Las Mercedes Unidas Visitors Center, which includes the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tierra Amarilla and Juan Bautista Báldes Land Grants. Staff also reached out to DFA regarding the use of certified market analysis versus a certified market appraisal for the acquisition of property. This resulted from several land grants having property acquisitions held up for new certified appraisal requirement. Council staff also provided liaison assistance to the Town of Tomé Land Grant and other land grants regarding new DFA appraisal requirements for land acquisitions and held meetings with DFA Local Government Division director Wesley Billingsley to discuss the requirement and alternatives. Staff also provide updated contact information to DFA-LGD for the Cristobal de la Serna, Don Fernando de Taos, San Antonio de las Huertas, Tierra Amarilla Land Grants.

Congressional Delegation

In FY 2023, Council Chair Juan Sanchez and Councilor Steve Polaco, accompanied by staff members Arturo Archuleta and Jacobo Baca, travelled to Washington DC to discuss federal legislation, including traditional use legislation, with the New Mexico Congressional

Delegation. The Council visited with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, and Congressman Gabe Vásquez, as well as Senator Ben R. Luján and the office of Senator Martin Heinrich. Staff attended a meeting with the Town of Tomé and the staff of Senator Martin Heinrich to tour the land grants facilities and projects. Staff also helped coordinate and attended a meeting with Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury and the land grants in Congressional District 1 in Carnuel.

General Services Department – Risk Management Department

Council staff worked with worked with the General Services Department’s Risk Management Division to develop a survey for determining insurance coverage needs for land grants-mercedes. Staff collected data from the Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Cañon de Carnué, Cebolleta, Chililí, Cubero, Cristóbal de la Serna, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldes, Manzano, San Antonio de las Huertas, San Joaquín del Rio de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara; Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas; Tajique; Tecolote; Tierra Amarilla; Town of Tomé; and Torreón land grants. Council staff also met with the Risk Management Division regarding land grants obtaining tort liability, property and other coverage as well as public official bonds. Staff also coordinated and attended a meeting with the Risk Management Division and private market provider MARSH to provide land grants with insurance and bonding. Council staff continued to work with the State Risk Management Division and their brokerage firm MARSH to assist land grants with the completion of general liability coverage and public official bond applications. This included contacting individual land grants, assisting them with filling out the applications and submitting them to the state’s insurance brokerage firm for review. Council staff also worked directly with the RMD and MARSH to try and obtain liability insurance coverage and public official bonds. This work included assisting the following land grants with completion of the multiple coverage applications: Cubero, Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de Las Trampas, Don Fernando de Taos; San Joaquin del Rio de Chama; Cañón de Carnué; Santo Domingo de Cundiyo; San Antonio de las Huertas; Chilili; and Manzano. Staff forwarded completed applications to brokerage firm and served as a liaison between the firm and land grants when clarifying questions were needed.

UNM Natural Resource Environmental Law Clinic

Council staff provided liaison services to the UNM Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic. Staff provided liaison support to the Manzano Land Grant relating to their engagement with the UNM Natural Resource Environmental Law Clinic, including assistance coordinating meetings with the Clinic. Council staff also provided support to the law school externs regarding projects with the Abiquiú and San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grants. Staff also assisted coordinating and attending a meeting with incoming clinic students and the land grant.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Council staff provided information to the FEMA relating to land grants communities impacted by the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Wildfire, including information concerning land grants that are political subdivisions of the State. Council Staff also connected the Los Vigiles and

Lower Gallinas Land Grant with the grants liaison coordinator from FEMA relating to post fire recovery after the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire.

Other Liaison Work

In FY 2023, Council staff attended the September, December, March and June quarterly meetings of the New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo, the statewide leadership consortium of land grants. Staff provide updates on Council activities to land grant leaders attending the meeting. Council staff also discussed training, planning, implementation, and a Land Grant Merced Youth Conservation Corps with Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, the Tajique Land Grant, the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant, and the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant. Staff also responded to request for information from Lucia Sanchez, Rio Arriba County manager regarding the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. The Council also provided a governance status letter to the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department Motor Vehicle Division regarding the Chililí Land Grant. The Council also met with the Department of Information Technologies regarding broadband access for land grants and attended a USDA Rural Development event relating to broadband funding opportunities. Staff also helped the Town of Tomé coordinate the grand opening event for their Historic Jail property, staff recorded the event and served as the master of ceremonies.

Staff also served as a liaison between the Manzano Land Grant, Sen. Leo Jaramillo and the Department of Game and Fish to distribute an offer letter concerning the use of the Manzano Lake as a fishing lake for the general public. Council staff also attended additional meetings between the Manzano Land Grant and the Department of Game and Fish concerning a stocking agreement for the Manzano Lake and assisted the Manzano Land Grant with negotiation for a land purchase. Council staff also assisted the 4th Judicial District Court in facilitating a meeting between the Las Vegas, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, San Agustín and San Geronimo Land Grants on in February 2023. Staff also assisted the Chililí Land Grant, setting up a meeting with the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office. Council staff was contacted by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to serve on a panel to review applications for the Healthy Soils Grant. Council staff also contacted the Lower Gallinas and the Los Vigiles Land Grants on behalf of Highlands University's sponsorship for the Landscape Restoration Workshop. Staff also replied to GIS mapping inquiry re: of Land Grants from San Miguel County.

Staff sent information to NM Board of Licensure, Professional Engineer & Professional Surveyors in anticipation of their presentation at the March Council meeting. Staff also provide support to the Cristóbal de La Serna Land Grant with the transition from the previous board of trustees to the new board of trustees. Staff also continued to provide liaison and technical assistance services relating to the Laguna del Campo transfer between the New Mexico Game Commission and the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. Staff also assisted the Manzano Land Grant with reaching out to the USDA Farm Service Administration, USDA Rural Development and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding funding availability for land acquisitions. Staff also attended a meeting with General Services Department to assist the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant with a sealed bid process.

In FY 2023, staff worked with the Manzano Land Grant and the New Mexico Finance Authority regarding completion of a funding application for the Public Purposes Revolving Loan Fund. Staff also coordinated with the Office of the State Engineer to attend the April Council meeting to address concerns of the Santa Bárbara Land Grant regarding the use of water from the Rio Pueblo by Sipapu Ski Area. Staff also provided contact information for the Las Vegas Land Grant to a surveyor looking to comply with survey notice requirements under §61-23-33, NMSA. Council staff also continued contacting the Farm Service Administration to obtain information on loan programs and set up an in-person meeting with the Manzano Land Grant regarding potential loan for purchase of property. Council staff also visited the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority to obtain information on NMFA's loan programs and schedule a call between NMFA and the Manzano Land Grant. Council staff also arranged a meeting with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District regarding the Mercedes Unidas project and a project with the Las Vegas Land Grant relating to King Stadium.

Council staff also provide liaison services to the Manzano Land Grant with the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue regarding a delinquent property tax sales in Tarrant County that included lands within the exterior boundaries of the Manzano Land Grant. This included email correspondence and phone call with the Department concerning the status of one parcel of land believed to be common land of the land grant. Staff also help coordinate a meeting with the Mercedes Unidas Center land grants, Tierra Amarilla, Juan Bautista Baldes and San Joaquin del Rio de Chama and the attorney firm providing legal services relating to ownership structure and management agreements. Staff also serve as a liaison on behalf of the Manzano Land Grant with DFA and NMFA regarding the Land Grant's FY 2023 budget status.

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POLICY WORK

The Council worked on a variety of policy issues at both the federal and state level during Fiscal Year 2023. This included both administrative and legislative policy work. Below is a breakdown of the policy work completed by the Council organized by the level (state/federal), and type (administrative/legislative) of policy work. It is further categorized by entity/agency or policy topic area.

State Administrative Policy work

Community Governance Attorney Commission - Higher Education Department - UNM School of Law

In FY 2023 the Council continued to work with the Community Governance Attorney Commission on the implementation of the Community Governance Attorney Program. This included assistance with the candidate selection process for the 2022-2023 academic year as well as with finalizing the contractor selection for the post graduate work requirements under the program.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture Healthy Soils Program

In this fiscal year report period Council staff served on the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Healthy Soils Program application review committee. This required review and individual scoring of all funding applications submitted to the Program and attendance at review committee ranking meeting. In addition, the Council through its staff representative was able to provide feedback to the Department for making improvements to overall application and funding and process.

30 by 30 Natural Resource Conservation

In Fiscal Year 2023 the Council submitted official comments to the State's 30 by 30 Task Force as part of their public comments process. In addition the Council helped coordinate responses from the Tajiique, Tomé, Santa Bárbara, San Joaquín, Manzano, San Miguel del Bado and Juan Bautista Baldes LGs. Council staff also met with Western Resource Advocates to discuss conservation funding opportunities for land grants-mercedes.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division

During the Fiscal Year the Council worked closely with the to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division of the Office of the State New Mexico Attorney General. The Treaty Division provided regular updates at the Land Grant Council monthly meetings and the Division and Council provided input on Division activities when requested. The Council and the Division worked together to file an amicus brief to the New Mexico Supreme Court in support of a writ of certiorari for a case concerning right-of-way easements for accessing common lands.

State Legislative Policy Work

In fiscal year 2023 the Council continued its work serving as a policy expert for the New Mexico Legislature on all land grant related legislative measures. Council staff attended all of the 2022 Land Grant Interim Committee hearings held in the following locations. August 18-19 – Taos; September 22-23 – Abiquiú; October 20-21 – Chililí; and November 22 – Santa Fe. Council staff provided input at meetings and made formal presentations on its land grant youth programming work, land grant legislative priorities, and implementation of the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund. The Council also drafted, endorsed and presented a draft bill to specifically name in statute all land grants operating as unit of government under the General Provisions. This bill was introduced as HB 33 by Representative Matthew McQueen. The bill ended up getting merged with HB 268 at the tail end of the session. During the FY 2023 Legislative Session Council staff served as an expert witness before House and Senate standing committees for HB 20, HB 33, HB 268 and SB 87 at the request of bill sponsors. Council staff has also provided information to agency and legislative bill analyst concerning those pieces of legislation. The Council Program Manager, Arturo Archuleta, served as a floor expert for HB 33 the House floor and as a floor expert for HB 268 on both the House and Senate floors. The Council also provide information to the Office of the Governor concerning HB 268 after its final passage in the Senate. The Council help coordinate a signing ceremony for the legislation with the Governor's Office that was attended by land grant leaders from throughout New Mexico. Prior to the end of the fiscal year the Council began the legislative policy cycle again by meeting with the incoming 2023 Land Grant Interim Committee

Chair and Vice-Chair to plan for the 2023 Interim Session. The Council will provide the incoming committee leadership input on potential hearing topics and land grant meeting locations.

Federal Administrative Policy Work

United States Forest Service Forest Plans

The Council continued to interface with the United State Forest Service in FY 2023 in support of the implementation of the Forest Management Plans adopted by the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests in the Summer of 2022. This included participating in a panel discussion held by the Carson National Forest and Region 3 of the USFS. The purpose of the panel discussion was to gather input from land grant and acequia communities on how the Forest Service can best partner with traditional communities to implement traditional uses management strategies. Council staff also met with the Forest Supervisors for the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests to discuss project opportunities for providing traditional use resources, such as fuelwood, to land grant-merced communities. The Council also engaged the United State Forest Service Washington D.C. Headquarters Legislative Affairs team, in anticipation of the Council's June 2023 trip to D.C., to discuss the reintroduction of the Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. This resulted in a sit-down meeting with the USFS Legislative Affairs Director in June of 2023 that provided an opportunity for the Council to review agency comments, provide input on the bill's intent and strategize about amendments that could clarify and strengthen bill.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

In FY 2023 the Council's Research Historian, Dr. Jacobo Baca, continued to serve on BLM's Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The role of the RAC is to provide input to the BLM regarding management decision being considered by the Agency. The RAC can also provide input to other federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service for certain topics such as recreational fee increases. Dr. Baca, attended the RAC's only meeting held in FY 2023, in December of 2022. The Council also had a sit-down meeting with the Department of Interior in Washington D.C., during the Council's June 2023 trip, to discuss the reintroduction of Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. In addition, Council staff provided the BLM State Office with a Land Grant 101 training, to help educate BLM employees about both the history of land grants in New Mexico as well as their current status, activities and challenges.

USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service

The Council assisted the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant after they were denied eligibility to apply for a federal NRCS program grant. Land grant-mercedes were made eligible for NRCS programs in the 2018 Farm Bill. In order to correct the mistake the Council reached out to USDA and requested attendance from an NRCS representative at a regular Council meeting. The Council was able to help clarify the issue and open the door for the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant to seek assistance.

Federal Legislative Policy Work

During the fiscal year 2023 the Council continued its work on the Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. The bill passed the House of Representative in the 116th Congress but failed to pass the Senate, in the 117th Congress the bill passed the Senate but did not pass the House. The Council has been working with Senator Ben Ray Luján on the reintroduction of the bill in the Senate and with Congresswoman Teresa Ledger Fernandez for the reintroduction of the bill in the House. The Council has worked with the congressional offices to redraft portions of the bill to increase its chances of passage. The Council has taken the lead on gathering input from land grant leaders on redraft language as it becomes available and provide input to the congressional leads for needed changes. As a part of the efforts to improve the bill language Council members Juan Sánchez and Steve Polaco, traveled to Washington D.C. along with staff to meet with members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation as well as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior to discuss the legislation. The Council has also drafted supplemental materials intended to clarify the bills intent.

In addition, to the traditional use legislation, the Council also engaged with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation offices on other topics. This included providing input concerning the Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak disaster recovery efforts and impact of the fire to the Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas Land Grants. The Council also worked with Senator Lujan's Office to schedule a call with the entire delegation New Mexico and D.C. offices to provide them with updates on federal issues and concerns pertaining to land grant-mercedes in New Mexico. This included road access concerns in the National Forest, the expansion of eligibility for land grant-mercedes for additional programs in the Farm Bill and concerns over a voluntary grazing retirement measure that was being carried by members of the Delegation.

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RESEARCH AND RELATED WORK

Historical Research

During the fiscal year the Council provided research assistance to the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General for the development of a land grant-merced repository and exhibit space at the Attorney General's Santa Fe Headquarters and reviewed NMAG Land Grant and Acequia digital repository. Staff advised the NMAG's office on content and researched and provided digital and hard copies of historical documents and maps representing most active land grants in New Mexico. Council staff also researched place name ('Tavalopa') for Tomé Land Grant, attended meeting of heirs of Santa Cruz de la Canada Land Grant, providing historical resources to the heirs. Staff also provided research support to the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant to assist with their case against a private party, who is claiming and seeking to sell land grant common land. This included a review of FOIA request sent from attorney Joe Lennihan to US Forest Service. The Council also sent maps and shape files to (Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Santiago y San Fernando del Rio de las) Truchas Land Grant board and helped the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant obtain a patent from BLM.

The Council conducted research on founding dates for the Lower Gallinas, Los Vigiles, San Agustín Land Grants to support HB 268, which recognized these sub-grants as political subdivisions of the State. The Council also provided resources for Taji que history to Taji que Land Grant President. Council staff also assisted with preparations for Treaty Day, including poster updates and printing and mounting of posters for the Tierra Amarilla, Abiquiú, Chililí, Juan Bautista Baldés, San Miguel del Bado, San Joaquin del Rio de Chama, Town of Tomé, and San Antonio de las Huertas land grants. Staff also created and edited the final event program and assisted with advertising. Council staff met with Dr. Lezli Levene Harvell and appeared on her podcast episode on the effect of land loss on Mexican Americans and how this is reflected in their foodways. Staff also replied to a research inquiry from a journalist with Searchlight New Mexico and responded to requests for mineral rights reports for Valencia County. Council staff also met with Professor Danna Levin Rojo (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Azcapotzalco, Mexico City) regarding the contemporary history of the land grant movement and provided research and references to a UNM Law School student regarding land grants and mining and researched an inquiry from the BLM and a private party regarding mining on Mesita de Juana Lopez Land Grant.

In FY 2023, the Council also responded to request for information from the Chi Henne Nde about federal tribal recognition and responded to request for information from UNM College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences Center for Southwest Research (archives). During the report period Council staff submitted an article and photo on land grants to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to be included in their newsletter and featured in various news outlets across the state of New Mexico regarding soil health. Council staff presented to New Mexico Agrarian Commons regarding land grants, land tenure, and land ownership in New Mexico. Council staff also served on the review panel for the Healthy Soils Program for 2023 grant submissions. This work included reviewing Healthy Soils Grant applications from individual applicants and entities and participating in a day-long application review workshop for Health Soils Grant Program. The Council also provided assistance to youth from the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant in conducting and recording oral history interviews as part of the Tierra Amarilla youth program and provided assistance to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant in coordinating a tour of UNM Campus for the youth program participants.

In FY 2023, Council staff collaborated with the University of New Mexico's Land Grant Studies Program and New Mexico Highland University's Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations on the Acequia and Land Grant Education project. This included assisting NMHU-CESDP director Adrian Sandoval and report author Diane Torres Velasquez with 2022 Teacher's Institute report. This included sending information (photos, participant counts, materials) and review of ALGE job aid by Center for Positive Practices. Staff also prepared materials for June 2023 ALGE workshops in Peñasco and Española, which included teachers, administrators, students and community members. This included preparing a land grant history presentation and met with participating community members from Peñasco Independent School District on June 8th. Council staff also planned, prepped and hosted a Land Grant and Acequia curriculum building workshop at Northern New Mexico College in Española on June 17.

Staff also prepared the 2023 Land Grant Merced Law Book Update for production by State Printing Office and distribution to all political subdivision land grants. The Council produced 800 copies of the Law Book and distributed 720 directly to land grants.

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

In Fiscal Year 2023 the Council received one-time legislative junior fund appropriations specifically to targeted for youth development programming. The Council utilized this funding to accomplish four youth development initiatives. First, the Council partnered with the Cristobal de La Serna Land Grant to develop a semester long after-school youth cultural development program for middle-school aged youth that focused on the history and traditions of the La Serna community. The program was designed to be an intergenerational nexus for educating the nineteen youth participants about the Comanche dancing traditions of the local communities. Student participants were given instruction about the history of the community and how to perform the dances. They were provided with workshop on designing their costumes and local traditional crafts. The program was conducted at the Taos International School. Student to supplied with costumes and drums and the program culminated with a week-long community event that included intergenerational workshops and a performance. In addition, student and the community were given a screening of the film *The Genízaro Experience* which highlights the mixed indigenous past of many traditional land grant communities. Also, as a part of the project the Comanches de la Serna professionally recorded their traditional songs for use preservation and in the instruction.

Second, the Council sponsored a youth leadership development project targeting high school aged youth in Tierra Amarilla. The semester-long program had seven youth who met bi-weekly to learn about cultural aspects of their community. This included in-the-field learning opportunities where student participants were able to visit local working farms and ranches to learn traditional practices from community elders. Student participants also conducted oral history interviews of elders in the community. Students selected interviewees, were trained on oral history interview techniques, developed interview questions and conducted the interviews. The program culminated with a field trip to the University of New Mexico for a campus visit and tour as well as a visit to the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Third the Council partnered with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District to establish and Land Grant Youth Conservation Corps Project that focused on data collection and mapping for eleven land grants in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. The Project employed eight youth from Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. The youth involved in this project learned to use GPS devices to collect data to create maps and reports pertinent to the Land Grants in Rio Arriba and Taos County. The youth surveyed appurtenances such as: historic sites, boundaries, forested areas, flood zones, illegal dumpsites, acequias, areas of concern, resources (non-natural), natural resources, etc. and took corresponding photographs. The youth learned valuable skills such as: GPS data collection, resource inventory, plant classification, extensive conservation techniques, technical writing, and public speaking skills. The youth also learned computer skills such as: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, creating shapefiles, computer mapping programs like ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Pro, Google Earth, downloading waypoints, and creating maps. The youth develop project reports for each land grants containing the data collected and maps generated. The Land Grants that participated in the project were the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Petaca, Bartolome Sánchez, Tierra Amarilla, Juan Buatista Baldés, Nuestra Señora del Rosario San Fernando y Santiago, Santa Cruz, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas, Cristobal de la Serna, Santa Bárbara and Arroyo Hondo Arriba.

Finally, the Council partnered with the UNM Land Grant Studies Program to host an educator's workshop to develop curriculum on land grants and acequias. The workshop was a day-long and took place in Española at Northern New Mexico College. The workshop included nine educators and resulted in the creation of more than a dozen lesson plans (K-12) relating to land grants and acequias. The lesson plans have been provided to New Mexico Highlands University for inclusion in the Acequia Land Grant Education (ALGE) project. Curriculum from the ALGE project is accessible via the project's website: cesdp.nmhu.edu/index.php/alge-project/

FY 2024 APPROVED BUDGET

In FY 2024 the Council received a \$626,900 legislative general fund appropriation, as well as \$75,000 in Junior Bill appropriations, for a total budget of \$701,900. The junior appropriations are targeted for continued youth programming and continued support to land grants with general operating cost and services. This amount represents a net decrease of \$125,000 in the total legislative funding received by the Council from FY 2023. In FY 2025 the Council is requesting a budget of \$945,240, which represents a 34% increase from the Council’s combined FY 24 base budget and junior appropriations, but only a 14% increase from its FY 2024 funding level. The purpose of the increase is to allow the Council to expand its staff to include natural resources planner and a community and economic development planner. This will all the Council to provide for the expanded level of services available to land grant-mercedes

Table 2 – FY 2024 Approved Budget

Budgeted Revenues		
	Base Budget	\$626,900.00
	SB 192 - Appropriation*	\$75,000.00
Total Budgeted Revenues		\$701,900.00
Budgeted Expenditures		
DFA Admin Fee		\$3,300
Legal Service Contract - New Mexico Legal Aid		\$60,000
Publishing		\$5,000
In State Travel		\$10,500
Out of State Travel		\$7,000
UNM Intergovernmental Service Agreement*		\$616,100
	Staff Salary & Fringe	\$314,741
	Personnel In State Travel	\$7,000
	Personnel Out of State Travel	\$6,500
	Office Supplies (General)	\$564
	Computer Software	\$3,500
	Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers)	\$3,500
	Postage	\$300
	Law School Externs	\$7,000
	Surveyor Contract	\$41,000
	Legal Services Contract	\$6,000
	Quickbooks Training Contract	\$13,400
	Community and Economic Development Contract	\$10,000
	Natural Resources Project Development Contract	\$10,000
	Forest Service Support/YCC	\$4,012
	Law Clinic Fee Waiver LG	\$3,500
	Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$1,200
	Youth Development and Land Grant Education	\$60,000
	Facility Rental (meetings)	\$1,200
	Office Space Rental	\$20,000
	F&A	\$102,683
Total Budgeted Expenditures		\$701,900

**Line items below UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement all roll up into the \$616,100 contract total.*

FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST & JUSTIFICATION

The general purposes of the Council are to establish a land grant support program to provide advice and assistance to land grants and to serve as a liaison between land grants and the federal, state and local governments (49-11-3 (A), NMSA 1978). Currently there are 27 community land grants-mercedes that are political subdivisions of the State, spread across 12 counties in New Mexico. The Council is tasked with providing land grants-mercedes with support and assistance. Community land grant-merced boards of trustees are responsible for managing land grant common lands and community owned assets as well as for looking out for the health, safety, and general welfare of their communities. In addition, boards of trustees are responsible for meeting all statutory requirements delegated to units of government in New Mexico. In 2022, the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund was signed into law which will provide land grants-mercedes with a guaranteed revenue stream beginning in FY 2023. Land grants-mercedes will need assistance properly budgeting, expending and reporting on these new revenues. In total, community land grant boards of trustees manage more than 250,000 acres of common land across the state. The boards of trustees must also protect the interests of their communities on millions of additional acres of former common lands now considered public land managed by various federal and state agencies. Protecting those interests includes ensuring continued access to those public lands for traditional uses such as, timber harvesting, fuelwood and herb gathering, grazing and religious and cultural purposes.

Increasing the Council's budget will ensure that the necessary staffing and professional service contracts are in place to assist community land grants-mercedes with: management and protection of their common lands, community and economic development, expenditure of capital outlay; legal assistance; professional surveying; and compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to units of local government; and development of youth programming for land grants.

Table 3 - Detailed FY 2024 Budget Request Breakdown

Budgeted Line Items	
DFA Admin Fee	\$3,300
Legal Service Contract - New Mexico Legal Aid	\$60,000
Publishing	\$5,000
In State Travel	\$12,800
Out of State Travel	\$6,500
UNM Inter-Governmental Services Agreement*	\$857,640
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$480,050
Personnel In State Travel	\$8,000
Personnel Out of State Travel	\$6,500
Office Supplies (General)	\$1,410
Computer Software	\$1,500
Computer Supplies	\$540
Non Capital Equipment <\$5,001	\$1,500
Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers)	\$7,500
Business Food	\$1,200
Postage	\$300
Law School Externs	\$6,200
Surveyor Contract	\$45,000
Law Clinic Fee Waiver LG	\$3,500
Copies, Printer Maintence	\$1,800
Youth Development and Land Grant Education	\$100,000
Accounting Software for Land Grants	\$13,500
Facility Rental	\$36,200
F&A	\$142,940
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$945,240

**Line items below UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement all roll up into the \$857,640 contract total.*

FY 2025 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE

DFA Administrative Fee - \$3,300

Purpose: To provide Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division an opportunity to recuperate costs associated with financial administration and oversight of the New Mexico Land Grant Council activities conducted by DFA-LGD in accordance with the Council being administratively attached to DFA.

Benefit: Administrative fees provides the Council with administrative support to handle indirect administrative overhead costs such as process financial expenditures.

Deliverable: Processing of: per diem and mileage for Council members; Payments to third party contractors and vendors as requested by the Council.

Legal Services Contract - \$60,000

Purpose: Provide legal support and assistance to land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: To provide legal services to land grant-mercedes necessary to properly utilize and protect the common lands of the land grant-merced. This includes issues relating to real property disputes, contracts and negotiations, legal research and advice, compliance with federal and state law, and policy formulation. Funds would be utilized to contract legal services for land grant-mercedes.

Deliverable: On-call legal services contract for support to the Council and land grant-mercedes as designated by the Council.

Publishing/Book Purchases - \$5,000

Purpose: To publish/purchase books/materials for distribution to land grant-mercedes, elected officials, federal and state agencies and to the general public.

Benefit: Publication/purchase of books/materials that increase capacity of land grant-mercedes and provide information about land grant-mercedes to other relevant entities.

Deliverables: Publication/purchase of book/materials relating to land grant-mercedes during the fiscal year.

In-State Travel Mileage & Per Diem for Council - \$12,800

Purpose: Provides funding for the Land Grant Council members to receive mileage and per diem for meetings.

Benefit: Funding will allow the Council to meet at least monthly in order set policy and provide direction to Council staff in the fulfillment of the Council's statutory requirements under 49-11-1 through 49-11-5, NMSA 1978. This includes:

- (1) facilitate the exchange of experience and advice among land grants;
- (2) serve as a liaison between land grants and federal, state and local agencies;
- (3) promote cooperation between land grants and, by consultation and advice, assist in the coordination of land grant programs;
- (4) provide board development opportunities and technical assistance to the governing boards of land grants;
- (5) provide short- and long-range planning assistance to land grants;
- (6) conduct training sessions for land grants on topics of interest, such as: (a) local, state and national zoning trends and concerns and other land - use issues; (b) state requirements for political subdivisions on such topics as open meetings, public records, procurement, risk management, tort claims and financial account ability; and conservation; (c) techniques of historical research; (d) grant writing; (e) economic development strategies; (f) rangeland management and water;
- (7) disseminate information to relevant federal, state and local agencies on land grant issues and activities and, when requested, on the status of individual land grants;
- (8) review state and federal policies, plans and legislation affecting land grants in New Mexico;

Deliverable: 12 regular meetings and any necessary special meetings of the New Mexico Land Grant Council.

Out-of-State Travel & Per Diem for the Council - \$6,500

Purpose: Provides funding for the Land Grant Council members to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with congressional offices, federal executive branch agencies and to provide testimony before congressional committees on issues and legislation pertaining to land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: Funding will allow the Council to meet its statutory mission, as found in §49-11-4-C-8, which is to develop and promote federal legislation for an

appropriate congressional response to longstanding community land grant claims in New Mexico.

Deliverable: At least one trip to Washington D.C. during the fiscal year.

University of New Mexico Intergovernmental Service Agreement - \$857,640

Purpose: Provide staffing and other administrative support to the New Mexico Land Grant Council.

Benefit: Allows the Council to fulfill its statutory mission through contracted services.

Deliverables: Details about specific deliverable will be broken down below by Intergovernmental Services Agreement budget line items.

Staff Salary & Fringe - \$480,050

To provide staff positions to support the Council in fulfillment of its mission to provide a program of support to land grant-mercedes. The positions would consist of: principal investigator, program director, research historian/archivist; land grant community based research specialist; unit administrator; conservation specialist, community development planner; Graduate internship. Several positions (program manager, research historian, youth and land grant support coordinator, administrative assistant) will be shared positions with the University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program. Therefore, only a portion of the salary for these positions will be covered by the Council. Below are additional details about the positions, including amount needed for each position, purpose, benefit and deliverable for each. All staff will also provide general administrative support to the Land Grant Council as needed in the areas of drafting agendas, securing meeting locations, posting meetings notices, development of meeting minutes, coordinating activities with the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), programmatic administration of Land Grant Support Fund, oversee and administer contracts awarded by the Council, develop correspondence on behalf of the Council and disseminate information to land grants and to other entities as needed.

A. Program Director (.82 FTE)- \$72,172

Purpose: The program director oversees day to day operations, supervises all Council employees, works on policy analysis and development of federal and state policies relating to land grants and represents the Council in meetings with state and federal agencies. The program manager also ensures that Council resources are fully utilized, and that the Council's mission is fulfilled.

Benefit: Provide oversight of day-to-day operations of the Council to ensure accomplishment of statutory mission; provide policy analysis, development and recommendations that will have positive impacts on land grant-mercedes; serve

as main point of contact for Council with state and federal agencies; Ensure compliance with Intergovernmental Services Agreement terms and conditions.

Deliverables: Ensure completion of annual report to Governor and Legislature; ensure the proper expenditure of New Mexico Land Grant Council annual budget; ensure needed services are being provided land grant-mercedes statewide; Ensure that state and federal policies affecting land grants are reviewed and that the Council provides official responses; Ensure that the Council and land grant-mercedes are represented at relevant meetings and during official government required processes; Ensure all administrative steps necessary at UNM are completed to allow for execution of all Intergovernmental Services Agreement objectives.

B. Research Historian (.65 FTE) - \$52,077

Purpose: The research historian will oversee the New Mexico Land Grant Registry, conduct historical research on land grants as it pertains to policy analysis or legal services as well as provide direct support to land grant-mercedes with archiving their grant documentation. The research historian will serve as the custodian of records for the Council and will be in charge of keeping minutes of the Council meetings. The research historian also represents the Council in meetings with state and federal agencies.

Benefit: Provide accurate record keeping for the New Mexico Land Grant Registry and New Mexico Land Grant Council. Provide historical research to support policy initiatives of the Council. Provide support to land grant-mercedes with historical research and archiving their records. Serves as a point of contact for Council with state and federal agencies.

Deliverables: Maintain and update the New Mexico Land Grant Registry records and issue letters of receipt to land grant-mercedes for documents received by the registry; completion of monthly New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting minutes in timely manner; Ensure compliance with the Inspection of Public Records Act; assist at least 2 land grant-mercedes with historical research or archiving services. Helps to ensure that state and federal policies affecting land grants are reviewed and that the Council provides official responses; Helps to ensure that the Council and land grant-mercedes are represented at relevant meetings and during official government required processes.

C. Unit Administrator (.25 FTE)- \$14,770

Purpose: The Administrative assist will provide administrative support to the Council and staff throughout the fiscal year.

Benefit: To assist with the processing of council related expenditures including payroll and equipment and supply purchases, etc.

Deliverable: Administrative support during the fiscal year.

D. Land Grant Community Based Research Specialist (.7 FTE) - \$40,538

Purpose: To coordinate direct technical assistance to land grants with: completion of ICIP's; expenditure of capital outlay; and assistance to Land Grant Support Fund award recipients.

Benefit: To help land grants more effectively and efficiently plan and complete capital projects.

Deliverables: Provide assistance to at least: 10 land grants with completion of ICIP; 5 land grants with expenditure of Capital Outlay appropriations; 4 land grants with Land Grant Support Fund sponsored projects.

E. Land Grant Accounting Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$72,345

Purpose: To provide assistance to land grants with financial management including budgeting and financial reporting requirements.

Benefit: Ensure land grants comply with state budgeting and financial reporting requirements and have sound financial management procedures.

Deliverables: Provide assistance to at least: 15 land grants with completion of annual budgets, quarterly budget reports, and Audit Act Tiered-System financial reporting requirements.

F. Conservationist Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$50,400

Purpose: To direct technical assistance to land grants with management of natural resources including: planning and implementation of projects, applying for and administering natural resources management funding and developing GIS mapping for land grants.

Benefit: To help land grants more effectively and efficiently manage their common lands and natural resources.

Deliverables: Provide assistance to at least: 5 land grants with natural resources management concerns and projects and develop GIS maps as needed for distribution to land grants and the general public.

G. Community Development Planner (1.0 FTE) – \$50,400

Purpose: To provide community and economic development planning and implementation services to land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: To help land grants develop and implement community and economic development projects that will benefit the local community and region.

Deliverables: Provide community and economic planning and development services to at least 4 land grants throughout the fiscal year.

H. Graduate Internship – \$7,650

Purpose: To provide support for land grant youth development activities.

Benefit: To provide support to on-site land grant youth projects geared toward leadership development programming for youth.

Deliverables: Provide at support to at least 1 on-site land grant youth leadership program and coordinate youth YCC projects.

I. Fringe Benefits - \$119,698

Purpose: To cover employer portion of federal and state payroll salary deductions, employee health insurance and other employee benefits.

Benefit: Provide employee benefits as required by law.

Deliverables: Ensure compliance with federal and state deduction requirements.

Personnel Travel In-State – \$8,000

Purpose: Travel throughout New Mexico to provide direct technical assistance to eligible community land grants and to attend meetings with state and federal agencies, legislative hearings and other land grant council related business.

Benefit: Ability for Council staff to provide direct assistance to land grants in their communities. Also provides Council staff the ability to attend land grant related meetings around the state.

Deliverables: Attend meetings of: land grant boards of trustees; federal and state agency partners; attend meetings of the Legislative Land Grant Interim Committee and other legislative hearings; provide in the field direct assistance to at least 8 eligible community land grants; attend NM Land Grant Council meetings located outside of Albuquerque;

Out-of-State Travel – Personnel - \$6,500

Purpose: Provides funding for the Land Grant Council staff to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with congressional offices, federal executive branch agencies and to provide testimony before congressional committees on issues and legislation pertaining to land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: Funding will allow the Council to meet its statutory mission, as found in §49-11-4-C-8, which is to develop and promote federal legislation for an appropriate congressional response to longstanding community land grant claims in New Mexico.

Deliverable: At least 1 trip to Washington D.C. during the fiscal year.

Office Supplies General - \$1,410

Purpose: To purchase necessary office supplies, office keys and security codes.

Benefit: Provide materials necessary such as copy paper, staples, paper clips, office equipment, etc., related to supporting the Council and land grant-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

Deliverables: Ability to produce work products by the Council directly to land grant-mercedes or for distribution to land grant-mercedes, federal and state agencies and the general public.

Parking Permits - \$300

Purpose: To acquire parking passes for UNM main campus.

Benefit: To allow for parking for official council business including for visitors to the Council offices at UNM.

Deliverables: Provide free parking for all visitors to the Council offices.

Computer software and supplies - \$1,500 & \$540

Purpose: To purchase computer software, computer supplies relating to the conduct of Council business.

Benefit: Provide software and equipment necessary related to supporting the Council and land grant-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

Deliverables: Ability to conduct work by the Council staff.

Non-Capital Equipment - \$1,500

Purpose: To purchase necessary office equipment.

Benefit: Provide necessary office equipment related to supporting the Council and land grant-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

Deliverables: Ability to conduct work by the Council staff.

Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers) - \$7,500

Purpose: To purchase computers.

Benefit: Provide computers for staff necessary to supporting the Council and land grant-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

Deliverables: Ability to conduct work by the Council staff.

Postage - \$300

Purpose: To purchase necessary postage relating to the conduct of Council business.

Benefit: Provide for mailing of materials such as Land Grant Registry receipt letters and materials distributed to land grant-mercedes throughout the year.

Deliverables: Disseminate information to community land grants, federal and state agencies and the general public via mail.

Graduate Interns – Law Student(s) - \$6,200 for 2 students

Purpose: To provide additional legal support to land grants through internship with students from UNM School of Law, while at the same time providing exposure of law students to land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: Low-cost legal assistance to land grants while utilizing internships to vet students for placement in the Community Governance Attorney Program, which provides loan forgiveness for 3rd year law students that commit to serve as a community governance attorney for two years after passing the BAR exam.

Deliverables: Provide at least 2 law student interns to work directly with the Council's legal services provider, there-by increasing amount of legal assistance to land grant-mercedes.

Surveyor Contract - \$45,000.00

Purpose: To provide professional surveying services to land grant-mercedes to properly locate boundaries of existing common lands in order to decrease illegal encroachments and to review surveys conducted by private parties within or adjacent to exterior boundaries of land grant-mercedes.

Benefit: Since the original patent boundary surveys were completed of the exterior boundaries of land grants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, few land grants have had the means to conduct boundary surveys for lands within the exterior boundaries. As a result, most surveys within the exterior boundaries have been conducted by private individuals, often times to the detriment of the common lands.

Deliverables: Provide surveying services to at least 2 land grants throughout the fiscal year.

UNM Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic (NRELC) Fees - \$3,500

Purpose: To cover minimal client and materials fee for land grant-mercedes receiving assistance from UNM Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic.

Benefit: Give land grant-mercedes access to free legal services from UNM Law School students while providing law students an opportunity to practice law and learn about land grant-mercedes.

Deliverables: Cover the client and materials fee for land grant-mercedes receiving services from the NRELC throughout the fiscal year.

Printing and Copy Maintenance - \$1,800

Purpose: To maintain copy machine through a maintenance service contract.

Benefit: Allow for coping of materials related to conducting business of the Council and for providing land grants with copies of materials as requested.

Deliverables: In house production of small-scale materials produced by the Council for use in daily operations and distribution to land grants and general public. Provide copying services to at least 4 land grant-mercedes throughout the fiscal year.

Youth Development & Land Grant Education - \$100,000

Purpose: To provide funding for on-site land grant youth leadership development programs, Land Grant Youth Conservation Corps opportunities and a teacher's/student summer institute.

Benefit: Provide opportunities for land grant youth to engage in culturally relevant educational opportunities that develop leadership skills; provide opportunities for land

grant youth to participate in conservation projects in land grant communities that help protect and preserve land grant-merced natural resources and community assets; provide education enrichment, professional development and curriculum development opportunities for practicing educators and students.

Deliverables: 2 on site year-long youth development programs in two land grant-merced communities; 5 weeks of work from a 5-person youth work crew; 1 teacher/student 3 day institute.

Facility Rental - \$36,200

Purpose: Allows the Council to pay for rental of office space and for monthly Council meetings.

Benefit: Provides adequate office and meeting space for council staff and monthly meetings of the Council..

Deliverable: One year of office rental space for staff and hold 12 regular monthly meetings of the Council as well as any necessary special meetings throughout FY 2024.

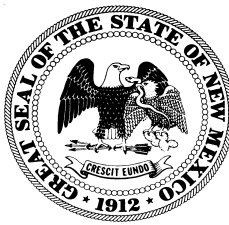
Facilities and Administration Fee to University of New Mexico -\$142,940

Purpose: To allow the Council to enter into an agreement with the University of New Mexico for administrative and support services related to fulfilling the Council's mission. Approved F & A rate for contracts between the University of New Mexico and the Department of Finance and Administration is 20%.

Benefit: F & A provides the Council with general administrative support from UNM.

Deliverable: Hosting of Council website; administrative support for Council, staff and Council approved contracts; e-mail and internet access for Council and staff; general accounting and grants management services, purchasing and procurement services, access to legal services related to IGSA.

APPENDIX 1
FY 2024 MEETING AGENDAS



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting,

UNM School of Law Library, King Room, 1117 Stanford Dr. NE

Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 990 5256 5363

July 13, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022 meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
11. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Open Meetings Act Resolution
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Santa Bárbara Land Grant
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Funding
17. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
19. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
23. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
24. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
25. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
26. Public Comments – discussion only
27. Miscellaneous Announcements
28. Date and Location for August Council Meeting
29. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

SPECIAL MEETING

Virtual Meeting,

Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 937 5804 0159

July 22, 2022 – 2:30 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget
4. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2024 Budget Request
5. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting,

UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board Room,

851 University Blvd. SE

Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 982 3879 9107

August 25, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2022 Regular meeting & July 22, 2022 Special Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update – Including Wood Innovation Program Presentation
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Update
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
23. Public Comments – discussion only
24. Miscellaneous Announcements
25. Date and Location for September Council Meeting
26. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

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COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting,

UNM Continuing Education, South Building - Room 113

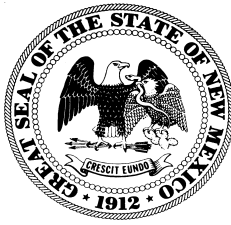
1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Zoom – Meeting I.D. –950 2984 8998

September 20, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Appointment of Vice Chair
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Update
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
24. Public Comments – discussion only
25. Miscellaneous Announcements
26. Date and Location for October Council Meeting
27. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

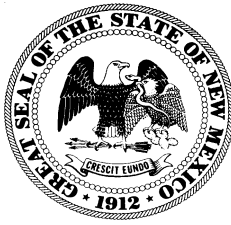
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

**In-Person + Virtual Meeting,
UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board Room,
851 University Blvd. SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 936 1796 5382
October 27, 2022 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budgets
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Update
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
23. Public Comments – discussion only
24. Miscellaneous Announcements
25. Date and Location for November Council Meeting
26. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

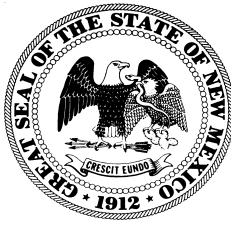
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

**In-Person + Virtual Meeting,
UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board Room,
851 University Blvd. SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 984 4295 8269
November 29, 2022 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 27, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Update
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
24. Public Comments – discussion only
25. Miscellaneous Announcements
26. Date and Location for December Council Meeting
27. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Physical: 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

**In-Person + Virtual Meeting,
UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board Room,
851 University Blvd. SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 938 2330 1468
December 14, 2022 – 11:30 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 29, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Update
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
24. Public Comments – discussion only
25. Miscellaneous Announcements
26. Date and Location for January 2023 Council Meeting
27. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 **Physical:** 1829
Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

**In-Person + Virtual Meeting,
UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board
Room, 851 University Blvd. SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 922 0894 9911
January 20, 2023 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by FEMA
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests - SMDB
17. Discussion and Possible Action on United States v. Sandoval
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
24. Public Comments – discussion only
25. Miscellaneous Announcements
26. Date and Location for February 2023 Council Meeting
27. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

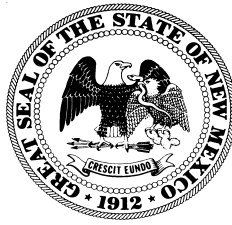
Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 **Physical:** 1829
Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

**In-Person + Virtual Meeting,
UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board
Room, 851 University Blvd. SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 915 8677 2807
February 17, 2023 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2022 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute/Land Grant Studies Program Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
22. Discussion and Possible Action DC Trip
23. Public Comments – discussion only
24. Miscellaneous Announcements
25. Date and Location for April Council Meeting
26. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

Northern New Mexico College

Joseph Montoya Administration Building – Boardroom

921 N. Paseo de Oñate, Española, NM 87532

Zoom – Meeting I.D. –963 2400 6911

March 24, 2023 – 11:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests – Welcome from Northern NM College
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2023 Regular meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action, Presentation by NM Board of Licensure for Prof. Surveyors – Perry Valdez
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
21. Public Comments – discussion only
22. Miscellaneous Announcements
23. Date and Location for April Council Meeting
24. Adjournment

MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



JUAN SANCHEZ
CHAIRMAN
ANDREA PADILLA
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN

New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131
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COUNCIL MEETING

**UNM Science & Technology Park, Executive Board Room,
851 University Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
April 13, 2023– 9:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 and FY 2024 Budgets
5. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

National Hispanic Cultural Center

Intel Visual Arts Building - Executive Conference Room

1701 4th St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Zoom – Meeting I.D. –992 2538 8913

April 20, 2023 – 9:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests – Welcome from Zack Quintero, Interim Director, NHCC
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2023 - Regular Meeting & April 13 – Special Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns – Presentation by John Romero, OSE
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
21. Public Comments – discussion only
22. Miscellaneous Announcements
23. Date and Location for May Council Meeting
24. Tour of NHCC
25. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

UNM Continuing Education South Building, Room 106

1634 University Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87131

Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 992 0134 1237

May 25, 2023 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2023 meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update – Including S. 2980 opposition letter request; D.C. Trip Update; Farm Bill Programs; Land Grant Interim Committee 2023 Session
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
21. Public Comments – discussion only
22. Miscellaneous Announcements
23. Date and Location for June Council Meeting
24. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 **Physical:** 1829 Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu
♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 998 3442 9792
June 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2023, regular Council meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update – Including Cooperating Agency Approval
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation on Northern Central New Mexico Economic Development District Programs, by Vidal Gonzales
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023, FY 2024 & FY 2025 Budgets
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including IBR
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
22. Public Comments – discussion only
23. Miscellaneous Announcements
24. Date and Location for July Council Meeting
25. Adjournment

APPENDIX 2
FY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
July 13, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 960 8191 0445

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:13am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Rebecca Correa Skartwed, Leonard Martínez, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Novela Salazar (NM Attorney General's Office); A. J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Ashley Wright (USFS); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Sofia Sanchez (Rep. Melanie Stansbury); Eric Romero (NMHU); James Durán (Forest Sup. - Carson NF); Julie Anne Overton (PAO, Santa Fe NF). Barbara Romero (Office of Representative Yvette Herrell); Jennifer Ruyle (USFS – BAER Team); Alfonso Duran; Melinda Evans (San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant heir); Anna Jaramillo Scarborough (Regional BAER Coord., USFS); Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara Land Grant).

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP staff) stated that item 18 is repeated and can be deleted from the agenda.

Councilor Rebecca Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye
Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
Councilor Martínez - aye
Councilor Polaco - aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the June 15, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Leonard Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
Councilor Martínez - aye
Councilor Polaco - aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's office is trying to get a markup from the House Natural Resource Committee on the Land Grant-Merced Traditional Use Bill (H.R. 5493). Congresswoman Leger Fernández is working on fire recovery and is supportive of fuelwood projects by the land grant communities and the Council. She will not make the opening of the NMAG's Gallery and Repository but will send a congratulatory greeting. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that S. 2708 is going to markup, but it has been pushed to end of July from June. Mr. Archuleta reported that he is waiting to hear back from markup

State

The Interim Committee won't meet until their August meeting in Taos hosted by the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant. Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant president Joaquín Argüello stated that he would like to host the meeting at their campgrounds but will scheduled facilities if it is not possible.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service

Jennifer Ruyle (USFS) reported that the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon burned area reseeding contract is out for contractor, as is the reseeding contract for the McBride Fire. Road work is starting and storm patrols are at work after the storms. There may be opportunity for road work and fence work for local workers/contractors. She commented that perhaps the NMLGC may help local contractors up and running for hazard tree felling and fence building. The USFS is working on acquisition abilities to get goods and services deployed in timely manner. Jack Lewis (USFS) reported that there are 5,000 cords of fuelwood on the line, 3,000 more cords to come off the line later. Cords of fuelwood have been sent to Picurís Pueblo, the Las Trampas Land Grant and the Santa Bárbara Land Grant. The Truchas Land Grant, Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant and communities of Mora and Las Vegas have received cords as well. The USFS met with the NM National Guard are excited to assist but need support for loading and offloading and are working with the New Mexico State Forestry Division for assistance. Currently the USFS is focusing on flood control and commercial haulers are operating to move as much as possible. Later smaller local contractors and the public will gain access.

James Duran (Carson NF supervisor - USFS) commented that the plan for recovery continues to be modified for the ever-changing environment. Priority was first to remove hazardous fuels – first was to move hazardous fuels from the contingency sites, finding distribution sites for fuelwood throughout small communities. Goal 1 was to remove fuel from the contingency line and involved looking for landings and yards until distribution site. Goal 2 is the distribution to sites within the community. Fuelwood is important as the forest was closed for considerable time, which added to need. The highest priority is for Mora, San Miguel and Taos counties and those areas most effected. People are asking who sawmills are gaining access first and this is because of logistics

and capacity because of weather. This is phase 1 and will take time. It includes an interest in bringing back local industry and to put people back to work and onto the landscape. Personal firewood forests areas are open now and more area will be opened. Environmental partners asking about roads, when they will be closed. The intent is to remove fuelwood associated with line and to repair to a pre-fire state and close roads. This work will continue across the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest and Mr. Durán will be the supervisor of both the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests for the next 120 days.

Bonifacio Vásquez (president, Santa Bárbara Land Grant) stated that the Camino Real Ranger District is closed, and people are turning to poaching wood. James Durán stated that the entire district is not closed, mostly areas around NM 518 where there might be closed because of flooding a risk that could take lives. Fuelwood permits are now being sold and permits are being sold at all district offices. Mr. Vásquez commented that the Trampas area is now open, and the land grants hope that they continue the fuelwood project in the NEPA cleared area. The Trampas and Santa Bárbara Land Grants were working on a project for stewardship blocks in Ojito area near Chamisal. Taos County approved \$30,000 of funding to assist with the distribution of fuelwood from the Calf Canyon – Hermits Peak Fire three weeks ago, but getting the document signed, to the U.S. Forest Service, and back has been impossible. He commented that he deals with people asking why they cannot get firewood.

Mr. Durán responded that until all fire related operations are done, including work on the contingency lines, areas of the forest service will be closed to the general public. He added that he will look into the delay in processing the government-to-government agreement, which is unfortunately the nature of the bureaucratic process. His focus now is looking forward – more permits, more access, and better coordination. Joaquín Argüello (president, Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant) commented that the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant is collaborating informally with Taos Ski Valley on thinning project like the Cerro Negro project. He visited with JR Logan and others to Taos Ski Valley. Rather than taking lumber to lumber mill to Colorado mill owned by TSV owner, he suggested drop some wood off for community on the way to their mill. The issue is managing the project. At Cerro Negro, the community has used the mayordomo model and they have asked Taos County to collaborate and provide funding for a mayordomo. Mr. Durán responded that the real challenge for the southwest is transportation.

Councilor Martínez added that the degrading of the logging industry in our communities has made firewood and transporting it an issue. This was an issue before the fire and even more so after the fire. Now we have to rely on the state of New Mexico to transport the fuelwood, because small communities no longer have the capacity for this anymore – there have not been enough contracts. He asked how the National Guard plans to do this transport and doubted their capacity. Mr. Vásquez responded that the National Guard will fulfill their mission, this on being transporting fuelwood. Councilor Padilla added that if land grants are starting to get money from the State they could pool their money into a collective and pay for some of these projects for the greater community benefit. Mr. Archuleta added that \$80,000 is going to be given to the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant and perhaps they can use Mr. Vásquez's idea/plan as a model.

Mr. Bonifacio Vásquez presented, stating that the Santa Bárbara Land Grant found out that the State Engineer gave Sipapu permission to use water from Rio Pueblo in excess of their water rights. There have been years of (problems) with fuelwood and our people are suffering, and the

Forest Service owes us answers. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant is working towards processing the wood in the Taos County Rodarte Yard, but there have been so many problems with the processing. The Grant does not have the funding right now to deal with these issues. Mr. Vásquez has been looking for other options and bids to process the 300 cords of wood. Over 400 residents in need of fuelwood and there has been little accountability in getting this fuelwood to residents. Taos County employees helped themselves to cords. He also expressed his frustration that the areas parcientes did not have access to water to prepare for the fire while Sipapu was allowed to use water. Mr. Vásquez recommended that the Land Grant Council write a letter to the State Engineers Office inquiring why they circumvented the laws of New Mexico in allowing Sipapu to use water in excess of their permit. He also asked that the Council send a request to the Carson National Forest to inquire about Sipapu's special use permits. He also requested a letter supporting a Taos County request (written by Taos County WUI coordinator J. R. Logan) requesting additional funding from the federal government for fuelwood.

Mr. Vásquez continued that the USFS has given many excuses for not issues fuelwood permits in a timely and accessible manner, from the federal budget and government shutdowns in 2019, COVID in 2020-2021, and now the fire in 2022. The USFS needs to acknowledge suffering that communities are undergoing. On June 6, 2022, the Santa Bárbara Land Grant requested \$10,000.00 from Taos County; on June 11, 2022, the Grant requested \$1,500.00 from Land Grant Consejo and on June 29, 2022, the request to Taos County was increased to \$25,258.00 from Taos County and on July 11, 2022, increased to \$37,800.00. The Grant also pursued federal Infrastructure Bill Funding, the Good Neighbor Program and 399 Monies from Taos County. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps was approached and asked for \$53,000 to process, which was too expensive for Taos County. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant and Trampas Land Grant is collaborating on three fuelwood projects, including the Ojito project with funding (\$30,000) from the New Mexico State Forestry Division and continuing the Copper Mountain project from the previous year. Mr. Vásquez requests that the Congressional Delegation to hold agencies accountable to serving the communities affected by the fire, which did not happen at Cerro Grande. He asks that they change the agency policy in prescribed burns and focus on harvesting fuelwood. Environmentalists are worried about roads created to fight the fire, wanting them to be closed, but communities need them open to enjoy and clean forest.

Mr. James Durán responded that Region 3 Regional Forester Michiko Martin is committed to the fire recovery effort and that U.S. Forest Service personnel are trying to work with and serve the community. Joaquín Argüello asked Mr. Durán if he would address Mr. Vásquez concerns as director of the both the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest. Mr. Durán responded that he cannot guarantee as there are too many unknowns. There are priority areas, like the Enchanted Circle Project and the Rio Chama CFLRP and community projects like the Cerro Negro function well because they are designed by the community.

Clifford Villa introduced himself and welcomed the Council. He is a law professor at the UNM School of Law and supervisor of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program and is working on providing services to victims of New Mexico's wildfires. To that end, the UNM Law School is hosting a clinic to help FEMA applicants at NMHU on Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that the crew is no longer working as the crew leader quit and remaining crew members elected to not join other crews. We are unsure how this will affect the Bearcat project. He is working to schedule a meeting with Mr. Joe Benito Chávez on the San Miguel del Bado SLO Project.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the Canjilón BLM fuelwood permit event was not very successful and the USFS suggested a location closer to Tierra Amarilla. She stated that the Northern RAC is attempting to schedule a date for their meeting. Melanie Barnes, the new state director, will attend. Ms. Morrison also suggested doing a call with Alyssa Durán of the BLM and Mr. Bonifacio Vásquez to see how BLM might assist in fuelwood concerns in the Peñasco area.

9. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal

The Town of Tome Land Grant will potentially be affected by a Natural Resources Overlay Zone (NROZ), if passed by Valencia County. The zone is designed to access resources, not protect them, and includes surface and subsurface uses. Proposed action by the Valencia County Commission includes amendments to the NROZ, which trumps all other zoning and uses, including the comprehensive plan. The NROZ would allow reclamation where oil and gas developers can use fracked water and dump it, an act that concerns water users in the County. This is a potential issue since comprehensive plans go through a more thorough public input and planning process. Councilor Padilla stated that the protection of water is a major concern for the Town of Tomé Land Grant. It is disconcerting that, in the middle of drought, when farmers cannot use water (by direction of the MRGCD), oil and natural gas developers would be allowed to use water with decreased regulations. The Grant is also concerned of potential drilling near Tomé Hill and are concerned that the overlay zone does not have a sunset clause. The County could instead invest in the repair of infrastructure, including roads and when the Grant asked for information to protect greenbelt area, they were told that 75% of landowners needed to approve. How would oil and gas development, promoted by the NROZ, effect solar and wind energy, or other important economies like tourism? The Town of Tomé Land Grant has submitted a letter in advance of the hearing July 14, 2022, Valencia County Commission hearing.

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion that NMLGC staff write a letter to Valencia County, expressing its concern and in support of the Town of Tomé Land Grant's opposition to the NROZ; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – abstained
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Division) stated that the opening of NMAG's Land Grant and Acequia Gallery and Repository would take place on July 15, 2022, from 1-2pm.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Open Meetings Act Resolution

Mr. Archuleta presented and Council members discussed the FY 2023 Open Meetings Act Resolution. Councilor Martínez made a motion to adopt the FY 2023 Open Meetings Act Resolution, 2023-001; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Santa Bárbara Land Grant

See above, page 3, under *Discussion and Action on U.S. Forest Service Update*

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveying Services Contract Update and Requests

Councilor Correa-Skartwed made a motion to approve Territorial Land Surveying Services invoice for \$7,216.43; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – abstained
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Vásquez inquired about the survey for the Santa Bárbara Land Grant near their San Acacio Church Property. Mr. Archuleta stated that it is on the list and once the contract for FY 2023 is approved from DFA and is in the UNM IGSA, we should be able to move on the survey and have it completed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets

Mr. Archuleta gave an update on the FY 2022 Budget. Total spent was \$431,965,65, or 87% and total spent of the Land Grant Support Fund (\$31,069.00) was all but was \$563, or 98%.

Mr. Archuleta presented the FY 2023 budget, as revised. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the FY 2023 revised budget; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

The NMLGC is working to get CRS numbers and bank accounts to the State Treasurer’s office. All qualified land grants are up to date and off of or nearly off of the at-risk list. The Council needs to decide what is required of land grants by the Council as part of its role in determining eligibility in the land grant-merced assistance fund. Staff is working through the Risk Management process, surveying land grants to help the Risk Management Department determine assets, liabilities and risk, but likely won’t have it complete and won’t have the ability to purchase bonding for land grant board before the October 1 deadline. Bonding is required for all land grants and covers the treasurer and all others handling money, including cosigners on the land grant bank accounts. Councilors discussed and made recommendations. The Council will require that land grants will have reported their most recent election which includes an up-to-date list of its officers, which is a requirement of the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry. The Registry also requires that land grants have their bylaws on file. The Council may also ask land grants to certify that they are otherwise in compliance with Chapter 49, including a certification that they have completed an annual report and that they have estimated their Adjusted Annual Revenue.

16 Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Support Fund

Arturo Archuleta and Anissa Baca gave an update on the 22 LGSF. There is expected to be about \$563 reverted.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request number 9 was presented for \$95,982.02 including \$21,162.35 in project personnel, \$22,190.47 in the surveyor’s contract and \$15,997.02 in F&A charges.

Councilor Leonard made a motion to approve pay request number 8 for \$41,317.63; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract - Update and Requests

Omitted – repeat of No. 13, above.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

No updates.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martinez and Councilor Polaco updated the Council on the final report for the Mercedes Unidas Center. Councilor Polaco reported that electrical engineer was contacted and shipping containers will be delivered.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

No new updates on the Laguna del Campo site.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

The following items were sent to the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry.

- election and organization of the board of the Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LGSP RPSP budget stayed flat. UNM is changing the process and it is now open and all need to apply and submit for an internal review process. The LGSP applied for an RPSP increase for next year was applied for in order to expand youth programs.

24. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

25. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

26. Public Comments – Discussion only

None.

27. Miscellaneous Announcements

Friday is the deadline for ICIP.

28. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The August 2022 Council meeting will take place on August 23, 2022, at 10:00am virtually and in person in Albuquerque.

29. Adjournment

Councilor Correa Skartwed made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:49pm MDT.

Approved:

_____ Chair

_____ Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
July 22, 2022 – 2:30pm
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
Virtual meeting
Zoom ID: 937 5804 0159

**Final Meeting Minutes
Special Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Rebecca Correa Skartwed, Leonard Martínez, Steve Polaco, Andrea Padilla and Juan Sánchez were present.

Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Lee Few

2. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Leonard Martínez made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Rebecca Correa Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Martínez - aye
Councilor Polaco - aye
Councilor Correa Skartwed – aye
Councilor Padilla - aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC staff) presented the FY 2023 budget. The base budget was \$496,600 + \$330,000 in Senate Bill 2 appropriations, including an additional \$50,000 added by DFA for a total of \$826,900. The DFA admin fee was reduced by \$1,200 to \$3,300 and a legal services contract for PLVC related work was added for \$6,000. In state travel was increased by \$800 and youth development increased by \$36,000 to \$150,000. The UNM Finance and Administration charge (F&A) will increase by \$7,400 to \$104,533.

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the FY 2023 budget of \$826,900; Councilor Rebecca Correa Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Martínez - aye
Councilor Polaco - aye
Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
Councilor Padilla - aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented a base budget of \$880,000, including \$795,700 under the UNM IGSA and a youth development base budget of \$100,000.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the FY 2024 budget; Councilor Correa-Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla - aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

5. Adjournment

Councilor Padilla made a motion to adjourn; Councilor Correa Skartwed seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Councilor Correa Skartwed - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm MDT.

Approved:

 Chair

 Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
August 22, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 960 8191 0445

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

(Councilor Andrea Padilla retained the responsibilities of Chair as both Chairman Juan Sánchez and Vice- Chair Rebecca Correa Skartwed were absent at the beginning of the meeting. Chairwoman Andrea Padilla called the meeting to order at 10:13am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Leonard Martínez, and Steve Polaco were present. Councilor Correa Skartwed arrived late. Chairman Juan Sánchez was absent.

2. Introduction of Guests

Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Rebecca Correa Skartwed (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General’s Office); Novela Salazar (NM Attorney General’s Office); Adam Livermore (USFS); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Jennifer Ruyle (USFS – BAER Team); Alex López (Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant); Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS); Lew McCreery (Wood Innovations, USFS, Washington, DC); Marc Estrada (Wood innovations lead, USFS R-3); Aurora Valdez (Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich); Michael Luján (Camino Real RD Ranger); Danna Levín Rojo (Professor, UAM, México); Fred Reade; Phillip Clark (San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant); Sterling Few; Chris Chávez

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Leonard Martínez made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Steve Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Chair Padilla – aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2022 and July 22, 2022 Council meetings

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 13, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Chair Padilla – aye
- Councilor Martínez - aye
- Councilor Polaco - aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 22, 2022 Special Council meeting; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Chair Padilla – aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service – Including Wood Innovation Project Presentation

Lew McCreery (USFS, eastern region) presented on the wood innovations grants, which is a partnership between engineering firms and the USFS. Projects in the eastern region of the U.S. have been successful, with the goal of increase use of wood for energy programs. Work from the USFS is done at no cost and the fuel used is the lowest quality fuel possible. The projects use modern wood energy systems that use firewood pellets, wood chips, bark. Emissions from wood systems are preferable to other fuels, including coal. Wood energy systems are used in New England to replace expensive fossil fuels. 35% of Vermont K-12 students attend a school with a wood system. Some systems have automated loaders to run system at night that keep thermal storage tank hot. Financing can come from USDA loans, SBAs, and commercial banks and USDA Rural Development and the USFS offers grants through state programs. Local, state, and tribal governments and school districts are eligible for the USFS community Grant Program, which offers up to \$1 million and up to 35% of capital costs of project. The recently passed infrastructure law includes USFS funding for firewood banks.

Councilor Martínez commented that the Jemez Mountain Schools in Gallina installed one of these systems, but there was not enough biomass facilities to provide and not enough capacity or natural resource access. When inferior biomass was used, the system at Coronado Highschool was ruined and the school is converting back to a traditional (propane) heating system. He asked if in other parts of the nation, they extract fuel from public and private lands. Mr. McCreery responded that the capacity to produce is improving and that USFS is identifying sites in New Mexico, but they have not yet been able to get school districts on board. The USFS has worked with ski areas in California and Colorado, utilizing materials coming from their own fuel reduction efforts. Councilors and staff commented that the program is a great idea but believe there may be issues providing enough wood products and expressed concern that these systems could affect wood gathering that people use to heat their homes. They also asked about the range of costs and systems sizes and discussed potential affect to *leñero* economies and price of wood products for home use. Land grants could potentially be an entity that could provide a wood lot that would hire the *leñeros* and provide the product to multiple schools. Mr. McCreery added that the REFA (Rural Energy for America) Grant program funds wind and solar, but is not used for public facilities and clarified that firewood banks are community groups, typically non-profits that provide firewood at low to no cost to individuals that cannot afford to heat their homes.

Michael Luján (Camino Real RD) reported that the USFS continued to work on fire suppression repair for the Calf Canyon Hermits Peak fire, with the priority being private lands. The USFS is opening more of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests as repair work is completed. Currently the 17th team is working on repair and one more team will work before they are disbanded in mid-

September. Repair will thereafter fall to Carson National Forest, which will continue work as season weather allows. The primary focus is health and safety, especially with flooding concerns. Some aerial seeding on the uplands has commenced and community fuelwood relief has come in from contingency lines, with fuelwood being provided to Peñasco, Mora, Truchas and Las Vegas. The Trampas and Santa Barbara land grants are getting some funding through state forestry to process, though the wood is uncured green wood. The USFS is working to get the forest open to allow for dead and down fuelwood harvesting and changing product plans to allow for more free use wood permits. Mr. Luján added that the NMLGC has expressed their concern on Sipapu Ski Area expansion plans and reassured that they are in planning stage and nothing has been approved.

Adam Livermore (USFS) introduced himself as the interim legislative affairs liaison for Region 3. Jennifer Ruyle (USFS-BAER) stated that the USFS is preparing requests for funding from the BARF (Burned Area Restoration Fund), where landowners can apply for monies for boundary fencing and interior fencing for allotments. The USFS is working with the New Mexico Acequia Association and the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts to get this information. FEMA has a deadline of September 2 for funding to repair acequias. Alex López (president, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas) reported that the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas is working with Santa Bárbara Land Grant to get fuelwood from the burned areas for communities in the Peñasco area. They have 300 cords of wood in a staging area in Rodarte and have prioritized recipients and have received requests for 500 cords of wood from local residents. They are awaiting monies to hire a contractor to do work, but SBLG president Bonifacio Vásquez has had problems getting monies transferred. The Camino Real RD has allowed people to access projects, including the mayordomo project on the former Trampas Land Grant lands. 30 acres are in process right now and they hope to be done before snow falls.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (NM SLO) reported that the Bearcat Project has started and the SLO is meeting on August 23 to discuss removal and transport with a contractor. The Villanueva project is in planning and the SLO wants the project to start no later than October. Councilor Martínez reported that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant will be opening their wood lot on August 29, 30 and 31st.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council is scheduled to meet in Santa Fe on December 1 and 2. Work continued in the Farmington-Mancos-Gallup RMP, including NHPA compliance. No new wood collections areas will be created until the RMP is adopted. The Rio Grande del Norte Plan is on hold until the RMP is done. Invitations for cooperating agencies will go out in early 2023. The BLM also is doing an environmental assessment target shooting in Santa Fe County and has opened up the process for comments through October 24th.

8. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal

Mr. Archuleta commented that ENMRD has sent out a survey regarding conservation, seeking definition for the implementation for '30 x 30' programs. Valencia County approved the NROZ, despite protest by concerned local communities, including the Town of Tomé Land Grant.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

The Council has received no new word on federal legislation. Both bills have received hearings and are in markup. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Heinrich) reported that Senator Heinrich's office received the Council's letter regarding fuelwood in Taos County.

State

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that she was part of a panel presenting on land grant-merced youth programs for the Interim Land Grant Committee hearing in Taos on August 18 and 19th. Ms. Baca was joined by Chas Robles of the Ancestral Land Conservation Corps. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant hosted the committee hearing at UNM Taos and gave presentations from past board members, current board members and their land grant youth mentees. The Grant toured the committee in and around Valdez. (*see packet for handouts and ILGC agenda*). Presentations were also given by the Los Vigiles Land Grant, the NM Acequia Association and the U.S. Forest Service.

Chair Padilla honored Councilor Correa Skartwed, who offered her resignation from the Council. Council members and staff thanked Councilor Correa Skartwed, who had served on the Council since 2019 and on the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant board for nearly 10 years.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Novela Salazar and Ricardo Dow y Anaya provided updates on the Land Grant and Acequia repository, thanking all of those that attended. They thanked Mr. Archuleta and Dr. Baca for their assistance and for offering remarks during the July 15th opening. The repository seeks to interview land grant and acequia representatives and does not want to duplicate items in other repositories. The gallery is a snap shot of items in the repository and will mostly be a digital rather than hard copy repository.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveying Services Contract Update and Requests

Contract surveyor Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying) gave a presentation on his process for surveying the Trampas plaza, which gained the 0.6118 acre plaza for the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grant. He discusses the old school house and research that went into creating deed and that surveys needed to meet legal sufficiency as though they would go to court. Las Trampas Land Grant president Alex Lopez was concerned encroachment near the Trampas Church and thanked the Council and Mr. Chavez for his work. The *escuelita* is up for sale, and the land grants and local acequias are interested in the purchase. Mr. López is requesting additional help from Chris Chavez as the property requires a survey. Mr. Archuleta will follow up with Mr. López to ascertain the details of the request before the Council entertains approving the request.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets

No updates were provided as the Council contract with UNM is not in place.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

Mr. Archuleta gave an update on the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund and what documents will need to be submitted to the NMLGC before distributions begin. Our next deadline is October 1, and distributions should begin taking place during the same month.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta gave an update. The Intergovernmental Services Agreement is currently in DFA Legal for review. Once approved, it will be sent to Novela Salazar of the Treaty Division for review and will be put into the UNM system. Once approved, it can be back billed to July 1, 2022.

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

The contract with New Mexico Legal Aid contract is in process. A contract with attorney Joe Lennihan is in process as well, as is a contract with Holland and Hart.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

Councilor Martínez reported that he is working with Dr. LM García y Griego on legal research the *US. v. Sandoval*, which has been cumbersome and onerous. Monica Rodríguez of the San Joaquín Land Grant is assisting.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martínez reported that Rhea Serna of New Mexico Mainstreet is back on contract to work with the Mercedes Unidas. Monica Rodríguez working on sealed bid process for an electrician. They are working to determine the location and suitability of the water wells and the number of acre feet water that they own.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant has met with attorney David Benavides regarding the Laguna del Campo to review the transfer of the deed to the Grant.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Arturo Archuleta gave an update on the Land Grant Institute / Studies Program. Dr. Garcia y Griego is continuing work on the Land Grant Institute. Dr. Baca gave an update on the ALGE project.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Dr. Jacobo Baca gave an update on the various letters submitted on behalf of the Santa Barbara Land Grant (in packet).

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Councilor Andrea Padilla had a request regarding internet for the Tomé Land Grant. Mr. Archuleta stated that he is continuing to work on getting assistance form the Congressional delegation on issues with updating EIN numbers with the IRS.

23. Public Comments – Discussion only

None.

24. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

25. Date and Location for September Council Meeting

The September NMLGC meeting will be held on September 20th, 2022 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

26. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Chair Padilla – aye

Councilor Martínez - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:48pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
September 20, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Continuing Education
1634 University Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131
Zoom ID: 950 2984 8998

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:04 am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, Juan Sanchez and Leonard Martínez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Novela Salazar (NM Attorney General's Office); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado Land Grant); Jeremy Kruger (USFS – Region 3); Adam Livermore, USFS – Region 3); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Adam Livermore (USFS); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office).

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 August 20, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 20, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla 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 Appointment of Vice Chair

Chairman Juan Sánchez stated that with the resignation of Rebecca Correa Skartwed, the Council needed a new vice-chair. Councilor Polaco nominated Councilor Andrea Padilla as vice chair of the New Mexico Land Grant Council; Councilor Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (NM State Land Office) reported that the Villanueva project (benefitting communities on the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant) is still in the works. The SLO is working on getting bids and hopes to start the project in October. The Bearcat Project in the East Mountains will begin in November.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM is looking to relocate shooting areas in Santa Fe County and are accepting input through October 24, 2022. They will have public meetings soon and more information is forthcoming. The BLM is also exploring the withdrawal of mineral development near Chaco National Monument. Ms. Morrison also reported that the BLM State Director Melanie Barnes would like to attend the next Council meeting.

8. Discussion and Action on Natural Resources Issues & Concerns – Local, State and Federal

Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP staff) reported that Councilor Steve Polaco visited the NRCS office Chama to inquire about NRCS programs on behalf of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant and erroneously were told that land grants were ineligible. Now that land grants get guaranteed revenue streams, more are likely to apply for NRCS programs, which land grants have been eligible for since changes in the 2018 Farm Bill. Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS) commented that for some reason the person at the front desk at the NRCS office did not believe that land grants could apply. She encouraged Councilor Polaco to visit the Farm Service Agency office in Hernandez and get a farm number and tract number. EQIP applications are due November 18th and David Griego of the Chama Office reported that six land grants in the area are participating grant programs. Mr. Archuleta commented that the NMLGC is planning a series of trainings and would like to do one on NRCS programs. Ms. Graham Chavez commented that EQIP program is most commonly used and probably most beneficial to land grants. 75% of costs are covered by the EQIP funding and historically underserved communities (including limited resource farmers, tribal and Hispanic farmers) can qualify for 100% cost coverage. County data is used to determine eligibility. The next Farm Bill will be considered in 2023 and the land grant Council will work ensure that provisions benefitting land grants are retained.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján is working on several pieces of legislation, including bills that close the digital divide and the loan forgiveness for young educators. His office remains in discussions with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the traditional use legislation (S. 2708). The Senate will likely look at a continuing resolution to keep the federal government funded. Senator Luján is also the sponsor on the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Recovery Act, which may be attached to the continuing research or National Defense Reauthorization Act. Mr. Chávez also reported that October 7 is the deadline for signing up for FEMA authorization. During the August work period, Senator Luján travelled throughout New

Mexico and, with New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte, held meetings with farmers regarding the 2023 Farm Bill. Jarrett Henderson, Senior Agriculture advisor with Senator Ben Ray Luján's office, discuss the Farm Bill and programs under the Farm Bill. The Senator's office can look into titles in Farm Bill to consider for revision and have detailed versions of the 2018 Farm Bill to share. Mr. Archuleta commented that the priority is to ensure that land grants remain eligible for programs and to explore what other areas of the bill land grants and acequias might fit in or programs they qualify for. One adjustment might be a change in the definitions section of the bill, from "land grants" to "land grants-mercedes," which can clarify and differentiate land grants-mercedes from land grant universities. Mr. Archuleta added that the Land Grant Council is interested in starting the quarterly calls with the Congressional Delegation. Councilor Polaco asked if Senator Luján's office has received any requests from Northern New Mexico College for CDS (Congressional Direct Spending) for the solar project in Tierra Amarilla; Mr. Chávez responded that he needs to find out more about the previous application and that the project might need to look at other funding sources.

State

The next interim Land Grant Committee hearing will be on September 22-23 in Abiquiú; Mr. Archuleta will present an update on the land grant merced assistance fund.

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

Adam Livermore (USFS R3) reported that the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests are working to distribute fuelwood and the New Mexico National Guard has been a great partner in transporting the fuelwood to communities and the Cerro Pelado closure areas are now opened. Jeremy Kruger (USFS R3) discussed post fire action, including work by contractors for completed aerial seeding (9,000 acres) and mulching (12,000 acres) in the Gallinas and Tecolote creek areas. Hazard signs have been installed across the area and road crews are continuing repair work and storm response contractors going. The USFS will join other agencies for an open house on September 15 in Las Vegas. Mr. Archuleta reported that he and Jacobo Baca will participate in the traditional communities and uses panel for the Carson National Forest in Taos on October 6th (agenda in packet).

Councilor Martínez commented that he received information from the USFS on integrated resource service project and service based contracts, whose criteria is so narrow that only a few contractors qualify. How does the process go? How will they be assigned? Most local contractors do not have SAMs numbers and do not qualify and cannot complete. Mr. Kruger responded that he might ask that Mark Phillips, the national steward contracting officer, can discuss how these are done in Carson, Santa Fe and Cibola NFs. Councilor Padilla asked if the USFS is resuming controlled burns. Mr. Livermore responded that the USFS Chief Randy Moore lifted the ban, with added requirements, including a seven-step tactical plan. There is no timeline on implementation of prescribed burns in place and we will keep you informed.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG's office) stated that he would like to interview Council members and will accommodate their availability. James Maddox of the NMAG's office is working to get videos form ILGC meetings and would like to tape the beginning of the Council meeting.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022, FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets

Mr. Archuleta reported that FY 2022 budget is closed out. One issue is that DFA sent the March 2022 payment to the wrong entity on campus and the physical check was just recently located. The FY 2024 proposed budget was sent and approved. Regarding the FY 2023 budget, the IGSA with UNM is starting late. The hiring of an accountant has been delayed and despite being originally budgeted for 11 months, it will likely be a 7 month contract. Personnel and copier expenses are only expenses thus far and they will be billed back to July 1. By the October meeting the NMLGC should receive the billing from UNM after the IGSA is approved which should reflect the period from July 1st through September 30th. Once IGSA is approved, the surveyor contract can commence. Regarding legal services, New Mexico Legal Aid, attorney Joe Lennihan and Holland and Hart have all submitted their scope of work.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

The NMLGC staff has worked with the State Auditor's Office and DFA to compile a list of eligible and compliant land grants (must be compliant with Chapter 49.1 and 49.4, up to date on the registry, elections and by-laws, annual report on file, revenues) to receive their portion of the 2-million dollars that are part of the Assistance Fund. 17 of 18 qualifying land grants will receive 100% distribution from the fund; Abiquiu, will get 75% distribution. A full distribution (100%) will be \$111,111.11; a 75% distribution is \$83,333.33 and land grants will receive these monies by October 31st. Land grants will need to budget for an AUP as the distribution will take them into their next tier for reporting. Most land grants have a substitute W-9 on file with DFA. NMLGC staff is working with those that don't to ensure that their monies are deposited in a timely manner. Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMLGC has reached out to Rep. Melanie Stansbury's office for EIN assistance, as several land grants have EINs, some predating their status as political subdivisions of the state. For instance, some EINs were tied to heirs associations. Several land grants have had difficulties getting through the IRS help lines for assistance and many have attempted to fix this for more than 2 years and this has impacted land grants abilities to get their CRS #, which allows them to get goods tax free. Eric Chávez (Senator Luján's office) stated that the Senator's office can assist and may request a letter from each individual land grant with their EIN so that they can take a look into the issue.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the list of land grants qualifying for the land grant-merced assistance fund distributions to DFA; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

In the packet is the IGSA for FY 2023. UNM submitted changes (red lines) to DFA. Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve the FY 2023 IGSA, with UNM's suggested red line changes; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Polaco - aye
- Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco - aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye
The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that legal services contracts are in process, including contracts with New Mexico Legal Aid, Joe Lennihan and Holland and Hart. The Council has received no new requests for legal services.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract – Update and Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that once the IGSA is in place, the Council can engage with Chris Chávez of Territorial Surveying for a multiyear contract, which should go quickly. There has been a request from the Las Trampas Land Grant, which has engaged in discussions with the Peñasco Independent School District to acquire the escuelita in Trampas. The Trampas Land Grant, the local acequias, and the mutual domestic all use the escuelita and the school board will get an appraisal to evaluate and see if they will transfer ownership of the property or sell it. The request might be premature but the grant needs to know if the transfer is contingent on survey and need to know if the land grant or another entity will ultimately be the recipient. Councilor Martínez reported that the San Joaquín Grant is in the process of locating the deed for the morada property and need to look at the Rio Arriba County Clerk’s office.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

Councilor Martínez commented that Monica Rodríguez of the San Joaquín Grant is working on preparations for a legal brief. The San Joaquín del Río de Chama Grant has set aside monies (\$10,000) and will do some of the work and is looking for an attorney to do some additional work. Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) commented that the grant will not need three quotes if the contract stays under \$20,000 if the project is finite.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martínez reported that Rhea Serna and Monica Rodríguez of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant are working on the draft of the procurement on electrical engineering work to be completed at the Mercedes Unidas Center. The three land grants will need to agree on dates of bid conference, to provide concurrence on bids, and on dates for bid conference. The electrical engineer that has consulted with you can assist with questions to ask bidders. Holland and Hart will work on the ownership and operating agreements and are working on the well declaration. Councilors Polaco and Martinez provided other updates on the Center, including the removal of cedar and sagebrush, application of herbicide and removal of trees that will be used for fuelwood.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that he is continuing to work with Mr. Archuleta and attorney David Benavides to review and redraft of deed of transfer from NM Game and Fish to the Merced, which was submitted to NMG&F director Michael Sloan.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Dr. Baca reported that the following items were submitted to the Land Grant Registry:

- Bylaws for the Santo Domingo de Cundiyó Land Grant

- An election certificate, bylaw amendments and the comprehensive plan for the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant.
- Results of the September 2022 election for the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant, including new boards members names and positions
- Results of the 2019 election, FY 2023 budget, and FY 2023 OMA resolution for the Merced del Pueblo de Chililí

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that Dr. LM García y Griego continues to work with the OVPR on the creation of a Land Grant Institute. He, Dr. García y Griego and Dr. Baca have been working on reports regarding the LGSP due to the OVPR. Dr. Baca reported that the ALGE project is ongoing and he and Anissa Baca have met with NMHU and NM Acequia Association planning for FY 2023. The report on the 2022 ALGE Teacher’s Institute is forthcoming and he will present on the ALGE project to the Interim Land Grant Committee meeting in Chililí in October. Anissa Baca reported that faculty at UNM Taos has contacted her requesting assistance with youth oral history work.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Mr. Archuleta shared (in packet) the description for the accountant 3 position that the Council is seeking to fill. The Council / LGSP is also looking to hire a student, preferably a graduate student at UNM, to help with education work funded by junior money appropriations.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

None.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Baca reported that preparations for the 2023 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day commemoration are in process and requests to the legislature have been submitted. Councilor Padilla reported that the jail site opening will be held on October 22nd at 10:00am. Chairman Sánchez reminded land grants are certifications are due to the State Auditor on December 15 for FY 2022 and the system opens in October to allow their submission.

26. Date and Location for October Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on October 27th at 10:00am in Albuquerque, NM, location to be determined.

27. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 27, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 936 1796 5382

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Leonard T. Martínez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Michel Luján (Ranger, Camino Real RD); Chantal Herrick (Assistant PAO, Santa Fe NF); Jeremy Kruger (USFS R3); Adam Livermore (USFS R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Sterling Few (NM Environment Education); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Cong. Melanie Stansbury); Claressa Romero (San Miguel del Bado LG); Jennifer McRae (USFS R3); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Camila Romero (NM SLO); John D. Márquez.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Leonard Martínez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Martínez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 20, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on USFS

Michael Luján (Camino Real District Ranger) reported that both the Carson NF and the Santa Fe NF are working to allow people to get firewood in light of closures from earlier in the 2022. Both forests looked for areas and issued free use permits. The Carson NF has issued permits for 3,000 cords and the Santa Fe has issued a similar amount. Wood is coming from the contingency lines around Peñasco and Taos. With repair work, the wood that was cut has been removed and the USFS is working with working with communities to send fuelwood to those most effected by the fires and the closures. Land grant communities within the Santa Bárbara, Trampas and Cristóbal de la Serna Grants have received firewood, as have Picurís and Taos Pueblos. Range allotments were burned and the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will look at damage to acequias and will share the information with the New Mexico Acequia Association. The Talpa Trails project in the Taos Wild and Urban Interface is on pause and is not in the NEPA process. The Enchanted Trails Association got grant monies but did not consult the community and stakeholders, including the Cristóbal de la Serna Grant and local acequias in Talpa. Mr. Luján also commented that the Carson National Forest does not support the U.S. Senate Bill that will encourage the retirement of grazing on USFS lands.

Jeremy Kruger (USFS) reported that the USFS is in the assessment and recovery stage for the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fires. The Emergency Reforestation Program includes a FS enterprise team that will meet in November and includes 20 to 30 peoples, including representatives from the FSA, USFS, State Forestry, and NRCS. They will work on a long term water rehabilitation and restoration vision, developing it with communities and partners. Given the size, scope and scale, the needs are large, including those of range holders that need trails open to access forest and acequias that irrigate portions of winter range. Jennifer McRae (USFS) added that the structure is set up like a incident management team, where the State of New Mexico will have the largest reach and USFS will work under the FEMA and the State. The state emergency reforestation program has received 500+ applications. Councilor Padilla questioned the reported 100% cost share as she has heard that people were asked to cover 25% of the recovery costs. Ms. McRae responded that USDA just informed the USFS that the cost share has been waived and that FSA will no longer ask for the 25% match in the form of a loan.

Mr. Archuleta reported that he, Dr. Jacobo Baca, Councilor Polaco, Trampas LG president Alex López and Santa Bárbara Land Grant President Bonifacio Vásquez participated in the Carson NF's traditional communities discussion. Employees of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forest attended virtually and in person and Carson and Santa Fe NF Forester James Durán and Regional Forester Michiko Martin attended and gave comments as well. James Durán (Carson and Santa Fe NF Forester) reported that community based stewardship programs are gaining momentum in Taos County and the County's WUI coordinator, J.R. Logan, is convening meetings and working to involve land grants.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) commented that the SLO extended the Cebolla Project for 6 months. They have a contractor for the Villanueva fuelwood project and a contract in place and will meet with the contractor and the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant to discuss the inception of the project. Mr. Archuleta commented that the grant still needs to determine the transportation of wood and Ms. Romero responded that they will meet next Tuesday. Mr. Archuleta added that the Council and the Grant would like exact numbers on risk management insurance so that Council can help with

project. Councilor Martínez discussed issues with SLO projects and the amount of work that it took for the San Joaquín Grant to complete the Cebolla Project.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on BLM Update

Lisa Morrison (BLM) is interested in LG 101 for Taos, Farmington and Rio Puerco managers. Northern New Mexico Advisory Council will be meeting in December regarding target shooting areas. Mr. Archuleta reported that the New Mexico Wildland Urban Fire Summit will take place on Nov. 16-18. It will discuss wildfire preparedness and planning, but charges a \$75.00 fee, despite sponsorship, which makes it difficult for participation. Ms. Morrison stated that she will discuss with the BLM and will see what she can do.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

AJ Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) gave an update on the traditional use bill. Cong. Leger Fernández hosted a meeting in the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire regarding LEED funds and will hold another meeting at the Maria Elena Gonzales Senior Center on Monday at 11:00 regarding health care costs. Mr. Archuleta gave updates on behalf of Ben Ray Lujan's Office the Traditional Use Bill and has been assisting NMLGC staff with EIN numbers for land grants. The Council discuss S.B. 2980 (sponsored by Sens. Heinrich and Luján) to voluntarily retire grazing allotments to the Forest Service and recommended that the Council offer amendments to this bill, if it moves forward. Farm Bill titles have been culled for areas that apply to land grants and both Councilors and staff will review to prepare recommendations to the Congressional delegation. The Council can inquire about listening sessions regarding the Farm Bill. Chairman Sánchez expressed concern over SWCDs benefitting large farmers more than small farmers. The NRCS should set aside programming and funding for smaller disadvantaged farmers and oblige SWCDs administering programs to work with small farmers and producers. Land grants have yet to receive guidelines from NRCS for land grants to begin applying for EQIP. An issue may be that land grants were limited to the titles that related to water conservation and the Council might suggest other areas where land grants can be included. Land grants also have a cash match that they can use to qualify for programs.

State

The latest Land Grant Interim Committee hearing took place in Chililí. Chairman Sánchez gave a presentation on Chililí Land Grant history and led the committee on a tour the second day. Updates were also given by the Tajique and Manzano Land Grants. The final meeting will be held on November 22 in Santa Fe.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues and Concerns – Local, State and Federal

The second request for comments for 30 by 30 has been released. Comments can be submitted by November 15, 2022.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya gave a presentation on the Gold King Mine Spill settlement. The NMAG's office is working on getting permissions for videos recorded at the Chililí, Tierra Amarilla, San Joaquín del Río de Chama and Tomé events. Members of the Interim Land Grant Committee will be invited to visit the gallery at the last Interim Committee hearing on November 20th.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Archuleta gave an update on the October budget for FY 2023. UNM required some changes, so we are still waiting for the contract to be put into place.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

Land grants will make an appointment with their designated Budget Bureau Analyst to input their information in the LGBMS system and have their budget approved. Money is set to be disbursed on Friday, October 28th.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council is looking for new office space as a new employee will be joining our team.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract – Update and Requests

Legal service contracts are being processed by DFA.

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

The contract is under the IGSA and the surveyor won't be available to work until the IGSA is in place.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Martínez reported that the center looks great and much of the cleaning is complete. Councilor Polaco added that Rep. Herrera suggested that the three land grants create a 501(c)3 to help the grants for grant eligibility. Mr. Archuleta suggested that Larry Montano of Holland and Hart review their options.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that the recent New Mexico Game Commission meeting (held virtually) had the Laguna del Campo on its agenda. The Commission went into executive session and still no decision was made. Attorney David Benavides e-mailed Director Mike Sloan, who replied that after 2 years the deed was still held up in legal.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Dr. Baca reported that the Council received the updated list of board members for the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Dr. Baca gave a presentation at the latest Interim Committee in Chililí hearing regarding the ALGE project. He and Anissa Baca participated in a ALGE meeting where the final report was shared with participants. The Land Grant Studies Program also recently completed a three year planning report, which was submitted to the OVPR and will be shared at the next meeting. The LGSP will

work with the Tajiue Land Grant to closeout the Merced YCC project, which was funded by an Outdoor Recreation Grant, and is working with the NMLGC to implement projects funded by one time legislative funds in Taos and Tierra Amarilla. The LGSP will also review send digital copies of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico files to land grants.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the letter to support for the tenure advancement of Law School Professor Gabriel Pacyniak; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

23. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Leonard Martínez submitted his resignation from the New Mexico Land Grant Council, stating that the next generations needs to take up the cause. He stated that until land is returned or compensation is given that the movement is not going away. Councilor Padilla stated that she was sorry to hear of his decision, that his knowledge is important and thanked Councilor Martínez for his service. Chairman Sánchez wished Councilor Martínez well and thanked him for his work. Mr. Archuleta thanked Councilor Martínez for his mentorship.

24. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

25. Date and Location for November Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on November 17th at 10 am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

26. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
November 29, 2022 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 984 4295 8269

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:04am MST. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sanchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Leeann Murphy (Carson); Chantal Herrick (Assistant PAO, Santa Fe NF); Jeremy Kruger (USFS R3); Adam Livermore (USFS R3); Tim Hagamann (NM EDD) Lisa Morrison (BLM); Eric Chavez (Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján); A. Montoya; State Representative Miguel P. García

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 October 27, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 27, 2022 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 State Land Office Update

Mr. Arturo Archuleta reported that the Villanueva fuelwood project has started and the Bearcat project will start in January.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the Bureau of Land Management has selected a forester for BLM New Mexico. They will announce the new forester once they have completed the hiring

process. The BLM has asked the Council to do a 'Land Grant 101' for BLM leadership from northern New Mexico field offices from the December 13 at 1:00pm. The Rio Puerco RMP is being reviewed by BLM headquarters. The Rio Grande del Norte plan is progressing and the notice of intent to proceed in May 2023. The Farmington RMP is on hold while review of the proposed Chaco land withdrawal (10 miles around Chaco) takes place. Dr. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) announced that the Northern New Mexico RAC will meet virtually on Friday, December 2 (all day).

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

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council is working to schedule a quarterly call with the Congressional delegation or a call with Senator Ben R. Luján's and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's offices regarding the status of the Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. When the bill last passed in the House in 2020, it was passed in December, so there remains a chance of the bill getting moved before end of calendar year and end of this Congress. Mr. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) commented that he has been in touch with the Washington DC office about the bill and reported that Levi Patterson has left Senator Luján's office and taken a position with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. S. 2708 remains a top priority for the Senator. Mr. Chávez reported that the Continuing Resolution expires on December 16th and negotiations continue, with Congressional Direct Spending in discussion. Senator Ben Ray Luján's will host a webinar on December 7, 11:00am-1:00pm, "Federal Broadband Funding 101: Resources for Local Government."

The Hermits Peak / Calk Canyon Assistance Act provides relief for victims and is being rolled out through FEMA through a case work system. They are holding informational and community listening sessions in San Miguel and Mora Counties. They will be held on December 1 in Mora at Mora High School, December 15 at Memorial Middle School in Las Vegas and January 5, 2023 in Mora at Mora High School. There will be a 2 year application period. Councilor Polaco asked about S. 2980 and stated that many ranchers with permits on the National Forest are concerned. Mr. Chávez answered that he knows little about the bill but will ask Senator Heinrichs office. Mr. Polaco responded that Rio Arriba County Commissioner Moises Morales fears it will take away permits from permittees and that he and ranchers feel threatened. From the text of bill, it appears that permits are voluntary surrendered or donated and people need clarification.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Interim Land Grant Committee has endorsed two bills. The first is the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant bill, which will include the grant in general provisions. The bill has some flaws, which were discussed at the November Interim meeting, including that the bill creates the very special legislation that the LCS attorney has argued is disallowed. The second bill is the partition bill, which is unchanged, and adds a "temporary provision" (to p. 5 Section 3) and a savings clause that names rights under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The bill was amended to include Council in a shared role with the NMAG Treaty Division. Also included in the packet is another bill, which was discussed at the interim, which would name all land grants that are operating as political subdivisions directly in statute, which would provide accountability and transparency and ensure that land grants that do reorganize have some sort of affirmative recognition step, especially before receiving a merced assistance fund distribution.

State Representative Miguel García presented, first regarding the partition bill. He provided a background on the bill, its history, its purpose and its opposition. The breakthrough was the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire, where sub-grants Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas were effected. The vetoes stopped partitions from being able to access funding to create mitigating programs, including forest restoration, forest thinning and watershed improvement. The partition land grant bill has momentum coming into the session and the Los Vigiles and Arroyo Hondo Arriba Grant presented in Taos at beginning of ILGC session. Rep. García asked the Council to support and to not pursue alternative legislation, even though the bill clarifies land grant status for agencies.

Representative Garcia then discussed pooling junior money appropriations to assist acequias systems damaged in the Hermit's Peak / Calf Canyon Fire. He discussed the needs of these acequias with Paula García, executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Association, who discussed their legislative priorities, including changing the language of the acequia infrastructure fund, new language in the Interstate Stream Commission statute, and a new definition and funding for the Acequia Community Ditch Fund, which deals with adjudications and is administered by the Department of Agriculture. Rep. García's proposal is to do an appropriation for an acequia restoration program using Jr. monies from 10 legislators (\$50k each) to create a \$500,000 fund, which he would like to anchor with the NMLG Council to ensure that the monies materialize in services. He felt that the Council should administer the funding because of its relationship with DFA and advocates in the Local Government Division. He believes it will fall on Mr. Archuleta to administer the funding, with the NMAA consulting and providing field operations and can identify the acequias in most need. Currently there is no centralization of the recovery effort, with FEMA, the NM Department of Transportation, and other state and federal entities. The \$500k is doable and general fund monies that make the funding be available immediately, plus the Council has accountable staff and there is no need for an executive work around.

Council members discussed Rep. García's acequia funding plan and questioned if DFA would be on board with this concept. Would the Council be able to recuperate administrative costs and would monies go to the acequias themselves or to the New Mexico Acequia Association. Chairman Sánchez commented that previously served on the New Mexico Acequia Commission saw that *comisiones* often have a hard time disbursing money; his plan would need to account for this possibility. He also expressed concern about the role of the Acequia Commission and whether this concept should be presented to the Commission. The Administration and DFA might ask about the involvement of the Acequia Commission, especially as DFA provides more services to Acequia Commission than it does to the NM Land Grant Council. Council members asked if the Acequia Commission had been consulted as they do not want the Land Grant Council to be compromised. Rep. García stated that he is willing to sit down with NM Acequia Commission Chair Ralph Vigil but opined that the Commission does not have the abilities that the Council, including a standing staff, and that they lack the relationship that the NM Acequia Association has with acequias.

Rep. García's main idea is to put an actionable proposal forward. Mr. Archuleta discussed the need for continued discussion, including the workload and the roles of the NMAA and NMAC. He suggests the Council have a conversation with DFA, the NMAC, the NMAA to iron out the details. It might be easiest to run monies directly through DFA. Intention is good, but which is the best way to get monies to the communities in need, which way can expedite it. There needs to be a time to discuss, but need to involve all stakeholders.

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

LeeAnn Murphy (Carson NF) reported that Carson National Forest is working to help communities with fuelwood and working to get additional monies to process wood at Rodarte Yard for Santa Bárbara LG and the Trampas LG. The Mora Creative Council is receiving wood from Bear Mountain for Mora area communities. The Carson NF is working with Rowe Mesa, Cristóbal de la Serna LG, Picuris Pueblo and Taos Pueblo. Jack Lewis with the regional office is assisting in coordinating the fuelwood response and the RO may help fund some of these projects. Mr. Archuleta stated that the Council might have monies to help with these fuelwood projects from a special junior appropriation. Councilor Padilla asked where people can get this wood and Ms. Murphy responded that she would work to get specifics as to locations of woodlots, etc. Councilor Polaco inquired about forest mayordomo projects and if any were west of Tres Piedras; Ms. Murphy responded that she will get back to him with more information. In the packet is a letter from Bonifacio Vásquez of the Santa Bárbara LG to Taos County, seeking assistance with wood distribution.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues and Concerns – Local, State and Federal

Mr. Baca commented that the second round of comments for the 30 by 30 initiative was due. The NMLGC's comments pointed out that definitions of "conserved lands" relied on undefined terms, including "*durably protected*"; "*ecosystem services*"; "*climate resiliency*"; even "*natural*"; "*semi-natural*." Comments pointed out that land grant-merced and other traditional communities have been using and conserving land for centuries and a focus on "ecosystem services" and "climate resiliency" will relegate "cultural values" to a tertiary concern when evaluating whether lands meet the definition of "conserved lands." The definition of "climate stabilization area" might offer the flexibility that permanent land designations do not, depending on the definition of "natural" or "semi-natural" state, and stated that holistic range management practices, fuel load reduction and watershed management should be considered. Councilor Padilla commented that the Niagara Bottling Company is asking to triple water its intake. The Town of Tomé Land Grant submitted its concern to the Los Lunas City Council. Mr. Archuleta asked Councilor Polaco if the NRCS clarified the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant's eligibility for NRCS programs, Councilor Polaco stated that they were told they were eligible, but they missed the deadline, which passed in November. Chairman Sánchez asked Kris Graham Chávez when land grants will receive guidelines on how to apply for NRCS programs, especially with the new Farm Bill coming up. Ms. Graham Chávez replied that she would send language from last Farm Bill and the EQIP program manual. Chairman Sánchez stated that the new Farm Bill need to specifically reflect and name land grants and needs to help small and disadvantaged ranchers and farmers. Each NRCS district is different and he hopes that NRCS can work to get a set aside to work with small ranchers and farmers.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology

None.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG's office) reported that Senator Jaramillo and Rep. Garcia visited the gallery and were excited. NMAG staff are working hard on the website, which was shown to Council staff. The NMAG's office would like to present at the December Council meeting. The NMAG's office is transitioning from NMAG Hector Balderas to NMAG-Elect Raul Tórrrez, and

legislators are interested in maintaining continuity from AG Balderas to AG Tórrrez, who toured gallery and had positive thoughts.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Archuleta reported that the contract has just been put into the UNM system and won't likely get an index number (and billing won't be generated) until January 2023 meeting. Council travel for the fiscal year is now at \$2,116.06.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

The Council's new accountant, Greta Archuleta, will start on December 12th. She is an heir of the Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú. Land grants need to submit their AUP or Tier Certificate by December 15th.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

None.

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

New Mexico Legal Aid's contract is in place. Contracts for Joe Lennihan and Holland and Hart are not yet in place. LA contract in place

16. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that it has been two months since the draft deed was sent to NM Game Commission and the NM Game Commission legal is going to review. Mr. Archuleta added that Commissioner Salazar Henry resigned and Commission does not have quorum and cannot approve any action.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta discussed youth programming in northern New Mexico, including at Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant regarding Comanche dancer traditions and work in Tierra Amarilla, where LGSP staff is working with educator Dawn Salazar on a pilot project that will include service learning and campus visits. The LGSP have also been in discussion with the East Rio Arriba SWCD (Marcos Váldez) for a YCC program. Anissa Baca and Jacobo Baca reported that the ALGE 2022 Teachers

Institute Report is early complete. Ms. Baca also shared the latest issue of the *Land Grant Forum* newsletter, which is in the meeting packet.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received a copy of a letter from the Santa Bárbara Land Grant to the Taos County Commission requesting assistance with fuelwood distribution.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Council staff will work the Town of Tomé Grant to produce a letter to the Village of Los Lunas Council regarding Niagara Bottling Companies request to drastically increase their use of water in Valencia County.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Padilla reported that she is having issues spending the remainder of her capital outlay award (~\$250,00) as DFA continues to reject different requests, from decorative pots to tools for maintenance.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

The Town of Tomé Land Grant will host a craft fair from 9-3 on December 3rd.

The New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo quarterly meeting postponed as it was in conflict with the New Mexico Acequia Association’s annual Congreso. It has been rescheduled for January 7th, 2023

26. Date and Location for December Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on December 14 at 10:00 am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

27. 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 1:40 MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
December 14, 2022 – 11:30am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 938 2330 1468

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Vice Chair Andrea Padilla called the meeting to order at 11:32am MST. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sanchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Leeann Murphy (Carson NF); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Zach Beherins (Carson NF); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Barbara Romero (Office of Congresswoman Yvette Herrell); Christine Bustos (Santa Cruz Land Grant heir); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); James Maddox (NMAG).

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the 'Land Grant 101' that was to be put on by the Council for the BLM New Mexico State Office was postponed due to inclement weather. The BLN national office has issued a new release regarding a modified oil and gas leasing policy that was part of the Inflation Reduction Act. A briefing will be held on December 16 and participants much register. Dr. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that he participated in the Northern New Mexico Recourse Advisory Council meeting on December 2. He commented that the field office / district managers provided excellent briefings, including a BLM – Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo land exchange that has been in the planning process for 20 years. The parcel of land purchased by the Pueblo is within the boundaries of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant and the BLM lands that they propose to exchange the for are within the historical boundaries of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant, but neither grant has been formally engaged throughout the process. The OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) community, on the other hand, provided commentary, which resulted in a change in BLM lands offered in the exchange. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP) commented that now that land grants have guaranteed revenue streams that hopefully they can acquire parcels in a similar manner, either through exchanges or direct purchases. Ms. Morrison added that the NM State Land Office and BLM land exchange now focuses on the Organ Mountains and Desert Peaks Monument area, which was mentioned as part of the recently passed Dingle Act. Because of this, areas in the Rio Grande del Norte that were part of the proposed exchange have been de-prioritized.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (Nm State Land Office) reported that the contractor for the Villanueva project is finishing up another project and will get started at the Gonzales Ranch the week after Christmas. They have completed some staging for the project. Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG) added that the San Miguel del Bado Grant is still trying to find a contractor that will pull wood from the Gonzales ranch site to the center. The contractor that they have spoken to prefers a payment of 40% of cords delivered to the center rather than cash payment.

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 November 29, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 29, 2022 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Aurora Váldez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) reported that Senator Heinrich’s office is working on reaching an agreement on the Omnibus Bill, including reauthorizing the Recreation Enhancement Act and the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. The Senate is also working to pass the National Defense Reauthorization Act and is involved in discussions about the 2023 Farm Bill. Councilor Polaco asked Ms. Váldez if the Senator’s office had any updates or background regarding S. 2980, (Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act). Ms. Váldez responded that Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act has not had a lot of movement in the Senate and pointed out that the Act allows for the voluntary retirement of grazing leases, which her office considers an “an offramp for grazing leases” that those wanting to get out of the cattle business can use to get rid of their leases. The Council was concerned that retirement of the leases would be considered permanent and that grazing families might be coerced into selling their permits. Additionally, there is concern that retirement is permanent and that a market will be created where environmental groups will purchase these permits at high dollar for the purpose of retirement.

While the legislation was created to deal with issues out of the Gila Wilderness, this could negatively impact grazing in the future across the state. The Council is hoping to have a Congressional quarterly meeting in January 2023 to discuss the traditional use and consultation bills (S. 2708 and H.R. 5493) and this grazing retirement bill, S. 2980. Barbara Romero (Office of

Rep. Yvette Herrell) reported that her office has heard concerns about the grazing legislation from constituents. She thanked the Council for their work and for her time with Rep. Yvette's office. The Council has discussed the communal grazing concept in the past, where land grants would hold and manage communal permits and the loss of the lease is less likely. Management practices by the U.S. Forest Service, including travel management creating roadless areas and wilderness expansion, have affected the viability as fewer stock raisers have horses and use quadrupeds to access grazing areas and move their herds. Communal grazing, which was historically practiced by our communities and was present on federal lands through the 1940s and 1950s, would allow flexibility and help affordability and assist small head stock grazers.

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that hiring fairs related to the Hermit's Peak / Calf Canyon Fire recovery are taking place in Santa Fe today (12/14) and Las Vegas tomorrow (12/15). FEMA is also holding public meetings to collect information and Congresswoman Leger Fernández's office is monitoring the meetings. There will also be a Farm Bill roundtable discussion roundtable at the Santa Fe Farmers Market next week. There is no movement on the Traditional Use Bill in Senate and the Congresswoman's office is hoping to see it move before end of the year. Their office has discussed the possibility of including it in a larger funding bill. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) commented that Senator Ben R. Luján's office is continuing to have discussions about the traditional use bill, including discussions late this week or early next week. Regarding the Farm Bill, the Senator's office hopes to have more thorough discussions with the Council on legislative priorities, including grazing.

Mr. Chávez reported that Senator Luján attended the NMAA's Congreso de las Acequias in Las Vegas in December. Councilor and Vice Chair Padilla attended as well and commented that it was a good event. The NM Congressional delegation is working on more outreach, including a letter to FEMA regarding concerns with rules and regulations. There will be more information sessions, on December 15 in Las Vegas at the Old Memorial Middle School and on January 5th in Mora at Mora High School. Senator Luján also hosted a rural broadband webinar that was attended by several land grant representatives, including Councilors Padilla and Polaco. He was also involved in bipartisan letters regarding concerns of western farmers and ranchers about drought, public land access, conservation funds, etc. Councilor Padilla encouraged people to visit and see the needs of the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon effected communities, which were devastated and in of flood control work. Councilor Polaco asked of there were any updates on Northern New Mexico College's solar array project in the El Vado area near Tierra Amarilla. Mr. Chávez spoke with NNMC interim president Barbara Medina, who did not submit for Congressional Direct Spending for this project and prioritized other, lower cost projects. In the new year, Senator Luján's office will discuss this with new NNMC President Balderas. There could be changes to Congressional Direct Spending. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that his grant is still having problems with EIN and CRS numbers and are still requesting help from the Congressional delegation to get the issue fixed. He added that the Farm Bill needs to be updated and the EQIP program tweaked to ensure land grants can effectively used EQIP and other federal programs. Mr. Archuleta added that he has been in contact with the Senator's office regarding S. 2708, the Traditional Use and Consultation Bill, and has provided additional information to the Senator's office, including information regarding tribal consultation and concerns over tribal overlap, which was shared with Council members. Mr. Chávez responded that they will have a call to discuss the bill on Thursday, December 15, at 12:00 noon. Levi Patterson has left Senator Luján's office and Alana Purdy Montesinos has taken over the lead on S. 2708.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that he participated in a follow up meeting with DFA regarding Rep. Miguel García's proposal to run funding acequias effected by the HP/CC Fire through the Council. At the meeting, DFA Secretary Debbie Romero stated that the Governor's emergency executive order made available monies administered through the Department of Homeland Security. She added that the it would be more appropriate to run the funding through NM Acequia Commission or the Office of the State Engineer / Interstate Stream Commission than running it through the Council, and added that DFA or the agency would need 5% to administer the monies. Rep. Garcia also asked that the concept bill naming all land grants operating as political subdivisions in statute not be moved as he believes it will interfere with the partition and Cristóbal de la Serna bills. Council members discussed the importance of keeping momentum on the partition bill, but reasoned that naming the Cristóbal de la Serna Grant in statute certainly justifies naming other grants as well. They also mentioned that federal, state, county and local agencies and officials and financial institutions are still questioning land grants as political subdivisions. Chairman Sánchez stated that the Bernalillo County attorney raised questions about the Chililí Grant just this morning at a tax hearing. While the concept of naming all land grants in statute has not been in any ILGC agendas, it has been discussed and vetted by land grants themselves for years and the Council cannot think of a land grant that would not want to be listed. Incoming Speaker of the House Rep. Javier Martínez would likely be supportive of this legislation as important policy and it would have to wait until 2025 if it is not proposed in the 2023 session. This would also set the bar for what communities organizing would need to be recognized by the legislature. Partition grants have tried for years and have done their due diligence. Council members approved the concept bill and asked staff to pursue the legislation. Mr. Archuleta reported that incoming House Speaker Martínez wants to visit land grants in the north, likely between Christmas and the New Year. More than likely it will include visits to the Mercedes Unidas Center (the former PLVC), the Tierra Amarilla area, including the PLVC and the Colonia de José María Martínez, and the Laguna del Campo.

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

LeeAnn Murphy of the Carson National Forest reported that fuelwood is being delivered to Luna Community College where it is being distributed to surrounding communities. Jack Lewis will begin his position as a Deputy Forest Supervisor in March. Gabe Romero of the Camino Real Ranger District will be the acting deputy supervisor for the east zone. The Carson National Forest continues to work on the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon fire recovery and on the Enchanted Circle Restoration Project. Angie Krall continues as the acting deputy director for the west zone. Angie Krall will put together meetings in January and February to discuss the forest mayordomo and forest mayordomo projects in Rio Arriba County with J.R. Logan.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues and Concerns – Local, State and Federal

None.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology

Senator Ben R. Luján held a broadband information meeting in December 7. Both Councilor Polaco and Councilor Padilla attended the virtual session and said it is highly informative.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG) and James Maddox (NMAG) presented the Land Grant and Acequia Digital Repository. Dr. Dow y Anaya commented that Senator Leo Jaramillo and Rep. Miguel García visited the gallery and repository and were impressed. They hope for continuity with new Attorney General Raul Tórrez.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

It is not likely that we will have items from the UNM IGSA until the February 2023 Council meeting. More than \$100,000 will be charged to the IGSA, which is mostly personnel expenses, once it is completely implemented. \$150,000 in junior money targeted for youth programming is also under the IGSA. The Council has yet to hear anything back from the Risk Management Division, which was preparing questionnaires and/or applications to share with land grants. Tort insurance will be prorated for the remainder of FY 2023 as RMD cannot buy insurance with funding crossing fiscal years. Third party insurers might be able to purchase coverage for extended periods.

Several land grants are involved in wood distribution projects. Both the Santa Bárbara and Trampas Land Grants received \$40,000 in federal monies to hire a contractor to process the wood at a cost of about \$150 per cord. A foundation also donated \$30,000 and loaned an additional \$40,000. Fuelwood distribution will continue between Christmas and New Years. The Council was appropriated \$80,000 in junior monies for operating costs that were to be spent on RMD insurance coverage and bonding, but delays from RMD are going to result in a shorter coverage window and unspent funding. \$10,000 of this funding could be granted to the Santa Bárbara and Las Trampas Land Grants for fuelwood distribution.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to grant a total of \$10,000 to the Santa Bárbara and Las Trampas Land Grants for fuelwood distribution; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

Land grants have been working with the DFA Local Government Division Budget and Finance Bureau and are getting their budgets approved. Land grants will need to move money between accounts as all monies from the state will be deposited into one account and land grants must keep LGMAF and capital outlay funding separate. One account will be the land grants general fund and the other should be used exclusively for capital outlay. All land grants will need an AUP to review all transactions. The Council is looking into software options for budget management, including Quickbooks and other alternatives. Councilor Polaco reported the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant hired an accountant and would like to meet with Ms. Greta Archuleta to look over their budget and finances.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

The FY 2023 IGSA has just been put into place and an index has been assigned, but no billings will be generated until February 2023.

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

No new requests for legal services have been received. The NMLA contract is in place and NMLA continues to work with the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant on the adverse possession claim and the Abiquiú Land Grant on their water adjudication with the OSE. Contracts for Joe Lennihan and Holland and Hart are still under review.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that he will be meeting with surveyor Chris Chávez to plan work this fiscal year. Mr. Chávez wants to close out the Santa Bárbara Land Grant and Tajiue Land Grant projects and has ideas on how to complete the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG without the deed. Mr. Martínez responded that he will visit the county clerk to find the deed for the morada property and will scan and send it to the Council and Mr. Chávez.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

Mr. Archuleta reported that he is planning to conduct research related to the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case as part of an independent study with the law school. Mr. Martínez stated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama set aside monies for *U.S. v. Sandoval* research and would like to hire law student to do work.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Councilor Polaco reported that they have an RFP in January for electrical work.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

None.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that Council staff are working on youth programming, especially those projects funded by a special junior money appropriation. This includes youth programming related to the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant, work with the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, and a possible partnership with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District. Dr. Baca presented the final ALGE 2022 Teacher’s Institute Report to Council members. 2023 ALGE plans include another workshop in conjunction with the NM Association for Bilingual Education Conference in April 2023.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received a letter from the Ranchos de Taos Neighborhood Association inquiring of any organizing of the Gijosa Land Grant. The Council also forwarded information regarding a job fair for positions related to Hermit’s Peak and Calf Canyon relief efforts.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

Mr. Padilla reported that the Consejo executive committee met to discuss 2023 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day plans. The commemoration will take place in person on Thursday, February 2, 2023. The Consejo has determined the lifetime achievement award recipients, this year’s pin (Town of Tomé was randomly selected from those land grants that have paid their membership dues) and discussed food and catering options. At a recent Consejo executive committee meeting, Councilor Padilla stated that Monica Rodríguez of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama looked at land grants pulling together to purchase wood processor, which run around \$88,000; Councilor Padilla asked if there would be issues with no ownership. Mr. Archuleta responded that grants would simply need to have an agreement for use and maintenance and should consider proximity for transport and use schedules, and whatever planning would help avoid conflicts.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

26. Date and Location for January 2023 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place Friday, January 20th on at 10:00 am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

27. 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 2:06 MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
January 20, 2023 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 922 0894 9911

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Div); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Kurt Weinrich (FEMA Chief of Staff); Judy Schroeder (FEMA Dept. Chief of Staff); Lois Ozier (FEMA Equity); Arsany Thomas (acting dept dir. Hermits Peak & Calf Canyon Claims office); Ashley Wright (USFS R3); Chantal Herrick (Asst. PAO, Santa Fe National Forest); Mike Peacock (FEMA); Sofia Maimome (FEMA); Jerry Holmes, FEMA; Alison Kent (FEMA); Ashley Saulcy, (NM DHS); Camila Romero, New Mexico State Land Office.

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 December 14, 2022 Council meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 14, 2022 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 Presentation by FEMA

FEMA presented a powerpoint describing their program and effort on the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon recovery effort. Ashley Saulcy (New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management), Toby Rice and Justin Ross (FEMA) discussed lines of effort and the

strategic effort to recovery and taskforces created to implement these. Recovery is most effective when it is locally executed, state managed and federally supported. Sources of communication are streamlined to prevent from being overwhelmed and a Unified Command Group oversees all lines of effort. Included in the task forces is a land based communities task force and an acequia task force that has also not yet launched. There are 55 separate grant programs specifically for fire recovery effort, including USDA Rural Development, restoration of broadband, the US Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets, who are assisting with the burn scar and substance abuse and mental health services. There is also the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon claims office.

FEMA discussed the eligibility pyramid, which takes into consideration the cost, work, facility, and applicant and identifies state, tribal, local government, and certain private non-profits, dependent on mission. The process includes 1) Operational planning, 2) intake and eligibility determination, 3) scoping and costing, 4) final field reviews, where funds are obligated and disbursed and 5) post award. Matt Embry of FEMA discussed hazard mitigation assistance program. Applicant needs an approved plan and FEMA will provide technical assistance. Non disaster funding is provided by the FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) and BRIC (Building resilient Infrastructure and communities) programs and disaster funding through the hazard mitigation grant program. Funding available after presidential declaration with cost share is 25% local; 75% federal. The state determines priorities and New Mexico identified local communities under flood threat as the number 1 priority. Programs also offer \$37,900 for residence recovery.

Councilor Padilla mentioned that there remains a lot of debris from the fire and road access is still limited especially around Rociada. Pendaries, on the other hand, seems to be getting a lot of attention. Communities were told that the federal government was going to cover the cost as it wasn't an act of nature and the fire was caused by the federal government. This was not a tornado or a flood, which are acts of nature. If they claim on their insurance, premiums go up. The whole system is set up and less educated and Spanish speakers are not being served. When methods are set, they need to be changed to meet needs of people in light of cause of fire and unique needs of the area. People do not want to do loans and \$40,000 is way too low for home replacement. Councilor Polaco asked if FEMA takes into consideration the increased cost of building materials and housing in general. Jose Gilmontes (FEMA) responded that the individual assistance program prices are evaluated every 2-3 years and the total for individual assistance is capped at \$175,000. Other partners, including state, play an important role here. Ashley Saulcy added that these comments have been made to FEMA and the State pushed to consider these (replacement costs vs value) that hope will be made into final Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Recovery rules.

Mr. Archuleta asked for copies of the presentations and added that the acequia and land based community task forces are important and probably have a lot of overlap, as does timber industry task force. He asked if any programs are community focused rather than individually focused and for more information on recovery programs, including program opportunities for fire mitigation, especially in light of wildfires. Arsany Thomas (FEMA) discussed the HP/CC portion of the FEMA presentation, which is nearly \$4 billion in funding. The HP/CC Act increased the federal cost share to 100% for Stafford Act programs. (FEMA Stafford act programs are national level programs – designed for supplemental program assistance) The HP/CC Act is designed to compensate for losses from fires and subsequent flooding. On Nov. 14, FEMA published an interim final rule, opened 60-day comment period, which closed; reviewing comments before publication of final rule. The intention is to fully compensate for losses, as allowable by New Mexico law. FEMA

started accepting notice of loss forms in 2022 and government entities must apply under regular public assistance before pursuing HP/CC programs in order to maximize funding. If an applicant missed a deadline, they can always submit a late request and if not approved, they can come under HP/CC. FEMA also thanked Arturo Archuleta for the land grant presentation in December. FEMA is trying to hire locals. Three hire fairs netted 140 participants and it looks like 100% of line staff will come from locally effected communities.

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

Ashley Wright (USFS) introduced Pam Baltimore, the new PAO for the Santa Fe National Forest. She also reported that Shawn Sanchez has been selected as the new forest supervisor for the Santa Fe National Forest. He was the Deputy Chief of the National Wildlife System with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that public scoping will take place at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque on January 26, 2023 from 3:00-7:00pm. BLM is updating the national solar western plan and New Mexico public lands are involved. The BLM is close to hiring BLM state forester and she will try and take them in person to next council meeting, with Melanie Barnes, NM State BLM director. She also stated that the BLM would like to reschedule the Land Grant 101 that was cancelled due to inclement weather.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

Mr. Archuleta stated that Eric Chavez sent an update that stated that Sen. Ben R. Luján's office is continuing to work with land grants on the EIN issue. \$273 million secured for Congressional Direct Spending in the Omnibus Bill. Requests will reopen in late February or early March. Mr. Archuleta reported that he is working with Mr. Chavez to schedule next congressional quarterly call and wishes to provide a month's notice, time for Congressman Gabe Vásquez's staff to attend.

State

Land grant legislation was presented, including the partition bill (House Bill 20), the Cristóbal de la Serna Bill (House Bill 33) and Senate Bill 87, which will provide \$1,000,000 for solid waste cleanup for land grants. Mr. Archuleta also reported that he and Mr. Baca joined Speaker Javier Martinez, Rep. Susan Herrera and Rep. Joseph Sanchez on a tour of PLVC (Mercedes Unidas Center) with Steve Polaco (Tierra Amarilla LG), Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG), and Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG). Bonifacio Vásquez of the Santa Bárbara Land Grant also met with Rep. Herrera and Speaker Martínez. He also spoke with Rep. Kristina Ortez, new chair of House Rural Development, Land Grants And Cultural Affairs committee, who is supportive of bill naming all land grants. There is also a natural resources trust bill and conservation funding bill this session and the Speaker committed to asking conservation groups to engage with land grant communities for input when asking for legislation.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Bill 20, House Bill 33 and Senate Bill 87;

Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero reported that the Villanueva project is starting next week and the Bearcat will start once a start date for inmate crews is set by Dee Tarr. She will attend Treaty Day on behalf of the State Land Office.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology

None.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Novela Salazar reported that their office is busy reviewing legislation and they are waiting to see how the Treaty Division is being restructured. Its role might be expanded and it will continue to have a role in reviewing bills. She will forward the invitation to AG Raul Tórréz to attend the Treaty Day commemoration on February 2, 2023 at the Roundhouse. Ricardo Dow y Anaya added that he attended a New Mexico Acequia Commission meeting where they discussed outdoor recreation, the impacts of cannabis and water theft. The NMAC is trying to access the NM Conservation Fund. Their office is working to have NMAG Tórréz join New Mexico Land Grant Council and New Mexico Acequia Commission meetings to introduce himself. Their office has been receiving calls in opposition to HB 20. Mr. Archuleta offered the help of the Council for any questions on FIRs, analysis, etc.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2023 Budget

Total costs to date are \$5,619.72 has been billed. More billing will be generated and submitted for approval in February 2023 meeting. Youth programming budgets (\$150,000) were presented, including Cristóbal de la Serna (\$50,000), Tierra Amarilla (\$32,099); East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District YCC (\$61,001); and a small teachers institute, which Anissa Baca and Jacobo Baca will take the lead implementing.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the budgets as presented, with discretion to make adjustments in line items of budget; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

DFA did not generate a purchase order within the approved IGSA and the Council now needs to submit a full budget.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve expenses for December 2022 in the amount of \$2,835.86; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The FY 2023 IGSA has just been put into place and an index has been assigned, but no billings will be generated until February 2023.

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

Victoria Lovato and Ricardo Guaderama are serving as UNM Law School externs.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests – San Miguel del Bado

Joe Benito Chavez (president, San Miguel del Bado LG) made a request for surveying assistance for the remnants of common lands bordered by private properties, USFS, SLO, and BLM lands. Chairman Sanchez asked if specific tracts are identified, or if the grant is looking for all common lands. Mr. Chavez replied that the Grant has identified specific tracts and will meet with a surveyor soon. Small pieces are checkerboarded and the Grant wants a surveyor to look at patented boundaries as they exist as markers have been moved. The first step might be trying to ascertain current state of patented boundaries. Mr. Archuleta explained that surveyor services are provided through a contracted surveyor, Chris Chavez.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve San Miguel del Bado Land Grant’s request for surveyor services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on *United States v. Sandoval*

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Mr. Archuleta stated that the visit to to the Mercedes Unidas Center with House Speaker Javier Martínez and Representative Herrera was very positive. Councilor Polaco added that Leonard Martinez and Monica Rodriguez published the RFP for electrical work at the center in the newspaper.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that the Grant is still waiting on New Mexico Game and Fish.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant reported the resignation of Ernestina López from the board and the appointment of Pat Aguilar to the board.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that he gave a presentation to the OVPR in February. The LGSP advisory committee has yet to meet. Chairman Sanchez and former Councilor Correa Skartwed were on the committee and someone needs to replace Correa Skartwed. There has been no movement on the Land Grant Institute. The LGSP is working on Treaty Day and participating in ALGE and prepping for another teachers institute. Anissa Baca reported that she did a write up on land grants for Katie Goetz of NMDA that will be published in newspapers.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Arturo Archuleta and Greta Archuleta provided an update on Greta’s work, including outreach to land grants that gave yet to complete their budgets and set up their budgets in LGBMS. Greta Archuleta added that she has reached out and is making progress inputting land grant budgets into the system. She has also created budget templates to help them track budget and create quarterly reports. Mr. Archuleta added that the goal is to provide trainings in the future and want to transition land grants to fund accounting, something more complex than one fund budgeting. The new secretary of DFA is Wayne Propst. Donnie Quintana is now Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs and Jeanette Gallegos is acting director of the Local Government Division.

24. Public Comments – Discussion only

None.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day will take place on Thursday, Feb 2, 2023. Chairman Sánchez stated that the first treaty commemoration took place at the Oñate Center in 1998.

26. Date and Location for February 2023 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place February 17 at 10:00 am in Albuquerque, location tbd. The March Council meeting will be on March 17th at 11:00 am in Santa Fe, location tbd, with a Congressional Delegation meeting at 10:00am.

27. 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 1:13 MST.

Approved:

 Chair

 Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
February 17, 2023 – 10:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
UNM Science and Technology Park - Rotunda
801 University Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom ID: 915 8677 2807

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Chris Furr (Carson National Forest); Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Division); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Zach Behrens (Carson National Forest); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Savannah Guadalupe Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG heir); Joaquin Arguello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba LG); Jennifer Donovan; John Márquez; LM García y Griego (LGSP); Mannie Lopez (National Forest Foundation); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama 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 January 20, 2023 Council meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 20, 2023 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 State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (NM State Land Office) reported that the Villanueva project will begin when snow has melted. The SLO is looking for other funding for the Bearcat Project and is soliciting youth crew bids as the inmate crews are still busy working on projects.

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

Chris Furr (Carson National Forest) reported that the USFS is still removing wood from the HPCC contingency lines and working to deliver wood to communities. The Carson National Forest is starting prescribed burns once again, burning piles on 500 acres near Tres Piedras. The Forest is having daily operator calls to be informed and up to date on prescribed burns. The Talpa Trail working group started and had its first meeting, with the second to be held on February 27th.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM has hired a state forester and they will start in mid-March. The BLM issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement, Resource Management Plan Amendment for SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. It is also igniting prescribed burns in south in Doña Ana, Socorro and Lincoln counties. State Director Melanie Barnes would like to discuss prescribed burns and the BLM would like to reschedule the BLM Land Grant 101.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández will reintroduce the Traditional Use and Consultation Bill in the new Congress. Her office is working on the Chimayó Post Office fire, is working on the 2023 Farm Bill, and opened a new office in Clovis, NM. Mr. Archuleta responded that he would like to discuss the Farm Bill further and wants to ensure land grants are eligible for programs and are placed in the appropriate titles in the new Farm Bill. Right now, land grants are only in water conservation areas. He added that we can discuss this as part of the Congressional Quarterly call.

Eric Chávez (Office Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján's office is calling for preliminary interest in CDS for 2024, due to his office on due February 28th, 2023. Senator Luján also filed the Cattle Market Transparency Act to protect small producers who were not obtaining fair prices at cattle markets. His office is also taking steps to reintroduce Traditional Use and Consultation Bill in the new Congress. They are also working on ongoing inquiries on land grants and issues with EINs. The issue has been sent to a technical advisor / taxpayer liaison and if new forms are needed, they will be sent to Town of Tomé and other land grants experiencing these issues. Mr. Archuleta added the Council staff had discussions with Senator Luján's Washington DC staff regarding the traditional use bill, comments from agencies on language and questions from tribes and organizations. It will also be important to meet with agencies in Washington DC and to reach out to tribes and organizations and discuss their concerns.

State

There are two pieces of legislation, House Bill 319 and Senate Bill 376, that create a special appropriation for the NM Office of the State Auditor to assist small political subdivisions get caught up in their reporting requirements as many have fallen behind several years. The bill will create a onetime special appropriation to allow the OSA to hire CPA firms directly and assign them entities in need of assistance to clear the list by 2026.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to endorse Senate Bill 376; 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 endorse House Bill 319; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Council members discussed House Memorial 41, which asks that Rio Arriba County transfer the escuelita in Cañones from Rio Arriba County to the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. The Grant, the mutual domestic and the acequias have offices in the building and are the primary users. The transfer of ownership will formalize control of the building. The memorial has made it through the Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Memorial 41; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Council members discuss House Bill 268, which would recognize the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant as a political subdivision of the state. The bill passed the Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to endorse House Bill 268; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Committee Substitute for House Bill 33 clarifies which land grants are organized under Chapter 49 by naming them in the statute. It passed the Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee and will be heard on Saturday at 12:00noon by the House Judiciary Committee.

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to endorse the House RDLGC Committee Substitute for HB 33; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Senate Bill 87, waste cleanup on land grants, received a negative FIR by the New Mexico Environment Department, with expressed concerns that they didn't have capacity to the manage funding. The bill passed Indian Affairs Committee and was sent to Senate Finance, where it could get included in budget packet if there is sufficient funding.

Chairman Sánchez thanked staff for their work putting on the 2023 Treaty Day celebration, which was well attended and a great success. Councilor Padilla added that the pins were beautiful and the plaques were a great way to recognize the lifetime achievement winners. She felt that it brought a lot of people together and will generate more involvement and said it was a great day and offered her thanks.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues and Concerns – Local, State and Federal

The Cristóbal de la Serna, Santa Bárbara and Trampas Land Grants have been working on their fuelwood distribution projects. Chris Furr (Carson NF) reported that the Santa Bárbara Land Grant did find a new contractor since the previous contractor had tax liability concerns.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Division) reported that the Treaty Division is working with the new Attorney General Raul Tórréz. There will not be too many changes until after session ends. NMAG Tórréz committed to continue to support land grants and acequias and attended and gave remarks for Treaty Day. He plans to meet with the NMLGC and Treaty Division to discuss land grants and wants to expand community outreach. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG – Treaty Division) presented deeds of deposit for items at the NMAG's gallery. He reported that Cholla Khoury is leaving the NMAG's office and going to the PRC.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Department of Information Technology

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update, which was included in the packet. The second item, operating funds for land grants, was intended to go the Risk Management Division to help land grants with insurance and bonding, but RMD has not gotten back to the Council since information was provided to them in August 2022. The funding was accidentally sent to UNM rather than remaining on the DFA portion of the budget. There were no new billings from legal services. The contracts for Joe Lennihan and Holland and Hart are complete. Total budget expended to date is \$152,037.27 (18%), which will increase with the next UNM billing. The \$150,000 in youth projects have started, including a subaward for \$60,000 for the ERASWCD YCC. The Council has

received new billing from Chris Chavez. Councilor Padilla mentioned the difficulty in getting qualified surveyors and the shortage of surveyors. Mr. Archuleta responded that it is an expensive profession and NMSU is the only program in state. There are not many people interested and he is not sure what the Council can do. Chairman Sánchez responded that we can ask Chris Chávez for his advice and Mr. Archuleta added that this could be brought up with the Land Grant Interim.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

In packet is PR 1, which was already sent to DFA and was approved and submitted. Pay request #2 was presented, with \$118,646.42 in personnel, \$2,485 in computer supplies, \$24,347.30 in F&A and \$320 in facility rental for a total of \$146,083.65.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 for \$146,083.65; 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 and Requests

None

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

None

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Mercedes Unidas Center Update

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) asked for guidance on RFPs if bids are not received. Mr. Archuleta commented that the RFP will help the reauthorization of funding as proof that the grants are trying to spend the monies.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that he met with attorney David Benavides and that there was another correction on the draft deed, which he will analyze and review with the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that he received and fulfilled an Inspection for Public Records Act request.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Institute / Land Grant Studies Program Update

LM García y Griego (LGSP) reported that has been in contact with Dave Hansen of the OVPR and has received materials from Mary Jo Daniels to move the Institute process forward. There will need to be adjustments to the advisory committee as Rebecca Correa Skartwed is no longer on the Council. Councilor Padilla volunteered to serve on the LGSP advisory committee. Mr. Archuleta reported that the UNM Law School is offering a land grant and acequia course starting the weekend of February 24-26th. Jacobo Baca and Anissa Baca reported that they are continuing to

collaborate with New Mexico Highlands University in the ALGE project, including the NMABE conference in April. Anissa reported that the LGSP continues to create and distribute the land grant newsletter, *El Grito de las Mercedes*

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Greta Archuleta (NMLGC) provided an update on her work. She has contacted 12 land grants and helped them submit budgets and quarterly reports. Tajique is in the process of submitting their final budget, while Torreón and Santo Domingo de Cundiyo and Abiquiú have not yet gotten back to DFA-BFB or to the Council. The two DFA analysts assigned to land grants are communicating well and have let us know who is in need of submissions. She also worked with Mr. Madrid, the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant accountant. Most land grants have budgets submitted and are working to get quarterly reports submitted. Mr. Archuleta added that Ms. Archuleta and Council staff is also working in templates for profit and loss statements and working with the auditor at on the at risk list to be sure that land grants are off of the list and remain eligible for future distributions. Quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end of the previous quarter, so reports for the July-September quarter are due in October, those for the October-December quarter are due in January and so on. Budgets need to be submitted at the ends of the fiscal year. Mr. Archuleta will also attend a meeting at 4:00pm regarding the Las Vegas Land Grant hosted by the Fourth Judicial District Court.

22. Discussion and Possible Action DC Trip

Mr. Archuleta discussed the need to travel to Washington DC to meet with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and Natural Resource Committee Chair and committee members, as well as agency heads. The trip would likely be after May 15.

23. Public Comments – Discussion only

Mr. Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that it has taken a lot of time for the grant's treasurer to do the required reporting. They have bought equipment from DOT, which was time consuming and costly. The Grant has gained properties and they are looking into hiring a land grant manager. He suggested the Council host a conference where land grants present to discuss their needs, concerns, and issues and share knowledge with one another. Chairman Sánchez agreed that it is a good idea for the grants to come together and Mr. Archuleta added that annual trainings are in the process of being developed and planned, including trainings for new budgets and those from other partners with other entities. Now that land grants have resources, they can afford to send people to a 2-day training. Joaquín Argüello thanked the Council for their assistance and formal support for HB 268. He thanked the Consejo and land grants for their support as well.

24. Miscellaneous Announcements

Letters regarding interest in the NM DOT hardship auction are due March 31st. Now that land grants are receiving funding, they will have to justify the reasons that they qualify for hardship. This would be an opportunity for the Las Vegas subgrants effected by the fire to borrow heavy equipment purchased and loaned by other grants. Chairman Sánchez also added that forest training classes are being offered in Las Vegas.

25. Date and Location for April 2023 Council Meeting

The March Council meeting will be on March 24th at 11:00 am in Espanola, location tbd, with a Congressional Delegation quarterly meeting at 10:00am.

The April Council meeting will be on April 21st at 10:00 am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

27. 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 12:15 MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
March 24, 2023 – 11:00am
In Person and Virtual Meeting (Hybrid)
Northern New Mexico College
Joseph Montoya Administration Building - Board room
921 N. Paseo de Oñate, Española, NM 87532
Zoom ID: 963 2400 6911

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:59am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sanchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests – welcome

Denise Montoya, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Finance and Administration ay Northern New Mexico College, welcomed the Council on behalf of President Hector Balderas and NNMCM.

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG); Novela Salazar (NMAG – Treaty Division); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Zach Behrens (Carson National Forest); Denise Montoya (NNMC); Dominique Trujillo (NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors); Marlene Segura, (NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors); Miranda Gonzales, (NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors); Perry Valdez, Executive Director (NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors); Robert Gromatzky, Board Member (NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors); Anabelle Sillas Graves; Abel Sillas (Arroyo Hondo Land Grant heir); Deborah Swanson; Priscilla Sillas Rael (Arroyo Hondo Land Grant heir); Elias Ontiveros; Chris Chavez (Territorial Land Surveying); Paulette Hammonds (FEMA); Crystal Medina (New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute); Katrina Gutierrez (New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute); Eric Stemmerman (acting Gov't affairs lead, USFS, Region 3); Gilbert Quintana; Victor Saavedra; Pam Baltimore (USFS).

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Sánchez asked to make the following changes to the agenda, moving item 11 under item 7 and item 14 under item 8. Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended; 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 17, 2023 Council meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 17, 2023 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla 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 Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison was not available to attend. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Baca will present “Land Grant 101” to the BLM at their state headquarters in Santa Fe on March 31.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero was unable to attend. The Villanueva project has started and Camila Romero and Mark Meyers are flagging the area. The Bearcat Project continues as they meet with potential contractors to move wood from project site to Chililí.

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

Eric Stammerman introduced himself as Ashley Wright’s temporary replacement at USFS Region 3 in legislative relations. Zach Behrens (Carson National Forest) reported that they are in the middle of public comment period (ending March 31st) for draft EIS for the Taos Ski Valley Resort Projects. The McGaffey and Rio Grande del Rancho Restoration Project on NM 518 from Talpa to US hill onto Amole Canyon is in planning and the comment period ends April 6th. This is part of the Enchanted Circle Wildfire Crises Strategy Landscape, which includes 500,000 acres, a third of which is on U.S. Forest Service lands. The area declared to have emergency conditions and the Carson has an agreement with Taos County and is working to bring leñero projects to Mora County and other areas. Thinning 25% of the tree stand can reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire by 80%. Mr. Archuleta told Mr. Stammerman that the Council will be in Washington DC the first week of June and would like to visit the USFS and Department of Interior to discuss the traditional use bill. Mr. Stammerman responded that he will work with the Council to prepare for meetings.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Novela Salazar reported that the NMAG’s office is holding a Rapid Hire event and that the NMAG’s website is changing but the digital repository will be preserved. Ms. Salazar also reported that she will be leaving the NMAG’s office. Council members and staff thanked Ms. Salazar for her work and wished her good luck.

8. Discussion and Possible Action, Presentation by NM Board of Licensure for Prof. Surveyors – Perry Valdez

Perry Valdez, Executive Director of the NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors, along with staffers Dominique Trujillo, Marlene Segura, and Miranda Gonzales, and Board member Robert Gromatzky of the NM Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors, presented regarding surveyors, licensing requirements, numbers of surveyors in New Mexico, as well as education, outreach and recruitment. Council members discussed difficulty getting surveyors to take important surveying work for land grants. Mr. Valdez and Mr. Gromatzky and Chris Chavez (Territorial Land Surveying) stated that the work is hard work and work is often completed in the field alone. Recruitment for new surveyors is likely best done at the local level, with veteran surveyors mentoring younger surveyors. Few people get their surveyor licensure through the alternative pathway, which might be an engineering degree and 18 hours of surveying. Mr. Valdez

also stated that the shortage of surveyors is a nationwide issue and New Mexico isn't experiencing the shortage that other states are experiencing.

14. Discussion and Possible Action Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update and Requests

Chris Chavez (Territorial Land Surveying) discussed work in Tajique and presented his invoice. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #2 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$4,590.30; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco mentioned that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant may need survey work on lands to transfer from Rio Arriba County, including an old administration building.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

The Council held a Congressional Quarterly call this morning. The traditional use legislation will be introduced at some point this Congress. The Farm Bill will be simple as land grants simply need to be listed as an eligible entity for programs under certain titles. The grazing reduction bill will also be reintroduced by Senators Heinrich and Luján. Staff will work on both bills. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) stated that the CDS deadline was March 16 and several applications received. The land grant EIN issue is ongoing and information for the Town of Tomé and San Joaquín del Río de Chama has been sent to a technical expert for processing. The taxpayer advocate liaison will reach out to him and he will loop in land grants with more information. Mr. Archuleta mentioned that the Juan Bautista Baldés and the Chililí Land Grants might have a similar issue. He added that the Council hoped to establish a line of contact in case other land grants had this issue. For the Town of Tomé Grant, they cannot get a NM CRS# as New Mexico deems the federally issued EIN invalid. Land grants that had their EIN issued before 2004 will have similar issues since before 2004 land grants self-identified as corporations or other entities and not as a government entity.

State

HB 268 (in packet) has been signed into law. The law is two part, recognizing four land grants seeking political subdivision status and explicitly recognizing all other land grants operating as political subdivisions. These subgrants were discussed by interim in 2004, long before legislation was proposed in 2015. Senate Bill 505 is capital outlay (in packet) includes \$1.5 million to nine land grants, all funded through general fund monies. Land grants need to be aware of 1% for the arts when planning their monies. SB 309 was for capital outlay reauthorizations, where five land grants had more than \$500,000, all funded by severance tax bond funding. These grants need a new grant agreement needs to be issued or it needs to be amended. SB 192 is for junior monies, including \$320,000 for the Anton Chico, San Miguel del Bado Land Grants and the NMLGC. Abel Sillas asked if the NMLGC can facilitate meeting between his family and the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant Board. Chairman Sánchez responded that the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant board

of trustees need to request from help from the Council and that the Council cannot intervene on an internal affair.

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

Paulette Hammonds from FEMA stated that land grants and acequias are new to FEMA and there is interest from FEMA and State of New Mexico Department of Homeland Security to find a mechanism to distribute funding to the State of New Mexico and land grants. She asked several questions that Council members and staff answered and shared information for the Lower Gallinas and Los Vigiles Land Grants which were directly affected by the HPCC Fire and are on the Rio Gallinas, whose waters flow into Brantley Reservoir and Story Lake. Councilor Padilla mentioned how Pendaries was prioritized over Rociada. The HPCC claims office is set up and staffed by Carol Garcia and Angela Gladwell and each claimant will be assigned a navigator. Everyone should complete the notice of loss form and assume they are eligible and apply for relief.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 Budget & FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). The funding for operating funds to land grants (\$80k) was accidentally sent to UNM as part of IGSA and was being pulled back to DFA. The applications for tort liability coverage have been sent and are being received from land grants. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant has drawn down on its \$5,000 support fund award; the Las Trampas Land Grant has yet to draw down on theirs. New Mexico Legal Aid has yet to send invoice and contract attorney Joe Lennihan dropped out since DFA took too long to process his request. The contract was lost with staff changes at DFA and the Council will need to reallocate the \$30,000. Holland and Hart’s contract has been completed. Out of state travel estimates may be higher than amount budgeted, but the Council can move monies from in state travel, which will come under budget. The subaward to East Rio Arriba SWCD is being processed under the IGSA. Also presented was the option for the Council to purchase an advanced account for quickbooks, as well as travel options for a trip to Washington DC (June 4-9) ranging from \$5,184.86 to \$6,689.28.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to purchase Quickbooks; 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 approve funding for travel to Washington DC; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Council has received 10 completed applications for RMD tort liability coverage. The NMLGC can purchase coverage that will run from May 2023-May 2024, which will cost about \$900.00 per grant. Bonding will go through MARSH, a private company that works with RMD. Other liability

coverage is yet to be determined. With tort liability coverage costing about \$1,000 per land grant, only \$20,000 will be spent. If bonding costs around \$1,000, an additional \$20,000 will be spent. With the \$10,000 to the Santa Bárbara and Las Trampas Grants, that only totals \$50,000 of \$80,000 encumbered, leaving at least \$30,000. Adding the \$30,000 from Joe Lennihan's contract totals \$60,000. Expending this \$60,000 could include \$5,000 to the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant for their wood project. Amendments could be made to give the Cristóbal de la Serna, Santa Bárbara and Las Trampas Grants \$5,000 more each for their wood projects. If land grants are ready to do a property acquisition, and are in process, monies from this fund can be expended for this purpose.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to allow staff to identify projects and have a special meeting to approve expenditure of funds; 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 grant \$5,000 to the Cristóbal de las Serna Land Grant for their wood project; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Council's FY 2024 budget was discussed (in packet).

13. Discussion and Possible Action on UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request #3 was presented, including \$43,488.29 in personnel, \$9,264.78 in F&A and \$330.00 in facility rental for a total of \$55,588.70.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #3 for \$55,588.70; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco reported that he is waiting for David Benavides to review the deed for Laguna del Campo.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that he sent requests for election updates to all land grants.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

The Land Grant Studies Program will sponsor a talk by Ramón Gutierrez on Reies López Tijerina on April 11th at UNM. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Baca presented for the UNM Law School land grants and acequias class on February 24 & 25th. Mr. Baca and Ms. Baca reported that they presented on land grants to the Tierra Amarilla youth group on February 22nd. Mr. Baca reported that presented to Dr. Eric Romero’s NMHU class on March 6th. Mr. Baca, Ms. Baca and Councilor Padilla will participate in the NMABE Annual Conference 2023 from April 13-15 in Albuquerque.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Mr. Baca reported that the Las Trampas Land Grant has requested a letter regarding their authority to purchase and own land. Council staff will work on the letter and arrange with the chairman to obtain his signature for the letter.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

21. Public Comments – Discussion only

Councilor Padilla commented that land grants should be represented in the exhibits at the Palace of the Governors. Mr. Archuleta added that he discussed the issue with Zach Quintero, who is now interim director at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and wants to create a permanent exhibit on land grants and acequias and offered space for NMLGC meetings.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

Land grants need to submit quarterly reports to DFA. The Consejo quarterly meeting will take place on March 25, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom.

23. Date and Location for April Council Meeting

The Council will hold a special meeting relating to the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets at 9:00am on April 13th, 2023. The Council will holds its April 2023 regular Council meeting on April 20th, 2023 at 9:00am at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

24. 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 2:32pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
April 13, 2023 – 9:00am
UNM Science and Technology Park
851 University Blvd SE, Suite 202
Albuquerque, NM 87106

**Final Meeting Minutes
Special Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 9:13am 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); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets

Mr. Arturo Archuleta provided an update on FY 2024 budget projections and FY 2023 budgets. Councilor Padilla commented that she would like for Council staff to look into a list of things that the Council can purchase for the land grants, like computers, printers, chairs, scanners, kitchen equipment, tables and chairs. Other items might be reams of paper, landscaping tools (gloves, shovels, rakes, weed wackers, blowers, coveralls), fencing materials (t-posts, wire, pipe 2-3/8”). They asked if DFA will let us purchase tables and chairs or \$80,000 worth of furniture. Perhaps staff could look into the purchase of these items directly by the Council.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve moving \$2,000 from in-state travel to out-of-state travel and to increase line item “participant incentives” from \$30,900 to \$38,725; 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 FY 2024 budget; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. 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 10:54am MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
April 20, 2023 – 9:00am
National Hispanic Cultural Center
Intel Visual Arts Building - Executive Conference Room
1701 4th St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Zoom – Meeting I.D. –992 2538 8913

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 9:08am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests – Welcome from Zach Quintero, Interim Director, NHCC

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General’s Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Erick Stemmerman (USFS, R3); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant); John Romero (Office of the State Engineer); Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Steven Bekkerus (USFS); Aurora Váldez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant); Tim Hagamann (NM EDD); Ashely Beyer (Sen. Martin Heinrich); Manuel Trujillo (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Zachary Quintero (NHCC)

Zach Quintero, interim director of the NHCC, offered his welcome to the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended; 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 March 24, 2023 Regular Meeting & April 13, 2023 Special Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 24, 2023 Council meeting; 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 meeting minutes of the April 13, 2023 Special Council meeting; Councilor Padilla 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 Natural Resource Issues & Concerns – Presentation by John Romero, OSE

John Romero introduced himself as the water rights director for the Office of the State Engineer, where he oversees the Water Resource Allocation Program. He is from Mora and has been with the OSE for 30 years. He attended the Council meeting today to answer questions posed by the Council in an August 15, 2022 letter regarding Sipapu Ski Resort's use of water from the Rio Pueblo during the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire. Mr. Romero stated that he spoke with Sipapu manager John Paul Bradley during the fire and they asked if they could use water. They were able to measure usage precisely because of meters. Permission was granted verbally and not in writing because it was an emergency. Small fire fighting trucks were also drawing water out of the Rio Pueblo and there was additional unmetered use. According to Mr. Romero, the use of meters allows us to at least know what Sipapu extracted from the river. They hold a diversion right is for 18.46 acre feet per year. Councilor Polaco asked if it was a junior or senior water right and Mr. Romero did not know, but guessed that it was a transferred senior right, transferred around 20 years ago. This is important because if there is a call on the water, junior right holders could be cut off and seniors water rights holders would retain their rights.

Mr. Romero stated that Sipapu's water usage was 18.39 acre feet in 2019, 18.92 acre feet in 2021 and 36.77 feet in 2022, meaning that they doubled their allotted water usage in fighting the HP/CC Fire. Mr. Archuleta inquired over protocols for overuse. Mr. Romero stated that outside of an emergency situation, where verbal permission was granted, a water use has to pay the overuse back and the OSE can make them pay double. They can also acquire other water rights through lease or reduce use in a subsequent year and compliance order enforcement. For Sipapu, the use during the HPCC was an emergency, so we won't ask for it to be repaid. Mr. Archuleta asked what the statutory authority the OSE had that allowed them to grant emergency use. Mr. Romero responded that he is not an attorney and doesn't know precisely and Mr. Archuleta countered that typically there needs to be permission to change use and that perhaps the Legislature needs to take up and create statutory authority to protect OSE. Councilor Padilla commented that the USFS should pay with their water rights since they started the fire.

Mr. Romero stated that transfer of water rights is common and that water rights need to be transferred from the same basin and the same stream system. Water rights also need to stay within northern Rio Grande, middle Rio Grande and lower Rio Grande. Typically, water rights are moved via a permit through the OSE. He and Councilor Polaco added that if the acequia has it in their bylaws, they can stop the transfer of the water rights. Municipalities have a water right that is broad and allows for emergency use, like fire fighting. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division) commented that issues like ponding and transfers raise red flags and concerns that acequias and water rights are not being protected. Mr. Romero responded that transfer requests are given an impairment test that is rigorous and the OSE is very conservative in

how it reviews applications. Permits take a long time to review and include complex modeling, hydrology, engineering reports, etc.

Mr. Romero stated that the OSE has four divisions and seven district offices statewide. The Litigation and Adjudication Program (LAP) takes care of adjudications, the Interstate Streams Commission deals with compact issues and the Water Rights Division deals with water rights and supervises water masters on more active streams, especially those under adjudication. There remains a lot of illegal use and stealing of water and the OSE is understaffed and needs more people to fight wealthy people that lawyer up. In the 2023 legislative session there was a bill to increase enforcement capabilities and allow steeper fines but it did not get a single hearing. Twelve years ago, the Water Resource Allocation Program had more than seventy staff; now it has around forty. Councilor Padilla commented that in Valencia County businessmen buy land, sell water rights to municipality, then dig wells and irrigate day and night. Mr. Romero stated this would be a case of illegal use since once a water right is sold, leased or transferred, they cannot use it. Unpermitted wells being drilled by unlicensed well drillers is a problem, as is illegal diversions. In the Chama area, there are more than 100 ponds. Mr. Martinez and Councilors Polaco and Padilla asked who was protecting the interest of the small operators that cannot afford lawyers.

Bonifacio Vásquez, President of the Santa Bárbara Land Grant, clarified that the Council's August 2022 letter was the result of his inquiry. He stated that 99% of Sipapu is on their former common lands and that people in the area have been talking about Sipapu's water right for years. He added that people learned about the OSE giving permission for Sipapu to pull water from the river when people downstream were not allowed to do the same and feel that priority rights were being ignored. There remains a high potential for another big wildfire in the area and it seems that during an emergency, the rule book is thrown away. 72-5-24.1 states that the OSE shall not approve, even in an emergency, the transfer of a right and Picuris Pueblo has priority rights over Sipapu. The Rio Pueblo was pumped so much that the Rio Pueblo was nearly dry and Rio Embudo users didn't have water. They felt that priority rights were circumvented with OSE action allowing use. Additionally, people believe that Bruce Bolander sold his water right when he sold Sipapu but is still using it to irrigate. In 2012 Sipapu asked for 100-350 acre feet purchased from the Jicarilla Apache Nation be transferred to the Rio Pueblo, which doesn't make sense they are from different stream systems. Mr. Romero responded that the permit has not been approved. Additionally, a 1999 transfer happened before acequias were empowered under state law to stop them.

Mr. Romero reiterated that he made the call to allow Sipapu to use water in excess of their right as it was an emergency as it employs people and is important to save. Mr. Vásquez responded that Sipapu is a business, not a home and other users protecting their homes were not allowed to do the same. Instead, they had to get permission from the USFS to access compuertas. Mr. Archuleta brought up HB 121, which addressed temporary water leasing permits, which are conditionally approved while the request is made. An NMAG opinion in January stated that the practice is illegal, but Mr. Romero stated that the OSE will continue the practice everywhere except the 5th judicial district. The OSE plans to clarify the rule, but Mr. Romero reiterated that when someone comes in with a valid water right, we will still issue approval on the temporary lease. The OSE Counsel opined that the OSE can still issue temporary leasing for immediate use of water. Mr. Archuleta asked what happened when someone is using a lease that is ultimately not approved and Mr. Romero responded that the would-be lessee will have to repay it from another lease.

Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna) asked (via chat) if the government use water rights under imminent domain for public emergency; Mr. Romero responded that he did not know. Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG) asked (via chat) is there a process in place to record and document the water usage for commercial marijuana use; Mr. Romero responded that there was and that it is documented and water right needs to be converted. Users cannot use domestic wells to grow marijuana and need to transfer other outdoor rights to an indoor right. Many people that were growing medical marijuana did so illegally, using domestic wells and now went into recreational growing and are using more water and using it illegally.

6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the Villanueva project is in process and the contractor is moving wood to the land grant. SLO will hold a meeting on the Bearcat project tomorrow. The SLO hopes to have both projects to complete by July.

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

Erick Stemmerman inquired regarding the Council's Washington DC trip in June and offered his assistance coordinating a meeting with the USFS Washington DC office. Chairman Sánchez stated to work with staff to coordinate. Mr. Stemmerman also offered a meeting with the Regional Office prior to the trip the first week of June. He added that he would share the discussion of emergency response to fire from the OSE presentation with the Regional Office. Zach Behrens (Carson NF PAO) reported that the Carson NF will host a second community event regarding the Taos Ski Valley's proposed expansion on May 9th; comments are due May 20th. The Carson is working on the wildfire crises strategy landscape, a priority project of State of New Mexico and the federal agencies. The Taos area is considered a high risk fire shed, including a 1.5 million acre area, a third of which is USFS land. During this fuel season, a contractor is thinning near San Cristóbal and the Questa and Camino Real Ranger Districts are offering 10 cords of dead and down wood for free and ten additional cords can be purchased. Other areas with projects include Taos Canyon, the Pueblo ridge area, Angel Fire, Arroyo Seco, and thinning work continues in Las Trampas with majordomo programs (the Ojitos Project and Rio de las Trampas Project) and there us an interest throughout Taos County to expand program. The Valle Vidal, McGaffey and Rio Grande del Rancho projects are undergoing NEPA. The Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Restoration Project may undertake some prescribed fires if weather allows. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río Chama LG) asked Mr. Behrens when wood permits for the Coyote, Canjilón, and Cuba districts would be available. He replied that sometime in May and added that there would be no free use permits on the west zone. Bonifacio Vasquez (Santa Bárbara Land Grant) added that he attended a meeting in January to discuss the Carson National Forest's 5 year plan, including treatment and firewood areas. In 2016, he began attending meetings and advocating for evaluating Bear Mountain for treatment, but at the most recent meeting, it was no longer a part of the 5-year plan. He asked how do we get our initiatives in consideration for treatment for fire and fuelwood? Mr. Behrens responded that he will have someone from the Carson National Forest / Camino Real Ranger District get back to him.

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

Lisa Morrison thanked Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Baca for the 'Land Grant 101' presentation. The presentation was recorded and will be shared with BLM staff. BLM is hiring a new BLM deputy state director for resources, who will supervise the new BLM state forester. The Rio Grande del Norte plan is ongoing and the BLM will be reaching out to the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Grant.

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) asked Ms .Morrison about the status of the Farmington Mancos Gallup RMP. She responded that the Department of Interior is assessing the Chaco withdrawal, which will take these lands out of natural resource extraction and production. She expressed her willingness to schedule a meeting with Maureen Joe of the BLM to provide an update.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) stated that hopefully they will have more information on the reintroduction of the traditional use bill soon. He thanked Council staff (Mr. Archuleta, Mr. Baca and Ms. Baca) for answering questions and for all of their help. He reported that Senator Ben R. Luján was in New Mexico for the work period, where he hosted Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to review the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire and met with the delegation. Sec. Vilsack committed to working with the delegation to provide resources, including \$40 million for broadband. Sen. Luján also joined Sec. of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to discuss the infrastructure law and improvements coming to New Mexico, including wildlife crossings near Santa Ana Pueblo and \$1.5 million to UNM for science education. Mr. Chávez has updated the San Joaquín del Río de Chama and Town of Tomé Grants on the IRS review of their EIN issues. They are hoping to amend IRS form SS4 to accommodate the change from non-profit to political subdivisions / units of government.

Mr. Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) stated to Mr. Chávez that he approached Rio Arriba County Commissioner Moises Morales about the BLM's disposal of an old building in Coyote between 1999-2001 to Rio Arriba County, with the stipulation that it remained in the public interest. Five acres continued to be used as part of this disposal, but 400 acres are not used. Mr. Martínez has proposed that Rio Arriba County transfer the property to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant, but wants to be sure that the BLM will take no issue with it. He has discussed the proposal with Lisa Morrison from the BLM. Mr. Martínez asked if the Senator's office can help facilitate this transfer of two 200 acres lots. Mr. Chávez asked Mr. Martínez to send a request letter and documentation that identifies how the Senator's office can help.

Mr. Baca presented a letter in opposition to the Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act (previously introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich) from the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and several other organizations and individuals. Chairman Sánchez stated that the Council would review and consider taking action on the letter in the May 2023 meeting.

State

Anissa Baca (NMLGC staff) reported that questionnaires for 2023 capital outlay appropriations have gone out. They were funded with general fund monies so there are no STB questionnaire issues. Chairmans Sánchez commented that we will know the new chair of the Interim at the next Council meeting. Leonard Martínez stated that since the San Joaquín Grant has been the fiscal agent for the Mercedes Unidas Center the Grant has not received capital outlay appropriations for itself. They need the legal structure defined to separate San Joaquin Grant from the Mercedes Unidas. Mr. Archuleta commented that the Holland and Hart contract is in. Depending on the structure, it is unlikely that the entity (Mercedes Unidas) can receive monies since the three land grants themselves are the units of government, not the Mercedes Unidas. The Council can help set up a meeting with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District's grant writers to apply for USDA – Rural Development monies. Former LGSP student intern Vidal Gonzales was

just recently hired as community planner. We need the dates of the next Mercedes Unidas center meeting so NCNMEDD can be asked to attend.

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

None.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Ricardo Dow y Anaya reported that the Treaty Division is in the process of defining goals and roles and that NM Attorney General Raúl Tórrez wants to meet with the NMLGC. The transition continues and he is working on database to log complaints. He commented that the OSE presentation raised some red flags regarding water rights and pueblo nations.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update. New Mexico Legal Aid has invoiced \$28,900. Travel has totaled \$3,674.59. The IGSA has totaled \$247,114.86 so far with \$380,086 remaining. Youth development has not been spent, but many contracts and purchases are in process. The FY 2024 budget (in packet) was presented for a total budget of \$701,900.

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the FY 2024 budget; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Travel to Washington DC need to be approved by the Governor’s office. Council members will have to pay up front and will be reimbursed for actual expenses with costs for food reimbursable for up to \$59.00 per day. Councilors will need to show itemized receipts for expenses, including travel and hotels.

Mr. Archuleta also verified that no action was taken on Joe Lennihan contract. NMLGC staff met with RMD. Progress is slow but the process is moving along. Some land grants have outstanding balances, which the Council can pay. 5-6 different applications for insurance coverage and bonding have been sent to land grants. Excess monies may be used to purchase of other items and we need to send list of what we want to buy to DFA for approval. Staff is examining the New Mexico statewide price agreements for costs.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request #4 for was presented for \$42,606.68, including \$7,789.60 in surveyor contract, \$7,101.11 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #4 for \$42,606.68; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that Chris Chavez has been busy working on projects on the Tajiye and Town of Tomé Land Grants. He presented invoice #3 for \$7,094.10.

Chairman Sánchez made a motion to approve Invoice #3 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$7,094.10; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Council received a request from Melvin Apodaca from the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant for surveying services related to the old elementary administration building the Grant is trying to acquire from Rio Arriba County. Councilor Polaco commented that the Grant has been working on an agreement with the Commission Chair. The work would include more drafting and platting than fieldwork.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve surveying services for the Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla. Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council has received 5 invoices from New Mexico Legal Aid for work from November 2022 through March 2023. The description for work conducted each month is included in each billing and both are included in the meeting packet.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$1,100.00 for work completed in November 2022; 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 approve Pay Request #2 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$9,725.00 for work completed in December 2022; 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 Pay Request #3 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$7,975.00 for work completed in January 2023; 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 approve Pay Request #4 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$5,487.50 for work completed in February 2023; 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 Pay Request #5 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$4,612.50 for work completed in March 2023; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco stated that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is waiting to hear from NM Game and Fish regarding the deed and transfer.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca stated that the Cebolleta, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, and Don Fernando de Taos Land Grants submitted their updated boards of trustees.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) stated that she, Mr. Baca and Councilor Padilla participated in the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education annual conference (April 13-15) and participated in an ALGE workshop and flushed out a few lesson plans. There were also discussion panels regarding ALGE. Ms. Baca stated that she has continued working with Tierra Amarilla youth project and did a presentation for Dawn Salazar. The LGSP is planning a small teachers institute.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received information from Perry Valdez regarding licensure for professional engineers and surveyors. We also received an e-mail from Tim Hagamann, NM EDD, regarding a

\$3,600 grant to the Anton Chico Economic Development for plumbing improvements, which might be lost as there Guadalupe County has not committed to assist. Mr. Archuleta stated that he will contact the Anton Chico Land Grant to see if they can assist. The Council sent a letter on behalf of the Trampas Land Grant regarding their ability to purchase property. The Council and David Benavides will be recognized by MALSA with the Fighting for Justice Award at a ceremony on April 22, 2023.

Mr. Vásquez asked if the Council ever received a response from the USFS regarding Sipapu's planned expansion; no response was received. He mentioned that part of their planning and expansion (900 acres increase in size) includes ponds and summer operations with zip lines.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Councilor Padilla requested assistance with the Town of Tomé Land Grant election, to be held on April 30th.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

DFA is hosting ICIP virtual trainings and attendees need to register. Mr. Vásquez reported that the Santa Bárbara Land Grant will start negotiations with the Peñasco Independent School District for the acquisition of the old dental clinic. He thanked the Council and the NM Land Grant Consejo for their letters of support.

23. Date and Location for May Council Meeting

The May 2023 Council meeting will take place on May 25th at 10:00am in Albuquerque, venue to be determined.

24. Tour of NHCC

Zach Quintero, Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, provided a tour of the NHCC Art Gallery, Library, genealogical center, and fresco in the torreón.

25. 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 1:43pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
May 25, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South building, Room 106
1634 University Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 992 0134 1237

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:01am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests – Welcome from Zach Quintero, Interim Director, NHCC

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General’s Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Erick Stemmerman (USFS, R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Joe Chávez (San Miguel del Bado Land Grant); Samuel López (Las Trampas Land Grant); Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara LG); Chris Chávez (Territorial Surveying); Jolene Molina (Cebolleta LG); Marty Molina (Cebolleta); Rita Padilla Gutierrez (Town of Tomé LG); Shaun Sanchez (Santa Fe National Forest); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Joseph DeSoto (Cubero LG); Claresse Romero (San Miguel del Bado LG)

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended; 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 April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 20, 2023 Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that Bearcat project has yielded 58 cords of wood. The count for the Villanueva project is coming soon. Both projects are coming along nicely.

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

Erick Stemmerman (USFS Region 3) introduced the new Santa Fe National Forest forest supervisor, Shaun Sánchez. Mr. Sánchez is a native of Buenavista in Mora County and worked for U.S. Fish and Wildlife for 22 years and stated that he looks forward to working with land grants. Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara LG) asked Mr. Stemmerman if the USFS ever responded to the August 2022 letter from the Council, inquiring about the Sipapú Ski Area Expansion. He added that he asked Camino Real District Ranger Michael Luján about the letter and if any response was issued and Mr. Luján did not know of any response. Mr. Stemmerman responded that he had not yet seen the letter and asked that it be sent to him. Mr. Vásquez also brought up the decision memo regarding Sipapú that was signed by Carson NF supervisor James Durán in June of 2018; regarding the Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort improvement project. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant has been involved with Sipapú since 2014 but was not asked to participate in public involvement during the expansion discussions. Scoping for the 2012 expansion plan took place and the Grant was not engaged and Mr. Vásquez feels that this is discrimination. Mr. Stemmerman responded that he will work on this issue and that Regional Forester Michiko Martin and Carson NF Supervisor James Durán will likely attend the next Council meeting. Mr. Archuleta reported that Council staff and Chairman Sánchez met with representatives from the USFS Washington DC office and thanked Senator Ben R. Luján's staff and Mr. Stemmerman for setting this up. The Council discussed the reintroduction of the S. 2708, the Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. The USFS Office of the General Council (Ellen Hornstein) had some helpful suggestions, including codifying the MOU in the legislation. The Council will meet with USFS representatives in Washington DC and discuss further. Mr. Stemmerman offered to help schedule the meeting in Washington DC.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM is sending letters to cooperating agencies for the Rio Grande del Norte management plan this week. The BLM will do an EA (environmental assessment) rather than a full on Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The 2012 Taos RMP is working pretty well and rather than starting from scratch, they want to do an EA. The proposed Public Land Rule will allow "conservation leasing" which allows interested parties to restore public lands. The following meeting regarding the plan will take place on May 30 in Albuquerque at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center from 5:00-7:00pm. A virtual meeting will take place on June 5 and the comment period ends June 20th. Ms. Morrison stated that she sent in the request from Mr. Archuleta for a meeting with Washington DC BLM / Department of Interior staff and will let the Council know what she hears. She also reported that Alyssa Duran has been hired as the BLM state forester and told Councilor Polaco that BLM staff met with Georgia Woodacre. She reported to Mr. Leonard Martínez that she has secured June 14 to meet with BLM staff regarding the Farmington Mancos management plan, but needs a time.

Mr. Archuleta questions why the BLM is not doing a full management plan for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and wants to instead amend the management plan for Taos and make it a component of the Taos plan. Ms. Morrison responded that the BLM believes the Taos plan is a good plan and can cover the concerns for the monument. Mr. Archuleta asked of the EIS from the

2012 Taos plan will be tiered and Ms. Morrison responded that Brad Higdon could answer that question with more authority than she. Mr. Archuleta added that the proclamation creating the monument required the creation of a land management plan and asked if putting it under the preexisting Taos plan met that requirement. The Taos plan is considered relatively new, but was signed in 2012, making over a decade old. Ms. Morrison responded that the BLM has held 2 public meeting and virtual meetings on this action, but can also set up a call with Brad Higdon to answer this question.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update - Including S. 2908 opposition letter request; D.C. Trip Update; Farm Bill Programs; Land Grant Interim Committee 2023 Session

Federal

Council members discussed the Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act (S. 2980), proposed by Senator Martin Heinrich, and an opposition letter led by the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. Councilor Polaco made a motion that the Council sign on to the letter opposing the Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

DFA approved the trip to Washington DC. Council members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred. So far, Council members and staff have meetings on June 7 with Senator Ben R. Luján, Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández and Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury. Staff is continuing to reach out to Senator Heinrich and Congressman Gabe Vasquez’s offices to secure a meeting. Staff also sent a request to meet with Sec. Deb. Haaland and might meet with an undersecretary. Meetings with the USFS and BLM are also planned. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) thanked the Council for participating in the Farm Bill listening session. The office’s DC team is working on issues raised in meeting. Mr. Pacheco reported that he will be in Washington and will join the meeting in person and offer to assist with meetings with DOI, USFS and BLM and that Rep. Leger Fernández plans to reintroduce the bill this congress, with some amendments. He added that there will be a rural workforce workshop on June 4 at the Luna Community College campus, focusing on recovery from HPCC fire. The idea is to help local people get jobs and contracts in the recovery effort.

Mr. Archuleta added that in the packet was a list of programs in the Farm Bill that land grants would benefit from being eligible for. The language that made land grants eligible for EQIP finding under the 2018 farm bill under the water title and the Council seeks to ensure that land grants are eligible under CRP, CSP, RCPP, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Program and the Emergency Conservation Program, which is especially important with fires being an increasing issue. The Healthy Forest Reserve Program might be more for agencies, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement program could protect common lands as can Agricultural Land Easements. The Watershed Rehab Program, Title V credit and Farm ownership loans could be beneficial, the latter allowing land grants to access low interest loans to acquire former common lands for agricultural production for use by community and land grant members. The Title VI for rural development includes broadband infrastructure programs and the community facilities and

direct loan and grant programs could be beneficial. The NMLGC suggestions also include a definition for land grants mercedes offered as well.

Chairman Sánchez added that a 5% put aside in programs like EQIP for small ranchers and farmers would be greatly beneficial. The SWCDs in team 5 (Valencia, Torrance, parts of Bernalillo, Guadalupe and San Miguel) want to help, but cannot set aside monies for small ranchers; understand definition looks at farmers and ranchers as 1,000s of acres. Claunch Pinto SWCD is supportive of this and we should receive a copy of a letter from them soon. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján) provided an update on the San Joaquín del Rio de Chama and Town of Tomé EIN issues. He also reported that Senator Luján attended Rural Broadband Summit with FCC Chair Stark, NTIA administrator Allen Davidson and Xochitl Torres Small, where they discussed bringing broadband to rural communities and permitting and easement issues. The Senator also introduced the Wolf and Livestock Fairness Act, bi-partisan legislation that provides compensation to ranchers who lose livestock to wolves. Mr. Vásquez (Santa Bárbara LG) asked Mr. Chávez for assistance with issues at the Camino Real Ranger District, particularly mitigating wildfire concerns, benefiting watershed and providing firewood. District Ranger Luján has asked for something in writing to get onto the plan.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Interim Land Grant Committee had a planning meeting with new Interim chair Rep. Kristina Ortez, and Vice Chair Sen. Leo Jaramillo. Meeting dates are forthcoming but meeting sites will likely be Carnuel, Las Vegas, and Peñasco. Mark Edwards will reach out to land grants to discuss hosting. Issues that will be discussed in this interim session include including land acquisitions, including creating a fund that offers low interest loans, which can be repaid with guaranteed revenue streams. Council staff and Chairman Sánchez brought up concerns over appraisals versus certified market analysis. Water and acequia issues might be discussed as well. The formal organizational meeting will be held in June in Santa Fe. Mr. Archuleta suggested to Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG – Treaty Division) that NMAG Raul Tórréz may present at an interim Land Grant Committee meeting, perhaps at the same meeting as the Office of the State Engineer, where they can discuss water leasing approvals. Emergency use of water approvals by OSE are being approved without opportunity to protest.

Other issues are tax issues, where property that land grants have the best claim to can be removed from tax sales. Now that land grants that are political subdivisions are listed in statute, perhaps Taxation and Revenue can be required to reach out to land grants when they are holding tax sales. Councilor Padilla added that action needs to be taken regarding appraisals, which are costly and take time to get completed. There needs to be some sort of leeway as outside interests have big money and land grants cannot match if appraisals come in low. Mr. Archuleta has been in conversation with DFA, they seemed to ‘check a box’, but understand that certain properties need to be acquired for a specific purpose and properties are unique and that they do not fall under procurement. Appraisals are 60-90 days out and the state might need statewide price agreements with real estate appraisers to quicken the process.

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

None.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division

Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya reported that he met with the chief deputy NMAG. The NMAG’s office is holding a hiring event on May 21- May 27 and will hold interviews May 23 – June 2. The Treaty Division will participate through Dr. Dow y Anaya. They might have multiple attorneys work on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division issues. 23 positions will later be hired for special programs.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budget

Youth projects have continued though it has been hard to get people through the project. The East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District has been doing outreach to land grants in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. Bonifacio Vasquez mentioned that he dropped out of the project and Mr. Archuleta states that the request to GPS the Santa Bárbara Land Grant boundaries was too large of a request because of the size of the grant. They have reached out to the Abiquiu, Tierra Amarilla and San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grants. They might be able to GPS map mojoneras if the land grant knows their location, but this won’t be a survey. Mr. Chavez added that to GPS the mojoneras and locate them they need fieldnotes with rock types to locate them. Nine students from land grant communities are participating in the YCC.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the invoice from ERASWCD, to include any associated indirect costs; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Pay request #5 for was presented for \$41,791.36, including \$26,991.79 in project personnel, 660.24 in travel costs, 7,094.10 in surveyor contract, and \$6,965.23 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #5 for \$41,791.36; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

An internal budget revision was presented and is in the meeting packet.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve an internal budget revision for \$30,200.00 total; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the FY 2024 Scope of Work for the IGSA with UNM. He added “m. support and assistance to SB-192, monies to youth programming, financial and natural resource management support to land grants,” and under, “y. UNM School of Law,” corrected the name of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law clinic and edited ee., and added “other online accounts, including social media.”

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve SOW for IPRA for FY 2024; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Chris Chávez (Territorial Surveying) gave a presentation regarding surveying, especially Tajique and Las Trampas. Only Manzano, Las Vegas, Tecolote and Truchas are named in Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. Land grants could ask surveyors to give them a courtesy copy or surveys done on the land grant. Mr. Archuleta added that land grants are protected from adverse possession under 49.1. We could revisit the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and ask them to include all land grants named under 49.1 or ask that they go through the Council to share their work with the appropriate boards. Mr. Chavez and Mr. Archuleta discussed survey issues on land grants, including issues with deeds made by non heirs used for collateral on loans in Manzano. Mr. Chavez stated that good surveys on land grants could help cancel sales. He added that he chooses the appropriate type of surveys on a case by case basis, based on the situation and needs of the land grant. Surveyors often face threats of violence when working on private land, even though they have a right to enter private property to complete their work. He added that one week of work remains at Santa Bárbara.

Pay request #4 for \$14,391.50 from Territorial Land surveying was presented for work on the Tajique and Santa Barbara Land Grants.

Councilor Polaco a motion to approve Pay request #4 for \$14,391.50 from Territorial Land Surveying; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

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 Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco stated that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is negotiating with New Mexico Game and Fish regarding fish and the maintenance for the gate for the La Puente Ditch.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) stated that the Town of Tomé Land Grants submitted the results of their April 30th, 2023 election and their updated board of trustees and the San Miguel del Bado submitted their election results.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LGSP submitted an expansion request in their RPSP report to support YCC expansion. Mr. Baca reported that the LGSP is collaborating with NMHU and the Peñasco Independent School District on an ALGE Institute on June 10th. Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that the LGSP and NMLGC will host a teachers land grant and acequia curriculum institute in Española on June 17th. She also completed oral history interviews in Tierra Amarilla youth program and received good feedback. Councilor Polaco received good feedback on program from the community as well.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant) presented a resolution that will be passed by the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant that will petition US Congress to return Cañón de Chama to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant. The Grant will also ask ILGC to support and will ask for a memorial at next legislative session. There is camping where the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant plans an irrigation project. The Grant is asking for the Council to support their resolution. Chairman Sánchez asked Mr. Martínez to bring the request back after passed it has been passed by the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant board and the Council can endorse it at the next Council meeting.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Padilla commented that land grants need training regarding hiring employees and hiring contractors, including the difference, considerations, what a contract should have, etc. Land grants don't want to run into issues regarding payroll taxes and workers compensation. Mr. Archuleta stated that current coverage will cover volunteers and board members and may change. He added that financial training would be beneficial as well, as well as do's and don'ts on expenditures. We'll learn more from AUPs that all land grants will need to complete. Calendar year AUPs are due in May; fiscal year AUPS are due in December.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara LG) thanked the Council for the \$5,000.00 grant for wood distribution. More than 600 loads were delivered and all fuelwood has been removed from county yard. Mr. Baca reported that bond applications are being submitted and processed and executed by Marsh. The Council has also assisted numerous land grants fill and submit their insurance forms, but Monica Poulsen from Marsh has been totally unresponsive. Chairman Sánchez reminded land grants that FY 2025-2029 ICIP's are due July 15, 2023 and it is time to start talking to your boards about priorities. Councilor Padilla stated that the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced

Consejo Annual meeting will take place on June 24th, 2023 at 10:00am in Cañones, hosted by the Merced Comunitaria Juan Bautista Baldés.

23. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The June 2023 Regular Council meeting will take place on Friday, June 16 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the UNM Science and Technology Park.

24. 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 1:40pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 16, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 998 3442 9792

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:03am 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); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General’s Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Erick Stemmerman (USFS, R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Jolene Molina (Cebolleta Land Grant); Marty Molina (Cebolleta Land Grant); Jason Quintana (Merced de Manzano); Jason Martin Mondragón (NRCS); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Vicente Abeyta (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Kathy Roxlau (Sunstone Compliance); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant); Avedona Lucero (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Jose Mondragón (Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant); Kimberly Korbas (USFS); Lee Few; Lorrie García (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Manuel Trujillo (Santa Bárbara Land Grant); Phillip Benavidez (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Vidal Gonzales (Northern New Mexico Economic Development District); Frank Trujillo (Don Fernando de Taos LG – manager).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended; 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 May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 25, 2023 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 U.S. Forest Service Update

Erick Stemmerman (USFS) reported that the meeting between the Council and USFS in Washington DC was productive. Mr. Arturo Archuleta reported that Council staff met with the USFS legislative affairs director Jake Donnay and legislative affairs specialist Josh Nadas to discuss the bill and were joined by representatives of Senator Ben R. Luján and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's offices. The meeting was productive and a good line of communication has been established between the USFS Legislative Affairs office and the Congressional offices. Included in the packet is the USFS response to the NMLGC letter (August 2022) regarding Sipapú and the Santa Bárbara Land Grant. There is also a letter from the Santa Bárbara Land Grant regarding priorities on the Camino Real Ranger District in the packet. Jason Quintana (president, Manzano Land Grant) reported that the Manzano Land Grant and the Tajiue Land Grant both have road graters and are working with the Cibola National Forest to maintain roads. They have had issues with getting a SAMs number and have been requested to provide a letter of incorporation. The agreement gives land grants access to these roads even when closed in order to maintain them.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update, including Cooperating Agency Approval

Lisa Morrison reported that they are considering an amendment to the Public Lands Rule and are allowing the public comment period to be extended. Another rule is proposed, reducing fees on solar and wind energy production. Alyssa Duran is the new state forester for BLM and will attend a future meeting. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) reported that he met with Maureen Joe and Jeff Tafoya of the BLM to discuss the Farmington-Gallup-Mancos on the RMP, which is moving forward. There are no shovel ready wood projects and the San Joaquin Grant is interested in power generating wind mills and solar projects. The Grant did get 10 cords of wood near Lindrith, but there is not much in the area. He also reported that he learned that the BLM online wood permits are getting phased out because they are too easy to cheat and duplicate. Ms. Morrison stated that was the case and that they are looking for alternatives. She added that with the Chaco withdrawal they can move forward with the RMP. Regarding wood permits, there are a lot of cultural artifacts in the area, making it difficult. Mr. Archuleta added that the online permits were helpful and perhaps an MOU between land grants and the BLM could allow land grants to issue permits for BLM as a government entity. He added that the meeting with the Department of the Interior in Washington DC was successful and that the BLM and Dept. of Interior had previously testified in support of the bill and will continue to do so. He thanked Ms. Morrison for her assistance setting the meetings up. In the packet is a letter from the BLM Taos Field Office inviting the New Mexico Land Grant Council to serve as a cooperating agency on the Rio Grande del Norte plan.

Councilor Padilla made a motion approving the New Mexico Land Grant Council to serve as a cooperating agency for the Rio Grande del Norte land management plan; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) asked how the meeting with the DC staff went and offered his assistance with traditional use legislation. He reported that he has continued to reach out to the Congressional Liaison of the IRS regarding the EIN issues for Tomé and San Joaquín Land Grants. He added that Senator Ben Ray Luján's co-sponsored the introduction of the Headwaters Protection Act and has continued his work on the Farm Bill, which is a slow process. They have received comments regarding the Farm Bill from the New Mexico Land Grant Council and are working on reviewing them. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández) thanked Council members and staff that travelled to Washington DC and reiterated that the traditional use legislation is still a priority for the Congresswoman. He added that his office reached out to NRCS to provide more guidance on accessing programs under the Farm Bill.

Mr. Archuleta reported that Chairman Sánchez, Councilor Polaco, Mr. Baca and himself travelled to Washington DC to meet with Congressional offices and federal agencies, and were joined by Monica Rodriguez, who represented the New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo. They met with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, Congressman Gabe Vásquez, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, Senator Ben Ray Luján, and a staff member of Senator Martin Heinrich's office. At these meetings they discussed the traditional use act and the 2023 farm bill. The congressional direct spending awards have yet to be determined.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee met on July 9th in Santa Fe and adopted their work plan, with meetings in July, August, October and November in Las Vegas, Carnuel, Peñasco, and Santa Fe. Once the Legislative Council meets we will know the dates.

8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

The fuelwood projects in Villanueva and at the Bearcat site are wrapping up.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation on Northern Central New Mexico Economic Development District Programs, by Vidal Gonzales

Vidal Gonzales (North Central New Mexico Economic Development District) provided a background on NCNMEDD and discussed their grant program. He provided guidelines and a letter template. (in meeting packet). Mr. Archuleta thanked Mr. Gonzales for his presentations and congratulated him on his new position at NCNMEDD. Mr. Gonzales was a student employee at the Land Grant Studies Program while a student at UNM.

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

Jason Mondragon-Martin (NRCS – Assistant State Conservationist) presented NRCS programs, including EQIP and CSP. He discussed the RCPP program, which requires partnership with SWCDs, and other programs like ACEP, CIG and VPA. EQIP in New Mexico last year granted \$28 million and CSP \$23 million. He discussed the nine step process to apply, including obtaining a farm number and making a conservation plan. Applications are accepted year round for two grant cycles. The cost share is raised up to 90% for those applicants that are “historically underserved,” including Hispanic populations. Land grants will be eligible for this reduced cost share as they are

mostly Hispanic. Councilor Padilla inquired about agricultural easements; Mr. Mondragon Martin stated that he would look into them and get back to her. He was asked if the can 10% cost share come from a state grant or from federal funds and Mr. Mondragon Martin responded that it did not matter as long as the money was not from NRCS and not from the Farm Bill. Mr. Quintana commented that the NRCS in his area serves the large farmers and ranchers and ignores smaller operators. Mr. Mondragon Martin responded that he should not be experiencing this and stated that a good public forum to express your needs and where we develop recommendations to our state and national offices. Chairman Sanchez asked if he had a conservation plan template that he could share. Mr. Archuleta asked if NRCS could provide a training for land grants that goes step by step through the application.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update

Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya commented that the Treaty Division is celebrating its 20th anniversary and he has been tasked with writing a report on the last 20 years. Joseph Dworak, the deputy Attorney General, wants to meet with Chairman Sanchez and Arturo Archuleta in next few weeks and will attend July 2023 meeting. He provided Mr. Dworak with a list of eight questions that Mr. Archuleta provided to the NMAG's office several years ago. He reported that Cheyenne Trujillo has been hired pending her passing of the New Mexico State Bar exam.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant) presented a resolution from the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant asking for the return of the Cañón de Chama to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that the New Mexico Land Grant Council support the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant's resolution for the return of the Cañón de Chama; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023, FY 2024 & FY 2025 Budget FY 2023

Mr. Archuleta reported that he spoke with Marsh regarding insurance yesterday, and spoke with Jeanette Gallegos of DFA deadline is June 21. The bonds will be taken care of but Marsh had questions and concerns over some land grant properties, like the cemetery and the jail site. He is hoping that those land grants that originally submitted the local public body applications in the winter can at least get tort liability coverage directly rather than through Marsh. Under publishing, new law books will be published, hopefully before June 30th.

FY 2024 – nothing

FY 2025

The Council's budget recommendation for FY 2025 is due in July. In packet is a recommendation that was built from the FY 2024 budget request.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve FY 2025 budget recommendation; 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 approve ERASWCD voucher 1 – \$17,531.10; 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 ERASWCD voucher 2 – \$17,627.59; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – including IBR

Pay request #6 for was presented for \$99,159.49, including \$39,372.32 in project personnel, \$1,041.45 in in state travel, \$1,941.94 in out of state travel costs, \$6,200.00 in payments to law school externs, \$4,500 in UNM Law School Clinic waiver, \$27,811.10 in youth development, and \$16,526.58 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #6 for \$99,159.49; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Council discussed an internal budget revision presented by Mr. Archuleta (in packet) for a total of \$58,700.00.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the internal budget revision totaling \$58,700; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Council members discussed a Quickbooks purchase to provide annual subscriptions for land grant boards of trustees. The enterprise annual subscription is downloaded desktop software that only provides one user access on one computer. One possible issue would be unintentional downloads where more than one user from a land grant might unintentionally and that the NMLGC cannot have access and assist.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve purchase Quickbooks at cost of \$6,864.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta also presented a proposed purchase of an all in one camera and audio meeting system called the Owl at a cost of \$2,099 for two units.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve purchase Owl cameras at cost of \$2,099.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- 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

Invoice #06162023 for \$9,951 from Territorial land surveying was presented.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #06162023 for \$9,951.00 from Territorial land surveying; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Chris Chavez (Territorial Land Surveying) did a presentation on surveying on the Las Trampas and Santa Barbara Land Grants and issues created by shortcuts taken by the deputy surveyors general over a century ago (Trampas 1891, Santa Barbara 1895).

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

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco commented that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is reviewing a letter to respond to NM Game and Fish.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update

Mr. Baca commented that the LGSP participated and helped put on an acequia and land grant education teachers in Peñasco on Saturday June 10. Ms. Baca reported that the LGSP will be putting on another acequia and land grant workshop on Española on Saturday, June 17th.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

22. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Padilla commented that she would like to send eight students to the Consejo meeting in Cañones on June 24th (10:00am).

23. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

24. Date and Location for July Council Meeting

The July 2023 Regular Council meeting will take place on Friday, July 14 at 9:00am in Albuquerque, New Mexico at location tbd.

24. 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 1:42pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date