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NEW MEXICO LAND GRANT COUNCIL

Annual Report

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New Mexico Land Grant Council

Annual Report

FY 2024



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
State of Land Grants-Mercedes	2
FY 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council Activities & Expenditures Overview	8
Council FY 2024 Accomplishments	10
Technical Assistance	10
Liaison Support	14
Policy Work	14
Research	15
FY 2025 Approved Budget	17
FY 2026 Budget Request & Justification	18
Appendix 1 – FY 2024 Meeting Agendas	30
Appendix 2 – FY 2024 Meeting Minutes	46

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 2024 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received a \$626,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature, as well as \$75,000 in one-time junior appropriations targeted towards youth development and general support for land grants. Therefore, the Council's total budget for FY 2024 was \$701,900. Information about the Council's FY 2024 budget expenditures can be found in the Council's Activities and Expenditures Section starting on page 8. The Council's FY 2025 approved budget can be found on page 17 and the Council's FY 2026 budget request and justification narrative can be found starting on page 18.

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 (pg 10); Liaison Support (pg 14); Policy Work (pg 14); and Research and Related Work (pg 15). This included governance capacity support, legal services, professional surveyor services, budgeting and capital outlay expenditure support. Twenty-two (22) land grants-mercedes that are political subdivisions of the State received direct services and/or support from the Council in FY 2024 included: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cebolleta, Chililí, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldés, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Agustín, San Antonio de la Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla, Tomé, and Torreón. In addition, the three land grants that are not currently recognized as units of government received limited support from the Council concerning the steps necessary to become a political sub-division of the State, these included the Las Vegas Land Grant, the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant, and the Mesilla Bend Colony Land Grant.

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 2024 has been working on getting property tax exemptions for common lands owned by land grant-mercedes that are political subdivisions of the State. This work included discussions with the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue and individual counties. Land grant-mercedes applied for the exemptions by filing tax valuation protests with their local counties. To date, Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Torrance, and Valencia Counties have all granted the exemption. At the federal level the Council has 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) continues 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. The Grant also seeks to purchase historic properties to preserve their presence on the plaza and on US 84. 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** 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. The Grant is currently working on renovating the old School in Anton Chico and has also completed renovations of the old medical clinic building for use as administrative offices.

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The **Arroyo Hondo de Arriba Land Grant** was formerly named in Statute in 2023. The Grant 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. It is involved in litigation regarding a property dispute and has received assistance from the NMLGC and the UNM School of Law. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Grant protested the Taos Ski Valley's expansion and its impact on the watershed and use of water, impacting the community of Valdez (San Antonio).

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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 Land Grant is in the process of developing a renewable energy solar project and just recently adopted a zoning ordinance for the Land Grant. The Land 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. The Merced hosted the October 2023 meeting of the Interim Land Grant Committee of the New Mexico State Legislature.

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The **Cebolleta Land 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. They hosted the March 2024 meeting of the New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo, which is an association of participating land grants from around the State.

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La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí (Chililí Land Grant) continued its collaboration 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 Estancia, Moriarty, Willard and Torrance County Regional Water Association (EMWT). Chililí also purchased several parcels within the exterior boundaries of the Grant, repatriating former common land for their community. The Land Grant has also completed its second housing development for community members and is planning for a third. Finally, in FY 2024, La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí resolved its ongoing dispute regarding property taxes with the Bernalillo County Assessor, setting precedent that all land grant lands should not be subject to taxation.

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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. It is involved in litigation regarding former common lands and is receiving assistance from the NMLGC and New Mexico Legal Aid, the NMLGC's legal services provider.

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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. Members of the board volunteer in various capacities, including the acequia and the volunteer fire department.

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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 has nearly acquired a library of historical materials for public research. The historic cemetery near the Taos Plaza that was paved over and used as a parking lot for a bank is now owned by the Town of Taos and the land grant plans to engage in discussions regarding how to determine burials and honor their ancestors.

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La Merced Comunitaria Juan Bautista Baldés (Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant) continues to maintain the Cañones Community Center from Rio Arriba County and is engaged in the Encino Vista plan of the U.S. Forest Service.

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The **Los Vigiles Land Grant** was officially named in Statute in June 2023. It has continued its recovery efforts from the Hermit's Peak Fire, which destroyed more than half of their common lands. They received a capital outlay appropriation to purchase heavy equipment to aid in their recovery efforts. They are in negotiations with FEMA for federal compensation. The Board is working with the Las Vegas School Board to obtain a community building that is currently owned by the local school district.

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The **Lower Gallinas Land Grant** was officially named in Statute in June 2023, and held their first election under the new Statute in June 2024. Lower Gallinas lost nearly all of their common lands in the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fire and are working on recovery efforts and negotiations with FEMA for federal compensation for their losses.

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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 acquired large tract of land via a real estate contract and is pursuing a long-term loan with the New Mexico Finance Authority. Manzano and other East Mountain land grants remain opposed to the EMWT regional water association plan and have remain engaged, expressing their mutual concern that the system will effect 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 destructive trespass on their common lands. The Grant continues is reassessing their use of the Campo del Oso, which serves as a rental space for community functions. With the assistance of the NMLGC and based precedent on the Chililí property tax decision, the Grant is protesting property taxes assessed by Sandoval County. The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant is also 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. Finally, they are engaged with the Cíbola National Forest (Mountainair Ranger District) in fire prevention efforts in Las Huertas canyon.

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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 and is pursuing properties that surround their sala. San Joaquín is also continuing its plans to develop an irrigation project in the Cañón de Chama and has been in discussions with the United State Forest Service on the project. The 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 grant elected an entirely new board, which is interested in the preservation of historic buildings within the grant. They are working with the BLM to repatriate historic cemeteries to the Grant and is working with New Mexico State Parks to determine boundary disputes between heirs and the Villanueva State Park.

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La Merced de Santa Bárbara (Santa Bárbara Land Grant) continued to renovate the old San Acasio Church which the Grant purchased from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in FY 2022. The grant also purchased and is renovating the old Peñasco dental clinic from the Peñasco Independent School District. The facility will be used as an administrative center. The Land Grant continues to engage the Carson National Forest on a number priority issues including 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 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 and purchased and distributed hundreds of cords to community members in need from the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire containment lines. The Grant co-hosted the August 2023 meeting of the Interim Land Grant Committee in Peñasco with the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grant.

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The **Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grant** continued the Las Trampas Forest mayordomo project, which was paused when a fire ignited on burn piles near the land grant community of El Valle in September 2023. The Las Trampas Grant has continued to engage the Peñasco Independent School District regarding the transfer of the historic schoolhouse in Las Trampas to the Land Grant. The Grant purchased a wood processor, which will help with their community fuelwood projects. They are working with the Camino Real Ranger District of the Carson National Forest to expand the program.

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In FY 2024, **La Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla (Tierra Amarilla Land Grant)** acquired the former school administration building in Tierra Amarilla, which they are renovating into an administrative facility for the Land Grant. They continue 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 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 jail site and casita and purchased additional properties near their historic plaza and Cerro Tomé. The Land Grant has also acquired 8 acres of irrigable farm land in Tomé for the purpose of preserving the farm land and keeping it in production 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 maintain their community center, which 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 acquire properties for inclusion in their common lands, including a parcel that will allow them to move the transfer station further from their community center. The Tajique 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 **Torreón Land Grant** received \$275,000 in capital outlay funds for their community center and fire station and is working through the process of getting up to date 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.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

FY 2024 APPROVED BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

In fiscal year 2024 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received a \$626,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature as well as \$75,000 in one-time junior appropriation, targeted for youth development and general support to land grants, for a total fiscal year budget of \$701,900. The junior funds were used to sponsor two youth conservation corps projects in Torrance, Rio Arriba and Taos Counties and for land surveying services (additional details provided in below in Council Accomplishments). Expenditures for FY 2024 totaled \$665,876, which amounted to expenditure of 95% of the Council's 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: \$318,310 on salary and fringe benefits for Council staff; \$29,445 on direct legal services for land grants; \$3,500 for a law school extern to work with the legal services contractor; \$10,000 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; \$49,999 on surveyor services for land grants; \$60,000 for two youth conservation corps project collaboration with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District and Conservation Legacy Ancestral Lands Program; \$6,109 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 regarding the land grant traditional uses legislation; \$5,950 on in-state travel expenses for Council members to attend meetings; \$6,630 in personnel out-of-state travel expenses for two staff members to accompany Council members in Washington D.C.; \$7,035 in personnel in-state travel expenses for attendance at various meetings, legislative hearings and to meet with individual land grants; \$4,972 to publish a compilation of articles produced by the Center for Land Grant Studies; \$7,248 for the purchase of a Quickbooks one year online annual subscription for 18 land grants; \$13,324 on Quickbooks trainings and support for land grants through a service contract; \$7,438 for service contracts for support to the Mercedes Unidas Center Project; \$10,000 in a natural resources contract for provide support to the expansion of mayordomo type fuelwood projects for land grants in Rio Arriba County; \$182 for office supplies; \$11,671 for office furniture for the Council this included the purchase of conference room tables and chairs for the Council's new office space; \$6,012 in office space rental; \$765 in meeting rental space for council meetings prior to moving to new office space which includes a conference room; \$44 on postage; \$1,258 on the Council's copier maintenance contract; \$102,683 on the facilities and administrative overhead costs for the University of New Mexico Intergovernmental Services Agreement for housing the Council at UNM and \$3,300 in administrative fees from the Department of Finance and Administration.

The Council ended the fiscal year with a revision of \$36,024. The majority of the unspent amount (\$30,555) was the result of the failure of the Council's legal services contractor, New Mexico Legal Aid, to draw down on their entire contract. This was the result of one of the attorneys assigned to the Council contract having to take unexpected family medical leave for the last quarter of the contract year. The additional unspent funds were attributed to the Council's unspent travel due to the Council having two vacancies that were not filled by the Governor in FY 2024.

Below is a Table which compares the budgeted expenditures versus actual expenditures for FY 2024.

Table 1 – FY 2024 Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

Budget Line Item	FY 2024 Budget	Actual Expenditures	Un-expended Ending Balance
DFA Admin Fee – 200	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$0
Legal Service Contract - NMLA - 300	\$60,000	\$29,445	\$30,555
Publishing – 400	\$5,000	\$4,972	\$28
In State Travel – 400	\$10,500	\$5,950	\$4,550
Out of State Travel - 400	\$7,000	\$6,109	\$891
UNM IGSA* - 300	\$616,100	\$616,100	-\$0
F&A	\$102,683	\$102,683	\$0.00
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$318,310	\$318,310	\$0.00
Personnel In-State Travel	\$7,035	\$7,035	\$0.00
Personnel Out-of-State Travel	\$6,630	\$6,630	\$0.00
Office Supplies (General)	\$182	\$182	\$0.00
Computer Software	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tagged Non-Capital Equipment	\$11,671	\$11,671	\$0.00
Postage	\$44	\$44	\$0.00
Law School Externs	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0.00
Surveyor Contract	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0.00
Legal Service Contract	\$0	\$0	\$0
QuickBooks Training	\$13,324	\$13,324	\$0
Community and Economic Dev. Contract	\$7,438	\$7,438	\$0
Natural Resource Project Contract	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Forestry Project Support	\$0	\$0	\$0
UNM Law Clinic Fees	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$1,258	\$1,258	\$0
Youth Development and Land Grant Education	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Facility Rental (meetings)	\$765	\$765	\$0
Office Space Rental	\$6,012	\$6,012	\$0
QuickBook Renewals	\$7,248	\$7,248	\$0
Totals	\$701,900	\$665,876	\$36,024

** 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 2024 COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Fiscal Year 2024 the Council held twelve regular monthly meetings and three 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. In FY 2024 the majority of the meetings were held at the UNM Science and Technology Park Executive Board Room, prior to moving over to UNM Continuing Education where the Council relocated their offices. One of the special meeting was held at the Juan Bautista Baldés Community Center in Cañones, and a regular Council meeting was held in Las Vegas at New Mexico Highlands University. FY 2024 Council meeting dates were: July 14, 2023; August 11, 2023; September 29, 2023; October 20, 2023; October 27, 2023; November 17, 2023; December 19, 2023; January 12, 2024; February 23, 2024; March 8, 2024; April 12, 2024; April 19, 2024; May 17, 2024; June 7, 2204; and June 21, 2024.

Council meeting agendas have standing updates from the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Land Office, New Mexico Congressional Delegation, and New Mexico Department of Justice Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division and Natural Resource Issues and Concerns. 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 2024 the Council processed 27 different items submitted to the Land Grant Registry for 14 different Land Grant-Mercedes, which included: Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Chilili, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldes, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Antonio de las Huertas, Santa Bárbara, Santa Cruz de la Cañada, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Town of Tomé.

Throughout the fiscal year the Council focused its work on a variety of areas. These areas included: direct technical and financial assistance to land grant-mercedes; serving as a liaison between land grant-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 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. Below are specific details about direct technical assistance provided to land grant-mercedes by the Council in FY 2024.

Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

In FY 2024 the Council continued to support land grant-mercedes with meeting eligibility requirements to receive a distribution from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund. The Council continued to refine 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 aided land grant-mercedes needing assistance with completion. Twenty land grant-mercedes received assistance form the Council regarding their compliance certifications. A total of seventeen

land grant-mercedes were deemed eligible for a distribution in October of 2023. These included: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo Arriba, Chililí, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Santa Bárbara, Santo Tomás del Río de Las Trampas, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla, and Tomé. In accordance income tiers set in the statute, thirteen of the land grant-mercedes were eligible for a 100% distribution from the fund totaling \$97,960 and four land grant-mercedes were eligible for a 75% distribution from the fund totaling \$73,470.

Financial Management and Reporting

In FY 2024 the Council provided direct technical assistance to land grants with preparing and submitting their annual budgets to Department of Finance and Administration – Local Government Division (DFA-LGD) through the online Local Government Budget Management System (LGBMS). The Council 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.

In total the Council assisted twenty-one land grants, including: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Chililí, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldés, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Agustín, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel de Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla, and Torreón.

In addition, Council staff began working with a contractor to continue setup Quickbooks accounts for land grants that received the Quickbooks online access from the Council last fiscal year. Land Grants received assistance setting up their chart of accounts, linking their Quickbooks account to their bank accounts, and reconciling accounts. Land Grants also received two five-hour trainings on how to navigate and use Quickbooks. The Council renewed QuickBooks online access for fifteen land grants and purchased access for an additional three land grants.

The Council also provided support to land grants with compliance with annual reporting requirements to the Office of the State Auditor, which included assistance with completion of tier certifications or procuring and executing contracts with Independent Public Accountants to complete an Agreed-Upon-Procedures (AUP) engagement. Specific support was given to fifteen land grants in FY 2024, including: Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Chililí, Cristobal de La Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Barbara, Tierra Amarilla, Tomé and Torreón.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning (ICIP)

In FY 2024 the Council helped twenty land grant-mercedes with updating their FY 2025-2029 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; Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cebolleta; Chilili; Cristóbal de la Serna; Cubero; Don Fernando de Taos; Juan Bautista Baldés; Los Vigiles; Manzano;

San Antonio de las Huertas; San Joaquín del Río de Chama; San Miguel del Bado; Santa Bárbara; Tajique, Tierra Amarilla; Town of Tomé; Torreón; and Las Trampas.

Capital Outlay Assistance

During FY 2024 the Council provided assistance to seventeen land grants relating to Legislative 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 the grant agreement process; submittal of disbursement approval letters; completion and submittal of notices of obligations and pay requests; updating the projects in the State's Budget Formulation and Management System and Capital Projects Monitoring System; and procurement of services and expenditure of award. Council staff also interfaced 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 direct capital outlay assistance to the following land grants: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Chililí, Don Fernando de Taos, Los Vigiles, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla, Town of Tomé

Election Support

During the fiscal year the Council provided technical support to six land grants with preparing and conducting their elections. This included the Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, San Antonio de Las Huertas, Santa Cruz de la Cañada, Tajique and Torreón. 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. Staff also served as election judges and clerks for the Tajique and Lower Gallinas elections.

Legal Assistance

In FY 2024 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 a law school extern 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. In total, the Council provided legal assistance and support to five land grants, including: Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cristobal de La Serna, Juan Bautista Baldés, Manzano, and Tierra Amarilla. Legal assistance ranged from legal advice, and negotiation to active litigation. The Council continued to serve as a liaison for the pro bono legal service provider assisting the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tierra Amarilla and Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grants relating to the Mercedes Unidas Center.

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 Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla.

Property Tax Exemption

In FY 2024 the Council continued to provide direct support to land grants regarding seeking property tax exemption as units of government. This work included meetings with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, creating, sending out, and analyzing responses to a property tax questionnaire for land grant-mercedes. Council staff then provided advise to land grants on how to file property valuation protests with their local county assessors to request a property tax exemption via the valuation protest process.

Natural Resources Management

During the Fiscal Year the Council expended \$10,000 in a service contract with Del Medio Forestry for support to the Tierra Amarilla and Abiquiú Land Grants relating to the development community fuel wood projects on their common lands. In addition, the contract provided sample materials for training restoration crews and models for structuring projects and leads on funding opportunities to support project implementation. Council staff also continued to provide support to the State Land Office concerning community fuelwood projects with the land grants of San Miguel del Bado, Cañón de Carnué, Chilili, Tajique, Torreón and Manzano.

In addition, the Council expended \$60,000 on natural resources support that encompassed youth development opportunities. This included: a \$30,000 on a contract with Conservation Legacy Ancestral Lands Program for a youth conservation corps creek restoration project on the Torreon Land Grant; and a \$30,000 contract with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District for a youth conservation corps project that provided natural resource inventory reports for four land grants in Rio Arriba, Taos and Santa Fe Counties.

Community and Economic Development Support

During FY 2024 the Council expended \$7,438 on service two service contractors providing community and economic development support to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Juan Bautista Baldés and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants relating to development of the Mercedes Unidas project near Ghost Ranch. Service Contractors were Roger Valdez and Community Development Resource Specialists. The contractors preformed an evaluation and review of past work accomplished in development of the site and held a strategic visioning session with the land grants and developed a preliminary planning report.

Other Governance Support

The Council also provided the following support to individual land grant-mercedes on a one-to-one basis. This work included: assisting land grants with obtaining bonds and tort liability coverage as required by law; assisting the Tajique Land Grant with advice and assistance on rental agreements for community sponsored events at their community center, close out of an Outdoor Recreation grant, and with developing a job description for a part-time manager position; assisting the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant with obtaining a government vehicle registration for vehicles acquired from the DOT Hardship Auction; reviewing bylaws for the Lower Gallinas, Los Vigiles, Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grants; providing one-on-one trainings on general governance capacity building with Los Vigles, Lower Gallinas, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba and Torreón land grants; providing assistance to the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant concerning process for recognition as a political subdivision of the State; providing support to the

Manzano Land Grant with preparation of a legislative memorial for their 200 anniversary of their original settlement; providing assistance to the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant with interpreting their bylaws; and providing assistance to the Los Vigiles Land Grant with a property transfer of a historic building to the Land Grant.

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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. At the State level this included the New Mexico Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, the New Mexico Department of Justice, the Office of the New Mexico State Auditor, the New Mexico General Services Department, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue, the Community Governance Attorney Commission, the New Mexico Finance Authority, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and Cooperative Education Services. At the Federal level this included the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. In addition, the Council worked with the New Mexico Department of Justice and the Consejo de Las Mercedes to co-host the Treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo annual commemoration at the State Capitol on February 2, 2024. Lastly, the Council disseminated information to land grant-mercedes sent to the Council by various State and Federal agencies. This included 129 separate emails sent to land grant-mercedes throughout the course of the fiscal year.

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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 2024. Below is additional information relating to the Council's policy work broken-down by level.

State Level

During the fiscal year the Council staff attended all the NM Legislative Land Grant Interim Committees held for the 2023 Interim Session. This included the July 12-13 meeting in Las Vegas, the August 22-23 meeting in Peñasco, the October 23-24 meeting in Carnuel and Manzano and the November 9 in Santa Fe. The Council staff provided testimony for the Committee at the Las Vegas, Peñasco and Carnuel Meetings relating to creating a funding mechanism for low-interest property acquisition loans for land grants. The Council also developed drafts of the proposed legislation relating to the development of a land acquisition fund for land grant-mercedes and provided it to Committee members and the Legislative Counsel Service (LCS). Staff also provided additional information on land grants to LCS and individual legislators upon request. Council staff also attended the organizational meeting of the Land Grant Interim Committee on May 10, 2024 in Santa Fe. In anticipation of the Committee hearing staff provided Legislative Council Service staff information regarding potential hearing topics and locations. Council staff also responded to an email inquiry from Rep. Matthew McQueen concerning the Jacona Land Grant. The Council staff also attended a meeting of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant at the request of Senator Leo Jarramillo. During the 2024 Legislative Session the Council advocated for the creation of a land acquisition fund for land grants. While

advancing the bill through its assigned committees the Council began discussions with legislators and the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) regarding the Authority's ability to create a program for funding land acquisitions in house. As a result of NMFA's willingness to pilot a program for financing land acquisitions for land grant-mercedes advancement of the bill ceased. Following the session the Council worked with NMFA and the Manzano Land Grant to on the first acquisition under the pilot.

Federal Level

Throughout the fiscal year the Council continued to work with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation on the refinement of a draft federal bill to relating to traditional uses on federal lands. This work included draft language for incorporation into the bill, reviewing drafts and gathering input from land grants on the draft and meeting with Congressional legislative staffers. In addition, the Council provided information to Congresswoman Leger Fernandez's staff regarding land grant cemeteries on federal land and the Small Tracts Act. Council staff also met with Rep. Stansbury's staff regarding Congressional Direct Spending. The Council also responded to questions from Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's office regarding the "New Mexico Land Grant-Mercedes Historical or Traditional Use Cooperation and Coordination Act." The Council travelled to Washington D.C. in May to meet with Senator Ben R. Luján, Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, and Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury as well as with staff of the Offices of Senator Martin Heinrich and Congressman Gabe Vásquez. During the visit both the House Resolution 8262 and Senate Bill 4271 were introduced by Congresswoman Leger Fernandez and Senator Lujan respectively.

Local Level

During the fiscal year Council staff provided input to Bernalillo County concerning the inclusion of land grants in the revisions of their Comprehensive Plan. The Council staff accompanied the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant to a meeting with Sandoval County regarding the Land Grant's property tax exemption request. Council staff also met with the Anton Chico Land Grant and Guadalupe County to discuss implementation of a capital outlay project. The Council also provided information to representatives from the community of La Mesilla regarding the La Mesilla Bend Colony Land Grant. The Council also provide input to members of the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Land Grant regarding analysis of their current statute and the process of recognition as a political subdivision of the State. The Council helped prepare the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant board of trustees for a presentation before the New Mexico Legislative Interim Committee on Land Grants. Lastly, the Council continued to provide support to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant concerning the transfer of the Laguna del Campo from the New Mexico Game Commission. Council staff also appeared on *Espejos de Aztlán* radio program to discussing land grants, federal and state policy and Treaty Day.

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RESEARCH AND RELATED WORK

During the fiscal year the Council provided input to Mano y Ola, an organization doing a Hispanic Forested Land Ownership report for the USDA. In addition, staff prepared and presented at the 2023 Hispanic Farmers and Agricultural Professional Symposium in conjunction with Mano y Ola relating to the land grants. Council staff also presented at the New Mexico Association of Bilingual Education meeting (April 3-6) on Acequia and Land Grant Education. During the fiscal year the Council provided research services to the Cristóbal de La Serna Land Grant relating to their patent and decrees from the Court of Private Land Claims. The Council also researched and sent information to the Torreón Land Grant regarding its original settlers

and granting documentation. Council staff also responded to research questions regarding the following land grants: San Joaquín del Río de Chama; Don Fernando de Taos LG; Doña Ana Bend (Ancón de Doña Ana) Colonia Grant; Cieneguilla / Anaya de Almazan, John Lamy (Rancho de Nuestra Señora de la Luz) Land Grants. Council staff also conducted two oral history interviews on behalf of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. Also, while in Washington D.C. staff conducted research at National Archives relating to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. Council staff also conducted research on Land Grants in the Spanish Archives of New Mexico UNM Land Grant Studies digital files and at New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. Last the Council reviewed, prepared and formatted materials purchased by the UNM Land Grant Studies Program from Center for Land Grant Studies/Malcolm Ebright for printing for distribution to land grants

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FY 2025 APPROVED BUDGET

In FY 2025 the Council received a flat budget of \$626,900 in its legislative general fund appropriation with no additional junior fund appropriation. This amount represents a net decrease of \$75,000 in the total legislative funding received by the Council from FY 2024. In FY 2026 the Council is requesting a budget of \$998,701, which represents a 37% increase from the Council's FY 2025 budget. 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 2025 Approved Budget

Budgeted Revenues	
Base Budget	\$626,900.00
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$626,900.00
Budgeted Line Items	
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 Inter-Governmental Services Agreement*	\$541,100
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$339,674
Personnel In State Travel	\$6,500
Personnel Out of State Travel	\$6,500
Postage	\$42
Law School Externs	\$7,000
Surveyor Contract	\$40,000
QuickBooks Support	\$3,500
Community & Economic Development Contractt(s)	\$10,000
Natural Resources Project Development Contract(s)	\$10,000
UNM Law Clinic Fees	\$3,500
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$1,200
Facility Rental	\$23,000
F&A	\$90,183
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$626,900

**Line items below UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement all roll up into the \$541,100 contract total.*

FY 2026 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). In FY 2025 the Council received a flat budget of \$626,900 from the Legislature with no increase from the previous fiscal year. In fact, in FY 2024 the Council had also received a junior fund appropriation of \$75,000. So although the Council's budget remained flat it actually took a \$75,000 cut from FY 2024. For FY 2026 the Council is requesting a budget of \$998,701, which would represent a 59% increase from the FY 2025 funding level. The purpose of the increase is to allow the Council to expand the level of services it provides to land grants-mercedes in fulfillment of its statutory mission.

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. The Council currently provides technical assistance to land grant in the areas of governance capacity building, budgeting and reporting to DFA-LGD, financial management and reporting the State Auditor, expenditure of capital outlay, elections, land surveying, legal services, natural resources management, community and economic development and compliance with laws and regulations. The Council also provides support to youth conservation programming in land grant communities in the Spring and Summer.

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 continue to provide high-level assistance to community land grants-mercedes

Table 3 - Detailed FY 2026 Budget Request Breakdown

Budgeted Revenues	
Base Budget	\$998,701
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$998,701
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*	\$912,101
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$600,784
Personnel In State Travel	\$7,000
Personnel Out of State Travel	\$6,500
Office Supplies (General)	\$1,200
Computer Software	\$1,500
Computer Supplies	\$600
Non Capital Equipment <\$5,001	\$4,500
Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers)	\$7,500
Business Food	\$1,200
Postage	\$300
Law School Externs	\$7,000
Surveyor Contract	\$55,000
Law Clinic	\$10,000
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$2,000
Community Development and Natural Resource Contracts	\$25,000
Facility Rental	\$26,000
Subscriptions	\$4,000
F&A	\$152,017
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$998,701

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

FY 2026 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 grants-mercedes.

Benefit: To provide legal services to land grants-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 grants-mercedes.

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

Publishing/Book Purchases - \$5,000

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

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

Deliverables: Publication/purchase of book/materials relating to land grants-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 grants-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 - \$912,101

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 - \$600,784

To provide staff positions to support the Council in fulfillment of its mission to provide a program of support to land grants-mercedes. The positions consist of: a program director, a research historian/archivist; a land grant community-based research specialist; a land grant budget and finance specialist; a conservation specialist, a community development planner; a part-time unit administrator and a graduate student intern. Several positions (program director, research historian, land grant community-based research specialist, and unit administrator) 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 (.9 FTE)- \$91,300

Purpose: The program director oversees day to day operations, supervises all Council employees and contractors, 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. Oversee legal services to land grants Mercedes, including in house support, coordination between legal services contractor and UNM School of Law Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic. 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 grants-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 grants-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 grants-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 (.9 FTE) - \$74,270.00

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 grants-mercedes with archiving their grant documentation as well as other areas of governance. The research historian will serve as the custodian of records for the Council and is 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 grants-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 grants-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 grants-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 grants-mercedes are represented at relevant meetings and during official government required processes.

C. Land Grant Community Based Research Specialist (.9 FTE) - \$60,564

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.

D. Land Grant Budget and Finance Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$74,515

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.

E. Conservationist Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$57,750

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.

F. Community Development Planner (1.0 FTE) – \$57,750

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

G. Unit Administrator (.25 FTE)- \$15,213

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

H. Graduate Internship – \$8,100

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 programing 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 - \$161,322

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 – \$7,000

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 grants-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 - \$1,200

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 grants-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

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

Computer software and supplies - \$1,500 & \$600

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 grants-mercedes throughout New Mexico.

Deliverables: Ability to conduct work by the Council staff.

Non-Capital Equipment - \$4,500

Purpose: To purchase necessary office equipment.

Benefit: Provide necessary office equipment related to supporting the Council and land grants-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 grants-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 grants-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) - \$7,000 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 grants-mercedes.

Surveyor Contract - \$55,000.00

Purpose: To provide professional surveying services to land grants-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 grants-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.

Deliverable: Provide surveying services to at least 2 land grants during the fiscal year.

UNM Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic (NRELC) - \$10,000

Purpose: To provide for legal assistance and litigation costs for land grants-mercedes receiving assistance from UNM Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic.

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

Deliverables: Cover the client and materials fee as well as litigation costs such as expert consultants and witnesses, court fees, professional services, for land grants-mercedes receiving services from the NRELC throughout the fiscal year.

Printing and Copy Maintenance - \$2,000

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 grants-mercedes throughout the fiscal year.

Community Development Contracts - \$25,000

Purpose: To provide funding for contracts relating to community and economic development and natural resource protection and management.

Benefit: Provide land grant-mercedes access to outside consultants and professional services providers relating to community and economic development projects and/or natural resources management and protection.

Deliverables: Procure necessary contracts (at least two) during the fiscal year to provide support to land grant communities with development of community projects and priorities.

Facility Rental - \$26,000

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, and storage of Council records including the New Mexico Land Grant Registry.

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 2026.

Subscriptions -\$4,000

Purpose: Allows the Council to pay for annual online subscriptions to QuickBooks account program, Ancestry historical and genealogical research database and Lexis+ legal research database.

Benefit: Provides access to online services to provide assistance to land grants in the area of budgeting and financial management, historical and genealogical research and legal research.

Deliverable: One year subscription for all three online programs.

Facilities and Administration Fee to University of New Mexico -\$152,017

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, payroll and human resources services for council staff.

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 Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 973 8544 3737
July 14, 2023 – 9:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2023, regular Council 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 on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office 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 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, 2024 & FY 2025 Budgets
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including IBR
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 August Council Meeting
24. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

UNM Science & Technology Center,

Executive Board Room

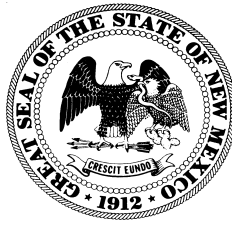
851 University Blvd SE

Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 970 4496 3720

August 11, 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 July 14, 2023, regular Council meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Open Meetings Act Resolution
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 State Land Office Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Land Acquisitions – Including Appraisals
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Approval Policy
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2023,2024& FY2025 Budgets
15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
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 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 **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. - 971 2573 0960

September 29, 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 August 11, 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
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Eligibility
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Loan Funding for Land Grant Land Acquisition – Including NMFA Public Purpose Revolving Loan Fund
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 Budget
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including Approval of FY 2024 Contract
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests – Including Approval of Contract Scope of Work; Arroyo Hondo Arriba & Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grants Requests
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 October Council Meeting
24. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nm.landgrantcouncil@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. – 945 8018 4406
October 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 September 29, 2023, regular Council 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 Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Concerns
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 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 Land Grant Registry Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
20. Public Comments – discussion only
21. Miscellaneous Announcements
22. Date and Location for November Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



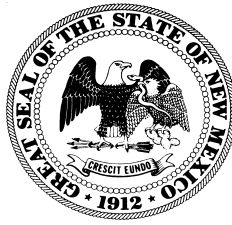
New Mexico Land Grant Council

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COUNCIL MEETING
Juan Bautista Baldés Land
Grant Community Center
41 County Road 197
Cañónes, NM 87516
October 27, 2023
3:30 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion on Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Concerns
5. Possible Action on Next Steps and Technical Assistance Support to Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant
6. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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Sigma Chi Rd NE ♦ Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106 **Email:** nm.landgrantcouncil@unm.edu
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COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 982 2255 0689
November 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 October 20, 2023, regular Council meeting & October 27, 2023 Special Meeting in Cañones.
5. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative 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 Presentation by NM Economic Development Department – Tim Hagaman.
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 Budget
12. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence – Including Juan Bautista Baldés Response Letter.
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
20. Public Comments – discussion only
21. Miscellaneous Announcements
22. Date and Location for December Council Meeting
23. 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:** nm.landgrantcouncil@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. – 948 0174 0791
December 19, 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 November 17, 2023.
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 on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Tourism Department
9. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 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 Land Grant Registry Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Studies Program Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
20. Public Comments – discussion only
21. Miscellaneous Announcements
22. Date and Location for January Council Meeting
23. 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:** nm.landgrantcouncil@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. – 973 5333 7634
January 12, 2024 – 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 19, 2023.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Tourism Department
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 State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update – Including review and approval of list of land grant eligible for capital outlay per Legislative Council Service request
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Governance Attorney Program Proposed Rule Comments
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 Budget
15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry 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 February 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. – 965 3606 9003

February 23, 2024 – 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 12, 2024
5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 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 Land Grant Registry Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
19. Public Comments – discussion only
20. Miscellaneous Announcements
21. Date and Location for March Council Meeting
22. 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. –996 0865 1780

March 8, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2024
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 Budget
12. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
19. Public Comments – discussion only
20. Miscellaneous Announcements
21. Date and Location for April Council Meeting
22. 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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
In-Person + Virtual Meeting
UNM Continuing Education
South Building, Room 204
1634 University Blvd. NE
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 931 2393 0245
April 12, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2024
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative 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 on Bureau of Land Management Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024 & FY 2025 Budget
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Trip to Washington DC
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 Land Grant Merced Institute Update
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments
20. Public Comments – discussion only
21. Miscellaneous Announcements
22. Date and Location for May Council Meeting
23. 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
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SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person

UNM Continuing Education

South Building, Room 212

1634 University Blvd. NE

April 19, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion and Action on approval of UNM FY 2024 Contract February & March Invoices
5. Discussion and Action on FY 2024 Legal Services Contract NM Legal Aid Invoices
6. Discussion and Action on FY 2024 Budget Adjustment Request
7. Discussion and Action on D.C. Travel
8. Discussion and Action on QuickBooks Purchases and Renewal
9. 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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

New Mexico Highlands University – Student Center – RM 321

800 National Avenue

Zoom Meeting I.D. – 916 5500 6267

May 17, 2024 – 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 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and April 19, 2024 Special 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 NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Property Tax Exemption for Land Grants
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grants establishing Academic Scholarships
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Assistance Fund
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024, FY 2025, FY 2026 Budget
15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update
19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry 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 June Council Meeting
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

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

In Person - Virtual Meeting

UNM Continuing Education

South Building, Room 212

1634 University Blvd. NE

Zoom Meeting I.D. – 946 2380 4149

June 7, 2024 – 1:00 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion and Action on FY 2024 Budget Adjustment Request and UNM IGSA Internal Budget Revision
5. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

In-Person + Virtual Meeting

UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 204

1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque

Zoom Meeting I.D. – 986-7025-0222

June 21, 2024 – 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 17, 2024 -Regular Meeting and June 7, 2024 -Special Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action Presentation on Procurement Opportunities by Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Project Update from Chris Chavez, contracted Land Surveyor
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
12. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Property Tax Exemption for Land Grants Update
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund FY25
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024, FY 2025, FY 2026 Budget
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 Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update
21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry 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 July Council Meeting
27. Adjournment

APPENDIX 2
FY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
July 14, 2023 – 9:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 973 8544 3737

Final Meeting Minutes Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 9:10am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Erick Stemmerman (USFS, R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Ashley Beyer (Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich); Aurora Valdez (Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Alanna Purdy Montesinos (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan); Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG); Melvin Apodaca (TALG); Joe Benito Chavez (San Miguel del Bado heir); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Lujan).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Chairman Sánchez 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 June 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the June 16, 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 Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández continues to work on the traditional use bill and has received technical

assistance from USFS. She seeks to identify any issues and red lines with the help of the NMLGC and USFS to discuss and refine the bill. The Congresswoman is also working on the 2023 Farm Bill, working to explicitly include land grants in nine programs, including RCPP, Emergency Conservation, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Some of these programs will allow land grants to acquire low interest loans and include NRCS administered programs. She will be hosting outreach days in every county in the district. Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) reported that the Senator visited local rancher's grazing allotments, where ranchers Erminio Martinez and Andy Martinez are incorporating regenerative grazing practices like constantly moving cattle. He co-sponsored the Agriculture Resilience Act and participated in the White House visit to infrastructure projects. The Appropriations Committee is looking at 18 New Mexico projects totaling \$10 million for FY 2024; Senator Heinrich is chair of Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee. The Senator also introduced the Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Easement Act, which allows for voluntary and paid easements. Ashley Beyer (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) added that the State of New Mexico has a program that does not pay people enough to pause their use of their water right and this act adds some funding and makes program stronger. With Senator Ben R. Luján, Sen. Heinrich also introduced an act calling for transparent cattle pricing.

Mr. Archuleta commented that the Council is opposed to the Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act, which calls for voluntary retirement of grazing allotments on federal land. The Council supports communal grazing and ownership of allotments by land grants, which would allow flexibility and continued traditional use of former common lands. Ms. Beyer responded that the Senator will no longer introduce the legislation, but that the Senator believes that the current grazing allotment system does not work and his office is looking for alternatives. Mr. Archuleta stated that while in Washington DC, the Council met with the USFS legislative team regarding the traditional use bill. They stated that they would give input from redrafts by Senator Luján's office but would not draft language themselves.

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant) stated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant is working on getting their cemetery back and asked about the Senator Heinrich's lead on legislation for the return of historic cemeteries on now federally managed land. Mr. Archuleta added that Sen. Heinrich's office was looking into the Small Tracts Act as an authority, examining if it would allow the return of cemeteries. Ms. Beyer responded that she would get back to Mr. Martínez and the Council. Mr. Martínez asked Congresswoman Leger Fernández's staff about her contention that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo did not convey property rights. While he understands that that might be the case for individuals, he felt that land grant communities' property rights do come from the Treaty. He asked for clarification on her position and her interpretation of the Treaty. Eric Chávez reported that Senator Luján welcomed White House Senior Advisor Mitchell Andrew to New Mexico during a visit to discuss infrastructure funding. Councilor Padilla stated that she hope that land grants could still serve as hubs for their communities to expand broadband in areas without it. Mr. Chávez responded that he will put the Town of Tomé Land Grant and the NMLGC in contact with Kelly Schlegel, of the New Mexico Office of Broadband Expansion. Mr. Archuleta responded that Ms. Schlegel was invited to give a presentation at a Council meeting but never acted on the invitation and the item as removed form the agenda. Mr. Chávez added that he is continuing to work on the EIN issue for the Town of Tomé and San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant. He thanked Councilor Padilla for the kind words to his superiors.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee met in Las Vegas on July 12-13 and presentations were given by Mr. Archuleta on behalf of the Council, Paula Garcia of the NM Acequia Association and board members of the Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas Land Grants.

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

None.

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

The Council will participate in the Rio Grande del Norte National monument plan.

8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the Villanueva and Bearcat projects went really well and they are waiting for total count of cords coming off of these two projects. The SLO is looking into ways to expand both projects. All of the wood has been hauled off of the Bearcat and is estimated to be 180 cords of wood taken to Chililí. Chairman Sánchez commented that the land grants will meet soon to determine how much each land grant will pay for cords.

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

Mr. Baca reported that he and Anissa Baca reviewed both individual and entity grant applications for the Healthy Soils Program. Applications were reviewed from April through June. The Department of Agriculture made decisions on June, announced in July, and monies are available to spend in August. No land grants applied for funding this year. Entities can apply for up to \$100,000 in funding. At the last Interim Committee hearing, Chairwoman Ortez spoke of Healthy Soils Grants as a funding source for reforestation, but the grant program does not allow grants to be spent on reforestation projects. Perhaps the program can be changed to allow for these. Mr. Martínez commented that there is no fuelwood in the Gallina area and the grant worked too hard on its wood projects. The Board has elected to purchase fuelwood at \$900 per semi load and focus their energies on other projects.

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

Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG – Treaty Division) reported that on June 30th, Attorney General Raúl Tórrez had a department wide meeting, where he gave a 6-month report and discussed his vision, priorities, etc. He highlighted the Treaty Division, which is under the Civil Affairs Division, in the NMAG's office's organizational structure. Deputy Attorney General Joseph Dworek wants to meet. NMAG Raúl Tórrez wants to beef up Treaty Division and help land grants and acequias. Councilor Polaco and Mr. Martínez asked if AG Tórrez discussed to combat the drug epidemic as theft is on the rise and local sheriffs are unresponsive.

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

Mr. Martínez, president of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant, discussed their board's resolution (SJdRC Res. 2023-007) for the return of Cañón de Chama, which is 1,507 acres with a cemetery and was the original and historic settlement on the land grant. He had worked with

Norman Vigil (retired) from NRCS on a plan to irrigate a portion of the cañón. Mr. Pacheco of Congresswoman Leger Fernández commented that he would reengage with the 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 2023-007 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.

Mr. Martínez discussed the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant's resolution (SJdRC resolution 2023-008) for the return of the old Coyote Ranger District from the USFS. In 1999, the property (buildings on 407.03 acres) were transferred from the U.S. Forest Service to Rio Arriba County. Rio Arriba County Commissioner Moises Morales approached the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant to return it to them. There will be a Rio Arriba County Commission meeting next month where they will discuss the transfer. The Rio Arriba County Commission wanted the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant to do the survey to ensure that properties are not being infringed on.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the NMLGC support San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant resolution 2023-008 for the return of the Old Coyote Ranger District from Rio Arriba County to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Martinez requested a letter from the Council to Rio Arriba County notifying the County of the Council's support of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant. Mr. Archuleta added that the surveyor portion of San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant's request cannot be addressed until IGSA with UNM has been signed and executed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented the FY 2023 budget (in packet). The Council intended to spend a junior money appropriation for operating fund for land grants on tort coverage, bonds and insurance coverage for land grants. Council staff contacted RMD in June 2022 to get the process started and surveyed grants on their assets from June through August 2022 and delivered this to RMD in August 2022. Despite continued outreach to RMD, no action was taken until December and January, when Council staff reengaged with RMD, who forwarded the LPB (local public bodies) application in February, which was distributed to land grants and remitted to RMD. RMD then opted to not use the applications and farm everything out to Marsh, who would seek bonding and insurance coverage on the public market. \$20,000 was spent to bond 23 individuals that are members of boards of trustees of several land grants. Insurance coverage was quoted very high. Coverage for just the Town of Tomé was quoted at \$20,000 for several properties and buildings on

multiple sites and insurers thought the historic jail site was an active and operating jail. The Cristóbal de la Serna Grant was quoted at \$15,000 for very properties and no assets on those properties, only vacant land. Marsh was going to come back with a general all-in land grant coverage for \$75,000 but never got anything to us by the end of the fiscal year (June 30). We were disappointed that RMD did not at least cover tort liability in house. Between bonding and \$5,000 grants to the Las Trampas, Santa Bárbara and Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grants for their wood projects, \$35,000 was spent, leaving \$45,000 unspent, which will revert to the general fund. Councilor Padilla added that the Town of Tomé Land Grant has purchased their own insurance coverage for \$5,500 per year, nearly a quarter of the \$20,000 quote provided by Marsh. Mr. Archuleta responded that, in retrospect, it would have worked better to grant funds to each land grant individually to purchase insurance and binding on their own.

In legal services, \$6,250 of the NM Legal Aid contract will revert. NMLA was unable to spend after Matt Baca left NMLA for a position at Northern New Mexico College. The Joe Lennihan contract of \$30,000 was turned down and the Holland and Hart contract of \$6,000 was never acted upon either, in part because of staffing shortages and turnover at DFA. Regarding the IGSA, \$614,836.20 of \$627,200 was spent, reverting only \$12,364 (<2%). Most of this reversion was from the F&A deduction in the contract with ERASWCD, where the Council discovered that that UNM only charges F&A on first \$25,000 of subawards. In total, of the \$826,900 budget, \$724,594.72 was spent and \$102,306 was returned.

FY 2024 budget

The approved FY 2024 budget was approved (April 20, 2023) for a total of \$701,900. We may need to adjust this budget to include for Quickbooks trainings for \$13,400, and may also need to adjust budget to allow for office space rental as well. Options at the National Hispanic Cultural Center are ½ price of UNM STP spaces. Council members discussed reconsidering \$66,912.00 for a staff conservationist into the following line items.

- Holland & Hart \$ 6,000.00
- Quickbooks Training & Support \$ 13,400.00
- Community & Economic Development Contract \$ 10,000.00
- Forestry Contract \$ 10,000.00
- Forest project support/YCC \$ 4,012.00
- NRELC \$ 3,500.00
- Office Rental \$ 20,000.00 (*this could be pulled fully or partially from the Councils F&A return from the UNM OVPRs office*)

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve rework of FY 2024 budget (in packet and above); Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

FY 2025 budget

The budget was approved by DFA and the narrative will be sent shortly.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

DFA rejected PR #7 because some line items went over. In the meeting packet is the FY 2023 NMLGC-UNM IGSA Final Budget Adjustment (\$627,200 total budget)

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve FY 2023 NMLGC-UNM IGSA Final Budget Adjustment; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Also presented was the UNM internal budget revision (in packet), with total increase/decreases cumulatively \$56,626.50.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve UNM internal budget revision for \$56,626.50; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Also presented was ERASWCD voucher #3 for \$25,968.49 (total contract - \$61,001.10)

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve voucher #3 presented for \$25,968.49; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Pay request #7 for was presented for \$226,890.49, including \$32,525.76 in project personnel, \$1,951.94 in in state travel, \$4,277.06 in out of state travel, \$ 4,645.05 in computer software, \$34,079.50 in the surveyor contract, \$111,643.59 in youth development and land grant education and \$31,814.90 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #7 for \$226,890.49; 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 presented invoice 06302023 from Territorial Land surveying for \$9,737.00. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice 06302023 from Territorial Land surveying for \$9,737.00; 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

NMLA pay requests were presented.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid pay request #6 for \$12,862.50; 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 New Mexico Legal Aid pay request #7 for \$5,900.00; Chairman Sanchez 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 New Mexico Legal Aid pay request #8 for \$6,087.50; 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 reported that Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is reviewing the deed and will discuss it on Sunday at TALG meeting. They seek independence in their management of the lake.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the following has been submitted to the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry:

- Manzano Land Grant – updated bylaws
- Merded del Pueblo de Chililí - 2023 election results
- Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant - list of bylaw amendments, bylaws, certificate of election for A. Martinez - July 2023

- Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant - by laws and members of board of trustees

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

Mr. Baca reported that he and Anissa Baca hosted a very successful Rio Arriba teacher's land grant and acequia institute on June 17 in Española at Northern New Mexico College. The next *Grito de las Mercedes* newsletter will go out next week. Mr. Archuleta reported that LM García y Griego attended the Consejo annual meeting in June and presented an analysis of the 1897 *US v. Sandoval* decision.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received a letter from Priscilla Sillas.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Mr. Baca reminded that ICIPs are due today, July 14, at 5:00pm.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Padilla commented that she participated in the DOT hardship auction with other land grants. Some of the items were very worn and possible posed a hardship if an entity bought them. She added that the in-person system was not great and the internet system was more equitable as participants could not preview items or prices before the auction, which allowed participants make better decisions Chairman Sánchez added that only 17 entities participated in this most recent auction.

23. Date and Location for August Council Meeting

The August 2023 Regular Council meeting will take place on August 11 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 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 12:21pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
August 11, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 970 4496 3720

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:07am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Joseph Dworak (Deputy AG, NM Attorney General's Office); Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Ivan Knudsen (U.S. Forest Service); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Punky Moore (Fire Comm Specialist, R3, USFS); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Erin McElroy (NM Forestry Division); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); 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 July 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 14, 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 Office of the Attorney General & Treaty Division Update

Joseph Dworak, Deputy Attorney General for Civil Affairs, introduced himself to the Council. He discussed the need to strengthen the relationship between NMLGC, land grants and the New

Mexico Attorney General's office. The NMAG's office will announce the candidate chosen to head the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division soon and NMAG Raul Torrez is committed to strengthening Treaty Division with additional staff and resources. The NMAG's office wants to Treaty Division resources and outreach to the NM Acequia Commission, especially as present resources are not shared enough and there are three units at the NMAG's office that deal with water. The NMAG's office also provides legal representation through the government council and accountability division, which legally represents more than seventy public bodies. There is a need for more coordination, especially with turnover as it is hard to find attorneys that want to work for government, especially with expense of living in Santa Fe. People are also less willing to commute after the pandemic.

Mr. Dworak continued that he has met with Chairman Sanchez and Mr. Archuleta. There remains a lack of definition of the Treaty Division as it is conceptually driven with little details on its role. We need to get on same page on the role of NMAG's office as land grants and acequias submit complaints and issues, but the NMAG's office is not staffed sufficiently to address their issues. There are boundaries and limits that need to be defined, as the NMAG's office provides legal advice to our state agencies and cannot give legal advice and be attorney for individuals and all subdivisions. The NMAG needs the NMLGC to understand the Treaty Division's role. Councilor Padilla expressed her concern that land grants and acequias are poor and are often left without attorneys. Mr. Dworak responded that hearing the perspectives and identifying common legal issues would be more appropriately tackled when the Division has hired its staff. Chairman Sánchez commented that he looks forward to working with the NMAG's office and the new Treaty Division staff to strengthen the Treaty Divisions statute and allows the NMAG to provide assistance to land grants and acequias.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Open Meetings Act Resolution

Mr. Archuleta presented the FY 2023 Open Meetings Act Resolution, which was similar to last year's OMA resolution with some changes. Mr. Dworak discussed the OMA resolution and noted that the NMAG's office offers OMA and IPRA training to local public bodies.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Open Meetings Act Resolution for the NMLGC; 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 U.S. Forest Service Update

Punky Moore (USFS) provided a fire update on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service. Information can be found via the National interagency fire enterprise geospatial portal (Fire EGP). Models predict that monsoon conditions are setting in late, but soon. Post fire response teams are active on the Santa Fe National Forest for post fire flood concerns. Currently 1,100 fire suppression resources are assigned to New Mexico. The American Mesa Fire started on August 5 from a lightning strike and is 750 acres and 35% contained with 130 personnel. The Black Feather Fire was caused by an August 5, lightning strike in the wilderness and has spread and moved east. It is 2,300 acres and is 0% contained with 460 personnel fighting the fire. There is a cluster of fires on the Gila National

Forest that started July 12. The fires are not too active and rain has diminished activity. These include the Turkey Fire (5200 acres), the Divide Fire (5,000 acres, 94% contained) and the Dolan Fire (3,000 acres). Ivan Knudsen (USFS R-3) reported that he received the updated language from Senator Ben. R. Lujáns office and the USFS Office of the General Counsel. The Regional Office will review and send back to Senator Lujáns office. An article from the *Taos News* (in packet) discusses fuels left on the forest floor from the fire line cut during the HPCC fire and quotes Santa Bárbara Land Grant president Bonifacio Vásquez's concern about the fuelwood and the health of the watershed. Mr. Archuleta stated that Taos County and the Carson National Forest are partnering to fund 3 forest mayordomo projects and need liability coverage. Council staff met with RMD yesterday to discuss tort liability coverage and the Council has set aside \$4,000.00 to help with these types of projects in FY 2024 budget.

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

Lisa Morrison and Brad Higdon presented on behalf of the BLM. The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument plan is moving forward as the notice of the public scoping was published today in the Federal Register. The Public scoping is for an EA level plan amendment to Taos Field Office management plan to provide for Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The MOUs with cooperating agencies will go out today via email. Meetings will be held on August 28th in Taos, in Santa Fe on August 29 and a virtual meeting will be held on Sept. 5th. The Council worked on the 2014 Rio Grande del Norte National Monument management plan and the BLM wishes to involve the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Land Grant. In September the BLM plans to start public the scoping process for Ohkay Owingeh and BLM land exchange of 1700 acres of BLM land on the eastern border of Ohkay Owingeh for 88 acres on Rio Nutrias. (These lands are within the historic boundaries of the Santa Cruz de la Canada and San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grants, respectively) The draft plan for a recreational shooting range in Santa Fe County will be available for review and comment in late September, though fire restrictions currently preclude shooting on BLM lands in Santa Fe County.

Mr. Archuleta asked if this was a plan amendment or a new plan; Mr. Higdon replied that they have been managing the Monument under the 2012 Taos plan, which has been sufficient, but in need of an update. Rather than an across the board amendment, they will amend Taos RMP concurrently and will approve management plan for monument and Taos RMP. Though the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Land Grant does not currently have a board, there are other land grants in the area. Ms. Morrison added that the BLM is looking at traditional use legislation as well.

9. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) stated that she has no new updates but reported that the SLO is looking to extend the Villanueva and Bearcat projects. She reported that she has only received payment for the cords of wood from the Bearcat Project from the Chililí Land Grant.

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

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMLGC received input on the traditional use act from the US Forest Service / Office of General Counsel. Staff has given the comments a cursory review but has not yet had the time to examine the bill side by side with past versions. The major and most noticeable change is that the word "consultation" was deleted and replaced with "cooperation" and/or "coordination." The word "recognition" was also dropped. Staff considered proposing the addition

of the Treaty to recognize historical and traditional prior uses. Many of the USFS/USDA comments and additions address tribal concerns. Many changes seem benign, but the authority to waive fees was removed, as was the guidance on permits requirements, which was replaced with an MOU. Senator Luján's office would like comments from the Council before the end of August. The Council can delegate comments to staff or have an additional Council meeting to discuss the updated bill and create comments. Councilor Padilla commented that the Council needed time to review the bill to ensure it still has teeth. While she understands tribal concerns, land grants only seek to have land grant's traditional uses recognized and protected. Chairman Sánchez stated that Council members should review the bill individually and by next Friday determine whether a special meeting was needed whether comments can be delegated to staff. Mr. Archuleta added that the comments can be shared with all land grants at the next New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo meeting in September.

State

The next Interim Land Grant Committee meeting will take place August 22-23 in Peñasco. The agenda will be available online before the meeting. Council staff met with the Risk Management Division and discussed liability coverage for wood thinning projects. Jacob Maule, legal counsel for RMD, discussed the Tort Claims Act and believed the most significant exposure for land grants was the operation of community facility. The courts have interpret liability rather broadly, but the exposure for land grants would be covered by Tort Claims Coverage, which costs around \$1,000. Council staff discussed the high cost of coverage from quotes from Marsh for land grants that had no facilities, including \$2,800 for Las Trampas and \$16,000 for Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grants. Coverage for the Town of Tomé Land Grant was quoted at \$20,000, which has facilities and common land. RMD coverage not only insurance paying out a claim, but also legal representation in the case of litigation, which typically cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000. RMD hoped that they would be before Interim Committee in August but will likely present at a later meeting.

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

Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS) reported that she is working in EQIP obligations and RCPP applications are due August 19.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Land Acquisitions, including appraisals

Mr. Archuleta reported that most land grants are using funding for land acquisitions. Some members of the ILGC expressed concerns about land grants not using monies for operations. Council staff held a meeting with NMFA and DFA to see if they will fund a land acquisition loan for a land grant looking to purchase a large parcel of land. NMFA is conservative and risk averse and feared that if distributions are low, loan payments might take all of a land grants LGMAF distribution. Staff proposed capping payment to 20% of LGAMF distribution and revisiting the loan, but not re-amortizing payments. If land grants would get an NMFA loan, they would allow for early payment. Land grants might have to pursue an alternative for land acquisitions, perhaps creating a fund for land acquisitions. Regarding appraisals, DFA can make a good argument that appraisal requirements protect the public interest. DFA currently allows market analysis if a land grant is using capital outlay monies. If a grant is using land grant merced assistance fund or their own monies, they do not need an appraisal nor a market analysis. DFA has not yet promulgated rule to require an appraisals. Councilor Padilla stated that good real estate appraisers seem hard

to come by and Mr. Archuleta commented that there might need to be a policy fix as there are cases like that of Cristóbal de la Serna since there are not comparable properties in the case of lineas. He added that we might ask the real estate appraisal board to give a presentation.

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

Mr. Archuleta discussed the four draft NMLGC certifications that will be required of all land grants, including: Certification of annual report (with checklist); Adjusted annual revenues certification form, and worksheet; Bonding certification form; and Election certification form. Council members also discusses whether the Council will require that land grants that have an approved budget to qualify for an FY 2024 LGMAF distribution.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that the NM Land Grant Council continue to require land grants submit Annual Report certification and Annual Revenue certification; 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 that the Council require land grants certify that they are bonded, certify that they have had a recent election and that they are compliant with their budgets (FY 2023 and FY 2024), Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2023, 2024 & FY 2025 Budgets

FY 2023

Mr. Archuleta reported that pay requests 6 was rejected by DFA because line items were over budget, others under budget and as DFA did not process PR 7 or PR 8, they asked for totals from 7 to be included in PR 8. All pay requests have been approved and submitted but won't get paid off until mid-August.

FY 2024

No IGSA has been approved so no expenses have been incurred.

FY 2025

Submitted to DFA in July.

15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Cristina Martinez at DFA shepherding the contract, which is currently at DFA legal for review. The budget has been entered into UNM's online budget management system (Streamline). Fringe increased, resulting in being underbudget, which can be fixed by Mr. Archuleta if he is P.I., but this

can only happen if his position and grade are increased as well. LM Garcia y Griego can still serve as co-PI.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that Arturo Archuleta serve Principal Investigator for the NMLGC contract with the University of New Mexico; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that the professional surveyor's contract will need to go out to bid since the current multi-year contract termed out. Because of amount, we may need to do more than three quotes.

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

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Laguna del Campo Update

Councilor Polaco stated that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant Board met last month to discuss their letter to New Mexico Game and Fish.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

- Town of Tome LG - bylaws and FY 2024 resolutions - August 2023
- Los Vigiles LG - bylaws and board membership - August 2023
- Lower Gallinas LG - bylaws and board membership- August 2023

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

Mr. Baca reported that the LGSP sent out another edition of the EL GRITO DE LAS MERCEDES newsletter (June-July 2023) and is working on reviewing the distributing the Spanish Archives of New Mexico digital files. He and Mr. Archuleta met with Adrian Parrott of Mano y Ola, a consulting group that is conducting the Hispanic Forest Landowner Study and works with USDA on policy recommendations.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Letters sent to Rio Arriba County and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation on behalf of the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant are included in the packet.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Greta Archuleta (NMLGC staff) stated that State Purchasing offers trainings on small purchases, procurement, etc., including a one day overview (full day, online, 8:30-4:30) and short courses. They also offer RFP training that is a 3-day intense class, requiring interaction. They are willing to offer a special scheduled day just for land grants. She will send information and e-mail. Mr.

Archuleta added that it can become part of the regular trainings for land grant boards and their staff, which include OMA and IPRA trainings by the NMAG's office, trainings on statute compliance and trainings on the capital outlay and legislative process. Council staff is also working on updating the guidebook. Grant agreements still have not gone out.

23. Public Comments – discussion only

Tim Hagaman from NM EDD discussed the New Mexico Reforestation Center (NMHU, NMSU) is looking for 20 acres to build a seedling farm. They are interested in leasing the property and it must have 138 acre feet of water rights to lease or sell. They are currently only writing a feasibility study.

24. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

25. Date and Location for September Council Meeting

The September 2023 Regular Council meeting will take place on September 29 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, New Mexico, location tbd.

26. Adjournment

Councilor SP made a motion to adjourn; Councilor AP seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
September 29, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 971 2573 0960

Final Meeting Minutes Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Attorney General's Office); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NM Attorney General's Office); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Erick Stemmerman (USFS); Melvyn Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla Land Grant); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján); Myria Mandel (heir – Anton Chico Land Grant); Tim Hagaman(NM EDD).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 11, 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 U.S. Forest Service Update

Belinda Mollard (USFS), introduced herself as the new Traditional Cultural Communities Places Liaison for the Carson National Forest.

Eric Stemmerman stated that the Forest Service is preparing for a potential government shutdown and any urgent concerns or questions should be sent to him as soon as possible.

The most recent updates from El Valle Fire were included in the packet.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported several updates. The BLM has started a 90-day comment period for a mineral withdrawal in Placitas, near the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant. This new mining claim will prevent new mining claims oil and gas development for 50 years. There will be a public meeting Nov 14 at the Placitas Public Library 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Ryan Ashcraft is a new Park Ranger in the Taos Field Office.

On September 20 the scoping closed for the Rio Grande del Norte management plan and collaborating agencies plan to meet on October 24 from 1:00pm-3:00pm and on November 14 from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

There will be two meetings held to discuss the scope of plan for the Ohkay Owingeh and BLM land exchange on October 5 and 12. Meetings are subject to change depending on the tentative federal government shutdown.

7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (State Land Office) was unable to attend the meeting but gave updates for Council staff to report. Mr. Archuleta reported that there is fuelwood available at White's Peak due to a recent fire.

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

Federal

AJ Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Ledger Fernandez) shared that the Representative and her office are taking steps to expand cemetery access for land grant-mercedes. The Representative's office will remain open in the event of a federal government shutdown; however, any liaison work may be impacted if other federal agencies are unavailable at this time.

Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján) stated that the Senator and his office are continuing to work on Traditional Use Bill and are in contact with Council staff regarding the bill. He also updated the Council on the agencies and services that will be affected in the event of a government shutdown.

S. 2708 – Comments were submitted by the Forest Service and Council Staff. Mr. Archuleta presented the staff's recommended changes to the bill (in packet). The comments were provided to Sen. Ben Ray Luján's office for a meeting with the All Pueblo Council of Governors that occurred on 9/28.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the comments and changes indicated by Council staff. Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

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

State

The Land Grant Interim Committee held its most recent hearing in August in Peñasco where Mr. Archuleta gave a presentation regarding a revolving loan fund for land acquisition for land grants. Councilor Padilla expressed interest in the Council reaching out to other communities to clarify the use and need for the fund.

President Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Río de Chama Land Grant) asked what happens to the property obtained through this loan fund if the land grant does not continue its payments on the newly acquired property.

Mr. Archuleta stated that the Council will have to create a set of rules in regard to this issue and build other parameters for the loan fund as we move forward with the bill.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the draft common land acquisition revolving fund bill; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The next Interim Land Grant Committee meeting will take place on October 23-24 in Carnuel.

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

Enrique Romero (OAG) introduced himself as the new Director of the Treaty Division. He also discussed his role in supporting the Council and the overall vision of the Treaty Division.

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

The USDA has issued a news realease (in packet) regarding available funding for conservation programs. Applications are due November 23.

Mr. Archuleta received word that there is funding available through _____ for farmers and ranchers who have faced discrimination and applications are being accepted through January (more information in the packet).

Dr. Jacobo Baca wrote an article about land grant-mercedes in New Mexico for the Mana y Ola newsletter (in packet).

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

Council staff presented a detailed list of land grants that are political subdivisions of the state which addressed each of the land grants' compliance statuses with the Council, Office of the State Auditor (OSA), and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). Mr. Archuleta explained

that it is the role of the Council and its staff to ensure that land grants receiving a distribution are following statute and are in good standing with the necessary state agencies.

Mr. Archuleta first discussed the land grants who did not meet the first eligibility requirement in being compliant and up to date in their annual reporting to Office of the State Auditor. Each year, the OSA sends a list of the land grants in good standing with their office. The following land grants, who are also listed in statute as political subdivisions of the state, did not make that list: Cañon de Carnúe, Tecolote, Town of Torreón, Atrisco, and San Antonio de Rio Colorado Land Grants. There was no further evaluation of the land grants after lacking this requirement.

Mr. Archuleta further explained the other eligibility requirements for a LGMAF distribution which include several certifications that must be sent to the Council for review. Additionally, land grants must be up to date in their reporting to the Local Government Division-Budget Finance Bureau (LGD-BFB) at DFA. The Cebolleta and the San Agustin Land Grants were listed as compliant with the OSA. However, the Cebolleta Land Grant did not meet their budget reporting requirements to DFA or submitted the necessary certification forms and documentation for Council review. The San Agustin Land Grant was recently listed in statute and does not yet have a budget to report to DFA, however, the land grant did not submit the necessary certifications for Council review.

There was further discussion had on the individual land grants that needed additional consideration from the Council members. Mr. Archuleta explained that the Town of Tajique Land Grant submitted all the necessary certifications but did not provide proof of a bonded board member, but have indicated that they were in the process of doing so. The adjusted revenue certification indicated that the land grant would be eligible for a 75% distribution, and they are holding an election in November which adheres to their by-laws. Additionally, they have submitted all budgetary requirements to DFA.

Mr. Archuleta then discussed the Santo Domingo de Cundiyo Land Grant. The land grant submitted all certifications, but did not submit the proof of a bond. However, the Council purchased the bond for a member of the land grant board, so it is evident they have one. The land grant did not meet their budgetary requirements to DFA. The land grant submitted an initial FY 2023 budget, which was approved by DFA. However, the following quarterly reports and FY 2024 budget were submitted incorrectly, and adjustments were never made and thus the Land Grant was listed as non-compliant with budget reporting requirements by LGD-BFB on the list provided to the Council on 9/29/23.

The San Miguel del Bado Land Grant submitted certifications to the Council, but did not submit the proof on a bond. The adjusted revenue certifications indicated that their revenues were about \$12,000, however, in the calculations there is about \$24,000 unaccounted for, which may just be a math error. The amount is not material in affecting their categorization as receiving a 100% distribution. Additionally, the land grant did not submit their third and fourth quarters to DFA, after a full turnover in their board of trustees and was listed as non-compliant with budget reporting requirements by LGD-BFB on the list provided to the Council on 9/29/23.

Mr. Archuleta then moved on to discuss the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. The Land Grant submitted the required certifications but did not submit a proof of a bond. However, it was verbally communicated that the treasurer was in the process of becoming bonded. The land grant did meet

their requirements and were listed as compliant with the OSA. However, this land grant switched from reporting on a calendar year to a fiscal year, which required them to report from the period of January 2022 through June 2022 to be caught up in their reporting to the OSA. The land grant is also up to date in their budgetary reporting to DFA.

However, in receiving assistance from the Council's staff, there have been some concerns raised with the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. The land grant was formally organized as a corporation and had an EIN number that reflected that. The EIN number couldn't be used for the land grant as they became a political subdivision, and it was difficult to fix the issue. This led to the comingling of land grant funds with a private bank account of a board member. This caused concern from the Council staff and it was evident that there were fund management issues prior to the first Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund distribution.

Mr. Archuleta stated that it appeared a private contractor/ manager began working for and assisting the land grant after the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund distribution. There were additional concerns from Council staff after seeing some of the billings and purported contract from the manager. It was unclear whether the board collectively approved the contract or if individuals on the board were acting unilaterally. It became unclear if the expenditures were completed properly and followed statutory procurement and expenditures processes. Council staff requested a copy of the Land Grant's annual report to attempt to determine if procurement and expenditure requirements had been met. When Council staff received a copy of the annual report, it was incomplete and missing meeting minutes, indicating that the certification was incorrect. Additionally, it was indicated in the email with the annual report attached that the Land Grant keeps meeting minutes in a separate location off-site, which is a violation of statute, which calls for the annual report to be kept in a public location. Council staff received the incomplete annual report on 9/25, with no meeting minutes. Subsequently on 9/27, Council staff received minutes which only covered the meetings held during FY 2024, not FY 23. In reviewing the provided documents, it appeared that nearly the entirety of their LGMAF distribution was budgeted for the manager/private contractor however their FY 2023 approved budget submitted to DFA only indicated \$20,000 for the contract staff. This again raised additional concerns regarding the validity of the professional service contract and whether it had actually been approved by the board of trustees in accordance with statutory requirements. Because of these material items and raised concerns, Council staff cannot make the recommendation to the Council to approve the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant for a LGMAF distribution. Mr. Archuleta stated the Council staff has been working directly with board because questions over validity of contract. Additionally, the land grant has recently held an election (9/10), and may need some assistance in learning their statutory and fiduciary responsibilities.

Councilor Padilla proposed that the Council approve Tajique, and not the other land grants in question at this time, since they have met other criteria and are currently working on receiving a bond. She reiterated the importance of staying up to date with reporting to state agencies, such as DFA. She also holds concern regarding the issues with the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant.

Councilor Polaco stated that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant took the time to complete all necessary requirements, even though it was a struggle and urged that other land grants should do the same to receive their portion of the distribution.

Chairman Sanchez asked Enrique Romero (OAG) for a recommendation on making motions to approve and disapprove land grants for a distribution. Mr. Romero suggested to make a motion to approve all that are compliant, and include Tajique based on the Councilor's comments, make a motion to deny those who are not compliant and include those who the Council decided not to give a distribution to.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve all land grants that are compliant with all certifications, including the Tajique LG, for a disbursement from LGMAF; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Council discussed the multiple notices and outreach attempts completed by Council staff to assist land grants in their eligibility to receive a distribution from the LGMAF. Eligibility requirements for land grants to receive a portion from the LGMAF was also discussed, including the possibility of promulgating a set of formal rules for the Council and land grants to follow in order to distribute and receive LGMAF funds. Council also discussed the need for additional training and the use of C

Councilor Padilla made a motion to deny funding to the Juan Bautista Baldés, San Agustín, San Miguel del Bado, Santo Domingo de Cundiyó, Cebolleta for having failed to comply with requirements of the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

After the motion was made, it was determined that there are 17 compliant land grants who will receive a distribution this year, with 13 land grants receiving a full distribution at \$97,960 and 4 land grants receiving a 75% distribution at \$73,470.

Council staff has drafted acceptance and denial letters (in packet) to send to eligible and ineligible land grants.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Loan Funding for Land Grant Land Acquisitions – Including NMFA Public Purpose Revolving Loan Fund

A possible loan through the New Mexico Mortgage and Finance Authority for the Manzano Land Grant is still pending.

Council staff would like to set up a meeting with DFA and other appropriate parties to discuss the possibility of a loan fund.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budgets

The contract has still not been approved at this time.

14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including Approval of FY 2024 Contract

The IGSA (in packet) has been reviewed by Enrique Romero (OAG). He has recommended some minor changes and the agreement still needs to be approved by UNM.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the FY 2024 IGSA, with minor revisions, and to give Chairman Juan Sánchez permission to sign the contract; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Council staff and members also discussed purchasing a series of Quickbook trainings offered by Checks and Balances for You, LLC to assist land grants in learning the program for budgetary use.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the scope of work and compensation for Quickbooks trainings offered by Checks and Balances for You, LLC for \$15,000; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

The scope of work for the Professional Surveyor Services Contract was presented by Council staff. This will include the continuation of the surveying services for Town of Tajique, Santa Bárbara, Tierra Amarilla and San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grants.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the scope of work and contract with Territorial Land Surveying for \$41,000.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

There was discussion regarding surveying requests from the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant and the Manzano Land Grant.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Chris Chávez of Territorial Land Surveying work with the UNM Natural Resource and Environmental Law Clinic on the Manzano and Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant cases; Councilor Polaco 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 Legal Services Contract Update & Requests – Including Approval of Contract Scope of Work, Arroyo Hondo Arriba & Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grants Requests

The FY 2024 contract with New Mexico Legal Aid is at DFA and the Council only needs to approval the scope of work with NMLA. The scope of work is consistent with past contracts and the hourly rate is increasing to \$150.00.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the contract with New Mexico Legal Aid for \$60,000.00 at an hourly rate of \$150.00; 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 Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant's request for legal services; 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 the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant's request for legal services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The Juan Bautista Baldes case is coming to a close. The final order will be sent to the court soon.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Jacobo Baca reported that the following items were received by the Council to the NM Land Grant Registry.

- Anton Chico Land Grant - results of 2021 and 2023 elections and current board
- Cubero Land Grant - election results and board membership
- Las Trampas Land Grant bylaws, board membership and other records
- Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant – results of September 2023 election

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

The LGSP released its August-September Newsletter (in packet). LGSP continues in planning discussions with NMHU regarding the Acequia and Land Grant Education project.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received a letter from Representative Miguel García, explaining the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund, inquiring if the new land grants were receiving distributions and asked if the Council discouraged land grants from hiring their own staff. A response letter is drafted and appears in the packet. The Council will send the letter but may also ask for a meeting with Representative Garcia, who has committed to using his junior money to fund land grants to hire staff. Councilors discussed that this is difficult, as junior monies only last one year, which provides only brief assistance. Some land grants receiving junior money have not requested the funding nor the projects and this has affected its disbursement from the LGAMF. Junior monies are also used on an reimbursement rather than an disbursement basis, so land grants must have enough money in their coffers to utilize the junior money.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

Jason Quintana reported that the Manzano Land Grant has installed a sign on their community center.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

Anissa Baca reported that the schedule for reporting capital outlay expenditures on the BFM, which is replacing CPMS, has changes as land grants now report quarterly rather than monthly (see packet). Chairman Sanchez reported that capital outlay forms are now available online and stated that Anissa Baca can help with completing requests. Mr. Archuleta reported that there are changes in budget reporting and Greta Archuleta has sent e-mails informing land grants of these changes.

23. Date and Location for October Council Meeting

Th next Council meeting will take place on October 20, 2023 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, NM, location to be determined.

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 1:25pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 20, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 971 2573 0960

Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NM Attorney General's Office); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Melvyn Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla Land Grant); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Fransico Mendoza (Chililí LG); Cornelio Salazar (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Adaline DeYoung (Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez); Aurora Valdez (Sen. Martin Henrich); Linda Gallegos (Juan Bautista Baldes LG); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján);

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Polaco 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 September 29, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 29, 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 Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison was unable to attend, but Mr. Archuleta gave the following updates on her behalf. The scoping period for the Rio Grande del Norte Monument Management Plan ended on September 20, and a draft will be released in spring of 2024 followed by a public comment period. BLM is proposing to develop shooting ranges in Santa Fe County. The comment period for the BLM land exchange with Okay Owingeh will close on November 25.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (State Land Office) announced that there is still fuelwood available in White's Peak area. The road has been improved and it is easier to access. The SLO has received payment from each of the land grants that participated in the Bearcat Project.

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

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee meeting will take place on October 23-24 in Carnuel. Presentations will be heard on Monday, and legislators will be given a tour of the Manzano and Carnué Land Grants the following day.

Federal

Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Heinrich) announced that Sen. Heinrich has visited Las Conchas to view the burn scars from the recent fires. The Cerro Pelado Fire Assistance Act was introduced by the Delegation, which would help those affected by the recent fires apply for FEMA funds. The Pecos Watershed Act has been introduced, which would protect portions of the Pecos Watershed from mineral development. The Senator is working towards keeping claims office for damages from the Hermits Peak / Calf Canyon Fire open until 2027.

Leonard Martinez (SJDRDC) asked if there has been any progress on returning cemeteries on federal lands back to the land grants. Ms. Valdez has been working with AJ Pacheco from the Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez to research legislation that may be helpful in returning these cemeteries.

Adeline DeYoung (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez) announced that her office has been working with the Office of Sen. Ben Ray Lujan on the Traditional Use Bill.

Melvyn Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG) shared his concerns regarding the time it has taken for those affected by recent fires to receive financial assistance from the federal government, meanwhile land speculators have been making offers for these properties. Ms. DeYoung let the Council know that her office has been working with claims offices and the payments should be made faster.

Councilor Padilla shared that her sister has already received offers for her land and wants land grants to do their part in helping those affected by the fires.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on US Forest Service Update

Belinda Mollard (USFS) announced that there are prescription burns scheduled this weekend near the Taos Ski Valley. Ms. Mollard also shared that the Forest Service has partnered with the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant for a mayordomo fuelwood project in the area.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Attorney General & Treaty Division Update

Enrique Romero (OAG) shared that he has had a regular standing meeting with Council staff. During one of these meetings, he would like to discuss the 2016 letter from the Attorney General to create a list of priorities.

The Treaty Division was asked to present to the Land Grant Interim Committee during the November hearing.

Councilor Padillia asked if there is a place on the Office of the Attorney General's website where complaints regarding scams can be submitted. Mr. Romero confirmed that complaints can be submitted on the website and there is a division that deals with these issues.

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

None.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Concerns

Mr. Archuleta shared a letter (in packet) received by the Council on October 10 from the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant. The Council and Council staff agreed to meet with the Land Grant in response to the letter. Both parties agreed to meet on Friday, October 27th to allow for enough time to advertise a special meeting. The meeting will be held at the Land Grant's community center in Cañones.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

The contract has still not been approved at this time. The Council has \$1,035.69 in expenditures.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Including Approval of FY 2024 Contract

Mr. Romero (OAG) reviewed the IGSA (in packet) and found only minor changes to be made.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Services Agreement with UNM and the Department of Finance and Administration; 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 stated that there are now executed contracts with the Surveyor and Quickbooks trainings.

The SOW (in packet) for Holland and Hart, LLP has been created. If approved today, the procurement process at UNM can begin.

Chairman Sanchez made a motion to approve the contract with the scope of work and a compensation of \$6,000 for Holland and Hart, LPP for Las Mercedes Unidas Center; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained from the vote

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

The FY 2024 contract with New Mexico Legal Aid is still not in place.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

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

Malcom Ebright is donating items to the Land Grant Studies Program.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Polaco announced that he and his land grant are in support of creating legislation for a revolving loan fund to purchase property. He also asked how the Land Grant might be able to file a water declaration with the State Engineer's Office.

Mr. Romero (OAG) responded to this by stating there may be issues with this given the ongoing adjudications, and asked if there are other land grants attempting something similar.

Mr. Martinez (SJDRDC) stated that his land grant attempted to file a water declaration with the Office of the State Engineer in 2007 and did not hear a response.

Mr. Apodaca requested that he be included in emails with agendas and meeting minutes.

Mr. Martinez (SJDRDC) announced that there were community members who want the Land Grant's help purchasing fencing materials for the local a cemetery.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Anissa Baca announced that DFA has changed the process for requesting disbursements for capital outlay funds. Rather than sending a letter to DFA, there is now a link that leads to a Google Form that land grants will need to fill out. She will send an email to land grants with the link and instructions.

22. Date and Location for October Council Meeting

Th next Council meeting will take place on November 17, 2023 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, NM, location to be determined.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:03pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 27, 2023 – 3:30pm
Cañones Community Center
41 County Road 197
Cañones NM

**Final Meeting Minutes
Special Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sanchez called the meeting to order at 3:49pm MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sanchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NM Attorney General's Office); Melissa Velasquez; Stephen Ross; Linda Gallegos (Juan Bautista Baldés LG); Mary Lou Boies (Juan Bautista Baldés LG); Inez Gallegos; Melvin Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG); Moises Morales (Rio Arriba County Commissioner); Diego Serrano (Juan Bautista Baldés LG); Cornelio Salazar (Juan Bautista Baldés LG).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye
Councilor Polaco - aye
Chairman Sanchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Discussion on Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Concerns

Chairman Sanchez began the meeting, stating that the Council came to Cañones because the Council was asked by the board of trustees of the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant to meet and address the concerns from the board that the Grant would not receive a FY 2024 distribution. It is the duty of the Council to make sure that all land grants are following statute when getting their distribution. We are here to listen to you and explain why the Council made its decision. Cornelio Salazar, president of the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Board of Trustees, commented that they heard that some land grants were not in compliance but still received a distribution. He stated that the Council can present first and that they would like their professional staff (Melissa Velasquez) to speak on their behalf because she knows more.

Mr. Arturo Archuleta congratulated the newly elected board of trustees on their election and explained the Council's work with the previous board. It was reported to the Council by the prior Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant board that previous president Higinia Gallegos was not forthcoming in her records. In order to complete financial reporting and assist with budget

reporting, the Council obtained records from the Grant and from Ms. Gallegos and examined the bank statements that showed land grants funds were co-mingled with her own personal accounts. The misappropriation of land grant funds by Higinia Gallegos was likely at least \$28,000. On August 28, Mr. Archuleta reported that he met with the previous Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant board to discuss the issue further. The Council found that when the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant received the distribution last year (\$111,111) there were no longer issues related to the mismanagement of the grant funds. In this process, there were material concerns that arose when examining land grant records since the distribution of the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund award in October of 2022.

The land grant was considered ineligible for a FY 2024 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund distribution because there were discrepancies with the FY 2023 annual report, which did not include meeting minutes that detailed the approval of financial transactions and other board action. The Land Grant general provisions, Chapter 49.1, requires that all land grants maintain an annual report that includes all agendas, meeting minutes and all financial transactions, which need to demonstrate board approval. Also applicable are all laws that apply to local public bodies, from the Open Meetings Act to the procurement code. In the process of assisting the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant with budget reporting requirements and audit acquirements, staff noted that three payments for \$15,000 for the professional services contract were charged in three months. Council staff was concerned that the Grant would not have enough monies to fulfill the contract and, when asked, Cy Martínez of the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant board stated that he had not seen the contract. Mr. Archuleta recommended that the new board request copies and review the contract, at which point Melissa Velasquez sent her proposal and purported contract to the Council, which then reviewed her submittal.

Council staff immediately noted that the purported contract was for \$110,000, almost the entirety of \$111,111 distribution that the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant received. It appeared that the contract was not properly procured, which led to the request for the annual report, which should have demonstrated the process for obtaining a proposal from and ultimately a contract with Melissa Velasquez. No such documentation was found in the materials received from the land grant. Council staff consulted Mr. Enrique Romero, who is the attorney with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General and serves as legal counsel to the NMLGC. It was determined that the Council needed to work directly with Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant Board as Ms. Velasquez was not staff if a contract was not properly procured, as a public body cannot expend monies on a contract that is not properly procured.

Chairman Sanchez commented that the Council has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that land grants have met all statutory requirements and are operating accordingly. Council staff discussed its findings, including procurement issues with the purported contract with Melissa Velasquez. There are no records of the board of trustees formally drafting and approving a request for proposals, nor evidence of advertisement in a local paper. There is also no record that the board formally met to evaluate any proposals received, nor evidence that the board of trustees offered, negotiated, and approved a contract with Ms. Velasquez in a properly advertised meeting. Further, there is evidence that members of the board of trustees actively discussed hiring Ms. Velasquez as early as July 2022, through September 2022 and into December 2022. These discussions took place prior to the purported RFP. Additionally, Ms. Velasquez was paid \$6,000 for services rendered in 2022, or from 2018-2022, prior to the purported RFP or execution of any contract,

and no invoice for services is found in the record, only an e-mail referencing the costs. The timing of the RFP is also questionable, as it was supposedly sent out on December 21, 2022; Melissa Velasquez submitted her response to the purported RFP in a sealed envelope at the land grant P.O. Box that very day. The deadline for the purported RFP was December 31, 2022, New Years Eve, and no time was listed in the purported RFP, so Council staff presumes the deadline was 11:59pm. Under the purported RFP, the board of trustees would have to have evaluated proposals, selected and approved the contractor and notified that contractor of that award, all on December 31, 2022, after 11:59pm. The purported contract would then have had to have been executed and in effect when the purported contract was signed, on January 3, 2023, one day after observation of the New Years federal holiday on Monday, January 2, 2023. There is no evidence in the records of a properly advertised meeting of the board of trustees of the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant from December 31, 2022 to January 3, 2023.

The contract amount and budget also drew concern. The Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant board of trustees approved a budget of \$20,000 for an administrative service contract in FY 2023 and only either \$30,000 or \$60,000 (it is unclear in the adopted budget provided). The purported contract amount for Melissa Velasquez was for \$110,000 plus expenses and Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), which, at the Rio Arriba County rate of 6.75%, would add an additional \$7,425 to the contract for a total of \$117,425, not including expenses. This is beyond the \$111,111 that the land grant received in FY 2023 from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund. The only Budget Adjustment Resolution passed in FY 2023 was to move \$500 from other supplies to printing, therefore, the FY 2023 budget does not support the purported \$110,000+ contract. Melissa Velasquez completed a BAR in the land grants online budget reporting system (LGBMS) to the Department of Finance and Administration on May 31, 2023, moving \$44,475 from various line items into Contract for Professional Services line item, increasing that item from the \$14,000 approved by the Board of Trustees to \$58,475, precisely the amount that she billed the Grant for in FY 2023. The BAR was not supported by an approved resolution from the board and no resolution appears in the record, which also does not demonstrate any meeting held between March 5 and June 4, 2023.

The purported contract also has variation in the billing, which lists deliverable costs as well as an hourly rate, ranging from \$75 to \$100, depending on the type of service provided. At a rate of \$100 per hour, the total cost for a full-time position (at 2080 hours) would be \$208,000, thus indicating that the contract was for only 50% of Ms. Velasquez's time. Two checks have the words "full time" inscribed in the top corner of the duplicate check in the checkbook. Additionally, the purported contract billed website management at \$10,000, when the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets only allotted \$2,500 for website management. Website development and website content are listed as separate items Ms. Velasquez's invoice of February 21, 2023 for \$15,251.25. This billing also duplicates other similar items. For instance, legislative hearings, committee hearings and NM State Legislature – House Memorial 41 hearings are all listed in the billing, but no hours are listed, only a cumulative total of 320 total hours for the billing. HM 41 had only one committee hearing on February 16 and a floor vote on the House floor on February 21, at which no testimony can be provided. The approximate hourly rate for this invoice (\$15,251.25) divided by the total hours worked (320) equals \$47.66.

The records sent to the Council also contain three separate invoices from Melissa Velasquez dated May 23, 2023. The first totals \$30,181.69, payable in two installments for 536 hours and no GRT is listed on this invoice. This equates to an hourly rate of \$56.31. The second invoice was obtained

from Higinia Gallegos and is also for \$30,181.69, but bills at a standard hourly rate of \$100, regardless of the task performed, for a total of 270 hours plus \$750.51 in expenses for supplies, mileage, phone, mail and fees and \$2,476.18 in GRT. The GRT rate is 8.9375% totaling \$2,476.18 in GRT billed, where the GRT rate for Rio Arriba County covering the community of Cañones during the period was only 6.750%, which totaled \$1,870.21, meaning the Land Grant was overcharged \$606.06 in GRT taxes. This was the only invoice that charged GRT. This invoice is dated May 23, 2023, but was signed by Cy Martinez on May 18, 2023, five days before. The third invoice dated May 23, 2023 appears to be for the second half of the \$30,181.69 billed and, like the first invoice, lists no GRT or other expenses are listed. Invoice 6-16 from Melissa Velasquez, dated June 16, 2023, for \$7,042.06 was for 192 hours completed between June 1 and June 30, 2023. The hourly rate would be \$36.68 and no GRT was indicated on this invoice.

Council staff was also concerned with the board oversight of the contract and general management by the board. The previous board of trustees held a meeting on August 30, 2023, 10 days prior to the election of new members to the board, and passed resolution 2023-30-8, adopting procedures for procuring professional services contract and certifying that the current purported contract met all quantifiable criteria under the new regulations, including:

“A transparent and well documented process that provides clear record of the evaluation criteria, scoring and reasons for selection decision; Following a systematic process for selecting and awarding professional services contract; An evaluation committee shall review and evaluate submitted qualification based predetermined criteria; The Land Grant shall enter into negotiation with the selected professional to establish the terms and conditions of the contract; The Land Grant shall maintain comprehensive records of the selection process, including RFQ documents, evaluations criteria, scoring, committee deliberations, selection decisions, and contract negotiations.”

There is no evidence that any of the above took place during the selection of Melissa Velasquez for the purported professional services contract. Oral communications with the past president and vice-president confirm that no RFP, review, negotiations or drafting of the contract were conducted by the Board of Trustees. Further, it has been alleged that Melissa Velasquez directly participated in the drafting of the purported RFP. If this was the case, under the Governmental Conduct Act, §10-16-13, NMSA 1978, the Land Grant would have barred from accepting a bid or proposal from Ms. Velasquez.

Additionally, the new regulations for selection and award of professional services contract adopted by Resolution 2023-30-8 included a provision that the Land Grant’s governing body or designated authority can review and approve a professional service contract. There is no authority in Land Grant General Provisions (§49-1-1, NMSA 1978) or in the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant by-laws that provides for the board of trustees to relinquish or designate their contract approval authority to any one board member or any other group or individual. The only signatory on the purported administrative services contract with Melissa Velasquez is that of the past president Higinia Gallegos, who lacked the authority to unilaterally approve the contract or to bind the Land Grant-Merced into the purported contractual agreement.

It appears an attempt was made to utilize Board Resolution 2023-30-8 to certify the purported contract by including language in Resolution 2023-30-8 stating “the organization has previously

approved one professional services contract identified as “Strategic Facilitation Contract” awarded January 3, 2023”; however, an improperly procured contract cannot be remedied via a retroactive resolution. It appears an attempt was also made to bind the newly elected Board of Trustees on the day they were elected, September 10, 2023, through the passage of the “Addendum to Strategic Facilitation Contract (signed January 3, 2023),”; however the newly elected board lacked the authority to do so for the following reasons: A board of Trustees cannot amend a contract that is void for lack of proper procurement; and the approval of the Addendum was an action item added to the agenda during the meeting itself, which violates §10-15-1(F) of the Open Meetings Act, which requires that meeting agendas be finalized 72 hours prior to the meeting and that the public body can only take action on items that appear on the 72-hour advance final agenda.

In FY 2023 the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant expended, \$58,475.00 on an improperly procured professional services contract. The total expended exceeds the Land Grant’s budget allocation for a professional services contractor by \$38,475.00. The \$58,475 paid to Melissa Velasquez includes \$6,000 paid on 12/28/22, prior to the purported contract execution date of 1/3/23 and the deadline for the purported Request for Proposal/Bids of 12/31/23. The 12/28/22 billing was for services from 2018-2022. The record indicates that there was no contract in place for such services [see: July 14, 2022 email from Cy Martinez item 6: Where are we with Melissa Velasquez hiring?; September 9, 2022 email from Cy Martinez (page #29) item 6. Status on hiring of Melissa Velasquez; December 17, 2022 Meeting Agenda (page 27), agenda item Hire Help – hand written note Melissa.] Only record for payment was an email from Melissa Velasquez to Higinia Gallegos on 12/20/22 proposing a payment of \$5,919.23 for 2022, which included work back to 2018 for USFS meetings (item #2) and assistance with presentations, letter writing and daily operations etc. (item #5). Approval for expense total \$6,000 (\$80.77 above the amount indicated in December 22, 2022) was signed by Cy Martinez on December 29, 2022 without evidence of actual action by the Board of Trustees. No board meeting between December 17, 2022 and March 5, 2023 for approval to have taken place.

A letter dated February 8, 2023 (page 91) – Authorizing Melissa Velasquez complete authority to negotiate and accept [contracts/agreements] on behalf of the land grant is improper for the following reasons: There is no authority in Land Grant General Provisions (§49-1-1, NMSA 1978) or in the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant by-laws that provides for the board of trustees to relinquish or designate their contract approval authority to any group or individual; As a public body, all actions taken by the Board of Trustees, including approval of all contracts/agreements must be done in a properly advertised public meeting where the approval appears on the meeting’s 72-hour advance agenda. There is no record of the board of trustees approving this authorization at any public meeting. The only public meetings held in the timeframe of February 8, 2023 were held on December 17, 2022 and March 5, 2023. If this relates to duties under the improperly procured contract that was not in effect until January 3, 2023 which would place it after the December 17, 2022 meeting where no such authorization is documented in the record. The purported authorization from the February 8, 2023 meeting was granted nearly one full month before the board would next convene on March 5, 2023.

The letter to the Land Grant Council dated September 15, 2023, contains a synopsis of work completed in 2023 with associated costs totaling \$110,000. Based on the knowledge and expertise of Council Staff for actual work requirement for completion of certain task it appears some of the items listed appear to be overpriced for the amount of work required, for example:

\$2,500 for ICIP – Having an already completed ICIP in the online system only minimal updates are necessary, estimated to take approximately 5 to 10 hours of work to complete, including trainings. This would mean that the billable hourly rate for this deliverable is between \$250 to \$500 per hour. Several of the items listed but billed separately appear to be double billed for the same work. For example, JBVLG Advisory at \$6,000; Meeting Attendance at \$2,500; and Advisor at \$5,000 appear to all require advising the Board of Trustees and attending meetings of the Board. Community Center Manager at \$50,000 requires collaboration with 12 local organizations that utilize the center; Partnership Management at \$6,000 requires working with 12 local organizations and, also include assisting with the Advisory Group which as listed above has a separate billing cost of \$6,000.

Board Resolution # 2023-27-6-2 (page 64) – indicates that the board of trustees approves expenditures via phone “calls, texts messages, and other forms of communication due to meetings only held quarterly.” This implies potential violations of: §49-1-14 (C), NMSA 1978, which requires that the a majority of the Board of Trustee approves expenditures; and the Open Meetings Act, §10-15-1, NMSA 1978, a majority of the Board take cannot take action outside of a public meeting, nor via phone call, text messages or other form of communication.

Finally, the Council found concerns with the September 10, 2023 election. Under the State Law, §49-1-5(H), NMSA 1978 and the Land Grant Bylaws, Article VI – J. the board of trustees is required to appoint one election judge and two clerks. Both the Statute and Bylaws state “No person shall be qualified for appointment or service as an election clerk or judge, or as a member of a canvassing board, who is a spouse, parent, child or sibling of any candidate to be voted for at the election.” It appears that the election judge and clerks were appointed by Melissa Velasquez, as monitor not the board of trustees. It is unclear what, if any, relationship exists between the election judge and canvassing member Joe Boise and candidate Marylou Boise? If Mr. Boise is a parent, child, spouse, sibling of Ms. Boise than a potential violation of §49-1-5(H) occurred.

These concerns are remediable, but staff needed to recommend that the grant be considered ineligible for FY 2024 LGMAF distribution. Mr. Salazar commented that the Council exists to help land grants conduct business and added that obviously the previous chairwoman wasn’t advised on how to conduct business. He added that the past board were the ones that hired Melissa and the Council and the state should be obligated to honor her contract. Mr. Archuleta responded that the Council has helped in the past, especially regarding litigation, but that the board of trustees needs to contact the Council and request assistance. Regarding the contract, there is no record the board ever approved the contract and the amount spent would have required an RFP process, which appears to not have happened. There is no evidence of an RFP and no advertisement between December 21 and December 31. There was no evidence that the contract was properly procured or adopted by the board. All of this transpired between meetings since they only meet quarterly. Past president might’ve acted outside of her authority, but the idea that the board is bound by the actions of previous board isn’t necessarily true if the contract was not properly procured.

Mr. Salazar responded that Cy Martínez was on the board for a long time and wondered how he could not have known about the contract. Mr. Archuleta clarified that Cy knew about the purported contract being in place, but had not seen it, and he believed that it was not for a lot of money (e.g. \$20,000.00). The annual report was requested as it is the official record of the board.

It had agendas, but not official meeting minutes and no agenda items were present that would adopt previous meeting minutes as official. Mary Lou Boies (Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant board of trustee member) asked if every land grant remitted perfect records. Mr. Archuleta responded that every land grant has to have an annual report, by statute. Not all land grants remit to the council and are not required to do so and in the certification that was required by the Council, it asked land grants to certify that they had an annual report with minutes, agendas and financial transactions. The reason that Council asked questions was once we received the contract, which we did not request, but was nonetheless provided, our review of this brought about concerns. All land grants must comply with IPRA and not all land grants had these material concerns.

The Council provide a program of support to all land grants that are organized and recognized as political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico. We have helped the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant in the past, especially through legal services. The Council assisted the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant in the past, when a previous board took monies from the grant. The Land Grant Council is willing to “get in the weeds” and help a board when they have been asked. Linda Gallegos (Juan Bautista Baldés board member) asked, why did the Council look so closely now? Why is this current board being looked at but the previous president was not? Because of Melissa? She has done a lot for the community. Mr. Archuleta clarified that the issues that the Council has found by and large happened under the previous board and the present board inherited these issues. The current board has the fiduciary responsibility to abide by state law when using these funds. The only action taken by this board was the September 10 addendum, which cannot be added to the agenda the day of the meeting because it is in violation of the Open Meetings Act. It was also unfair for the board to be asked to sign the addendum on a contract that they know nothing about. If it was public knowledge, that might have been different, but the board could not have taken action anyway since agenda cannot be modified on the fly. Finally, the issues that were found by the Land Grant Council were more material as land grants are receiving public funds through the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund.

Ms. Gallegos asked how the board can get trained if we do not have funds. Chairman Sanchez responded that the Council is a state agency that is obligated to protect state funds and that the Council will provide training. The grant is concerned that it does not have funding for training. The Council shares the funding concern, especially as the \$110,000 of the \$111,111 distribution went to one person. Councilor Padilla added that this meeting and the Council’s intervention are not an attack. Land grants that attend Council meetings and Consejo meetings knew of new regulations and the Council advised land grants about the requirements and certifications. Most land grants worked with the Council’s staff to get caught up and the Council hired Greta Archuleta to assist with budget and budget reporting requirements to DFA. The Town of Tomé Land Grant only started paying our treasurer \$50.00 per month, and she relies on Greta for assistance. And land grants don’t need money for the trainings that are offered for free. She encouraged the land grant to keep lines of communication open with Council. Now that the state is appropriating monies, there is a concern that it might reflect badly on all land grants.

Councilor Polaco added that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant raised monies with bake sales and relies on volunteers. The Council assisted the Grant with legal services. The Council is not here to blame anyone; we are all following the rules of the state. We need to be united: if help is needed, we can help and all agencies are there to help as land grants are units of government like the

county. Ms. Velasquez stated that she wants the opportunity to respond to the findings and stated that people forget the facts and occurrences or are not willing to stand up for what they said. She added that she was not on the board and is still not on the board and she cannot answer for previous board members. She plans to respond via a letter.

Moises Morales (Rio Arriba County Commissioner) commented that the land grant got the building back because of Ms. Velasquez. Ms. Velasquez stated that she loves her community and that motivates her work. She asked if they remove her contact, if the grant can still get the assistance fund monies. Chairman Sanchez responded that they cannot as the process is complete. Ms. Velasquez and Ms. Boies stated that they attended an October 17 meeting of the Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú and they revealed that they were not bonded and are receiving a distribution. They also asked for minutes and were told they would not be ready anytime soon. Ms. Velasquez added that she spoke with Rafael Jaramillo, the manager for the Anton Chico Land Grant and works on a \$24,000 contract that is renewed year after year. She stated that if she had the time and interviewed all land grants, there may be violations galore. She asked if all land grants were reviewed as thoroughly as the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant. Mr. Archuleta thanked them for the information on Abiquiú and stated that he would contact them and see if they have a bond. Regarding Anton Chico Land Grant, if the contract was properly procured and less than \$60,000, it does not need to have a full RFP, but three attempted quotes. The issue is not land grants hiring staff; its that the grant needs to follow proper procedures when doing so.

Ms. Velasquez commented that she never asked for employment. She spoke about her résumé and past experience and stated that she is not a predator. She commented that she declined an offer from the New Mexico Attorney General's office and that she's willing to not take pay because her contributions have fulfilled her. She asked Mr. Archuleta why he did not reach out to her directly with the Council's concerns. She believed that Mr. Archuleta was upset because we had removed Higinia and accused Mr. Archuleta of giving Higinia Gallegos ideas on her debt to the grant. Mr. Archuleta stated that he tried calling multiple board members and emailed the letter to all the board members to collect the information. He did meet with Higinia because that was the only way to get copies of the bank records. He was coordinating with the board to make a meeting and met with Higinia because she had mistakenly taken his keys when she dropped off bank statements. The Council worked with Higinia as it was providing direct services to current president at that time and was interested in protecting the integrity of the land grant as an entity.

Councilor Padilla added that the Council's intervention is not personal. The Council simply has guidelines. When we contact a land grant, we usually contact the president and we follow the chain of command. There are issues with what the former board was doing and the current board needs to specify responsibilities of the board and the manager. We don't want this to ever happen again. The Council is here to help you and the Consejo will provide a space and even food for trainings. We need to start looking towards the future. Councilor Polaco added that the Juan Bautista Grant needs to redo the contract correctly, but we need to talk to the board and work with the contractor if it is procured correctly. Mr. Salazar commented that Higinia Gallego's using her personal account was the issue and asked why it was not caught sooner. He added that wouldn't have done any good to talk to me and asked why Higinia was asked about Melissa's contract if it was too late in the game.

Mr. Archuleta responded that the Council will always contact the president, who is usually the main point of contact. In terms of us reviewing the issue sooner, we only do that if we are contacted by the land grant. We looked further into it because it was budgeted for \$20,000. Ms. Velasquez asked if Higinia was called and if she had signed the contract. Mr. Archuleta responded that he talked to her and asked if she signed the contract, which she did. Then we noticed that the record had been changed. There are still questions, no RFP and no review, etc. Previous payment, retroactive payment, no BAR and other things reported in the record raised questions. It raised the question about whether or not the board was aware of the contract. Ms. Boies commented that if Cy is a CPA, how did this happen? Mr. Archuleta responded that the Council had a lot of the same questions. Ms. Boies asked if the board complied with all requirements in the first distribution and Mr. Archuleta responded that bonding was not required last year. We are growing and evolving and trying to perfect our process.

Ms. Velasquez asked if there were no concerns from 1999 to 2022. Mr. Archuleta responded that the Council assisted when asked. Mr. Salazar asked if Higinia was operating unilaterally, how did this go on so long. Councilor Padilla responded that land grants have some sovereignty. We are giving you some leeway to do what you need to do. Once this money became available we had to start following different set of rules. We are only going to check if something raises a flag. Ms. Velasquez commented that she was hired to do a multiple amount of things and found a grant for \$30,000 to offset salary, and she found a CPA to complete the AUP. The professional services contract was so big because it is only supposed to be a yearlong and she plans to go back to her own career. A lot of work has been done. She's not trying to "highlight" herself. And she is here not as a predator, and wants to only help her community. She does not want the contract to become the issue. Chairman Sanchez commented that the council is here to present the concerns and would like to help you reach compliance and are trying to offer guidance. Ms. Velasquez asked if all contracts are reviewed and Mr. Salazar asked why the RFP wasn't brought up to Higinia. Mr. Archuleta responded that nothing on the outside previously led us to believe that we need to help. We were concerned with the amount because there are other expenses that the land grant has. You can't obligate more than the land grant has and that's why you set the budget. We can give advice and ultimately the board makes the decision. Councilor Polaco stated that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant and the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant share ownership and governance on the PLVC with the Juan Bautista Baldés and they want to meet to discuss issues on the visitor's center. Ms. Velasquez closed, stating "I will work for free if that's what it takes."

5. Possible Action on Next Steps and Technical Assistance Support to Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant

Chairman Sanchez stated that the Council will help the Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grant procure a proper contract. The Council will work to help the Grant qualify for LGMAF distribution in FY 2025. What we need from the board of trustees is dates and times that we can meet to do some trainings from the NMLGC, including statutory requirements, OMA, IPRA, etc. Regarding Higinia Gallegos, the Council and the Grant may both need to report to the Office of the State Auditor and/or the New Mexico Attorney General. All NMLGC communications with the Grant will go through board of trustees. The Council also encourages the grant to meet more than quarterly, likely monthly. Mr. Archuleta asked for the board to think about some dates when you'd like to do the training. We can make it some days that work for the grant and create a plan. While we are unsure if we have come to a full understanding of what transpired, and we might have to report to the Auditor's office, we wanted to meet to address the issues.

6. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sanchez – aye

The motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
November 17, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 982 2255 0689

**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, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NMAG – Treaty Division); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG's Office – Treaty Division); Melvyn Apodaca (TA Land Grant); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Aurora Valdez (Henrich); Eric Stemmerman (USFS); Camila Romero (SLO); Richard Valdez; Mark Montoya (NMFA); Joe Benito Chavez (San Miguel del Bado); Ron Cruz (NMFA); AJ Pacheco (Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández); Tim Hegerman (NMEDD).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and October 27, 2023 Special Council Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 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.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 27, 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 reported that there is still fuelwood in the White's Peak area for \$15 per cord and can send interested parties a permit. Regarding the Villanueva fuelwood project Ralph Vigil is working on getting the last payment submitted.

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

Federal

AJ. Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that his office was briefed on the small tracts act and it can be used as an option for land return for land grant cemeteries. The land does not have to be contiguous to land owned by the land grant. They will have a briefing with the Congressional Research Service as to how cemeteries have been valued in the past. Aurora Valdez (Sen. Martin Heinrich) reported that Senator Heinrich, Senator Ben R. Luján and Rep. Leger Fernández reintroduced the Pecos Watershed Protection Act to protect the area from mineral development. They are also in discussions regarding the replacement of the Chimayó Post Office. Mr. Archuleta shared a report from Eric Chávez from Sen. Ben Ray Luján's office that stated that the continuing resolution passed funding government and the Farm Bill has been extended to 2024. Mr. Archuleta stated that he spoke with Alana Purdy Montesinos and she expressed concerns that fishing, hunting and water being included in the bill. They are unsure that RS 2477 and RS 2339 should be specifically included in the bill and are unsure of specifically mentioning the Treaty and including a savings clause.

State

The Land Grant Interim had a final meeting in November. Mr. Archuleta met with Mark Edwards and Chairwoman Kristina Orteza to begin drafting the land acquisition fund bill. She would like to have it pr-filed early so the bill can get moving.

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

Erick Stemmerman stated that he attended the briefing the regarding the Small Tracts Act and would like to set up meeting with NMLGC to discuss technical aspects of Small Tracts Act. The USFS sees the withdrawal of lands in the Pecos watershed from mining as very important and supports the legislation. The Enchanted Circle Project is providing fuelwood and forests are working to make fuelwood available. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Rio de Chama LG) reported that they are working on the irrigation project at the Cañón de Chama and is meeting with the NRCS and USFS on Dec. 20 at 9:00am at the Hernandez SWCD. He would like NMLGC staff to attend.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that San Antonio de las Huertas LG president Augustine Lucero attended a mineral withdrawal discussion of a proposed 50 year stop on oil and gas production in an area near the Grant. The comment period is through December 15. The Rio Grande del Norte Monument Management Plan will have a recreation focused meeting on December 21st. The BLM is working on a scoping report for the Ohkay Owingeh exchange. Christmas tree permits are available \$5.00 per permit.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Economic Development Department – Tim Hagaman

Tim Hagaman (NM EDD) presented regarding the programs, including LEDA, LEEDS and CBRD programs. The LEDA infrastructure fund can be used to build economic opportunities. It is often used for airports and business parks and land grants can use this to develop business real estate. The Community Business and Rural Development (CBRD) program is another program that land grants can apply for, as well as the Outdoor Recreation Division Grants and marketing grants. There are also grants for creative industries and an entrepreneurialism program from the Northeast New Mexico Economic Development Organization (NEEDO). There is also a 3 week course on trades where a bus visits local communities and meets with youth and they can build relationships with local contractors. The collateral assistance program pledges collateral to help close a loan gap with loans at \$250,000. Once the loan is ready to close and bank is satisfied that it has been paid off, the monies goes back to NM EDD.

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

Mark Montoya and Ron Cruz from the New Mexico Finance Authority gave a presentation to the Council where they spoke of the different programs and funding they offer. Recently, they have been working with NMLGC staff and DFA to create a loan to fund an 800-acre property purchase for the Manzano Land Grant. NMFA staff is still trying to work out logistics of this loan since the Land Grant will use funds from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund and capital outlay appropriations to repay the loan.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

The only expenditure extracted from the budget so far is the Council's travel for \$1,824.10. The IGSA is close to being executed, which will allow for more expenditures.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work from Holland and Hart, LLP for \$6,000.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the SOW for \$6,000; Councilor Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented scope of work for Community and Economic Development support to land grants for up to \$9,000.

Councilor Sanchez made a motion to approve the SOW for \$9,000; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained from the vote

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work for natural resources for fuelwood project development which would allow for more projects similar to the mayordomo projects in the Taos area.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

The IGSA is close to being fully executed and has gone back to the secretary for signature.

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

Arturo presented invoice number 1 for Territorial Land Surveying for \$9,180.60.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Invoice for Territorial Land Surveying; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – abstained

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

The FY 2024 contract with New Mexico Legal Aid is still not in place.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

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

David Benavidez is potentially donating portions of his research collections to the Land Grant Studies Program. Malcolm Ebright is also potentially donating his collection to the LGSP.

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

Enrique Romero (NMAG) spoke of his presentation that was heard by the Interim Land Grant Committee. In his presentation, he discussed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division's goals for 2024, which includes trainings on OMA and IPRA.

Mr. Romero also stated that the Office of the Attorney General will internally determine how things are addressed based on the materials received from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence – including Juan Bautista Baldés Response

Councilors received a letter from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant after the Council's October 27 meeting in Cañones. Councilors have still not received the corresponding exhibits. The response letter does have requests and questions.

Mr. Archuleta shared that he and Enrique Romero met with the Office of the State Auditor to discuss the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Mr. Romero agreed with the OSA's opinion on the Land Grant and stated that the Council had a duty to report, adding that the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant also has a duty to report to the OSA. The Attorney General's Office is going to take an affirmative step in determining what the next steps are if / when the land grant comes forward. Mr. Romero discussed his ideas for next steps in resolving this issue, including help with procurement and additional trainings for the Land Grant.

Mr. Archuleta asked the Councilor if they would like to send a response letter to the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Chairman Sanchez stated it would be best to wait until the exhibits were received.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Ricardo Dow y Anaya announced that Enrique Romero and himself held a meeting with the IT department in the Office of the Attorney General. The department was impressed with the Land Grant and Acequia repository website. Leonard Martinez announced that the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant will host their Thanksgiving lunch tomorrow, Saturday, November 18.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Padilla announced that the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo will have its next meeting in Tomé on December 2nd. Councilor Polaco announced that surveyor Chris Chavez has completed plats for the community center in Tierra Amarilla.

22. Date and Location for December Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on December 19, 2023 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, NM, location to be determined.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
December 19, 2023 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. –948 0174 0791

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (Deputy AG, NMAG – Treaty Division); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMAG – Treaty Division); Lenora Romero (Manzano LG); Frank Trujillo (Don Fernando de Taos LG); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Francisco Mendoza (Chililí LG); Abel Sillas; José Arnaldo López (Trampas LG); Minera Anderson (BLM); Joe Benito Chávez; Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Priscilla Rael; Leandro Ortiz; Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Jessie Ontiveros Senaida Anaya (Torreón 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 November 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 17, 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 Federal and State Legislative Update

Federal

None.

State

Mr. Archuleta received a draft from the Legislative Council Service of land grant-merced revolving land fund bill. There are issues with language that states that “disqualification of eligibility if total debt service exceeds 45% on average of five fiscal years.” This runs contrary to the plan to cap off payments at 45% of annual revenues and would just extend loan. The bill draft also contains limiting language that states that purchases must be “wholly located within the original boundaries of the U.S. patent of land to land grant-merced,” which would unfairly injure those land grants that were effected by the *U.S. vs. Sandoval* (1897) case and received no common lands in their patent. Councilor Polaco asked if there was a cap on the amount granted to one land grant; Mr. Archuleta responded that no more than 25% of the monies in the fund can be granted to any individual land grant. This may need to go through rule making to ensure to ensure this policy stands.

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

None.

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

Minera Anderson (BLM) reported that the final decision on the RMPA for the Rio Grande del Norte will be complete by October 14, 2024. The scoping report for the land exchange with Ohkay Owingeh will be available in early January and the BLM hopes to have the Rio Puerco RMPA done by 2024. The last day for comments for public withdrawal in Placitas is today.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by NM Tourism Department

None.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero working on getting payment for from Villanueva, still handing out Christmas tree permits for the Mora and Ocaté area.

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

Enrique Romero (NMAG Treaty Division) reported that he is drafting a portion of the annual report for the first time in a couple of years and thanked the Council for assisting with some language. In working with Ricardo Dow y Anaya in drafting the Treaty Division section, they are reporting on accomplishments, current importance of the Division and formulating a plan looking forward. The NMAG’s office held a training on OMA and IPRA in Hernández for the Soil and Water Conservation District and they’re looking to hold another in the Taos area. The NMAG’s office is looking into the access to vaccinations in rural communities. Following up on Leonard Martínez’s questions and concerns regarding the opioid crisis, the NMAG’s office is continuing to having discussions on having counties give presentations to land grants on how resources can be obtained and used. Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that it makes so much sense to have land grants partner with behavioral health professionals to offer these services in rural communities. They learned from a DFA presentation that ARPA funds are still available and encourage communities to reach out to DFA or NMAG’s office to see how money can be spent. Issues regarding common waters, including dwindling water resources and adjudications, continues to be a priority of the Treaty Division.

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

Federal

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). The FY 2023 NMLGC Annual Report was submitted to the Governor, DFA, Legislative Finance Council, and the Interim Land Grant Committee / LCS.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

The IGSA is in place and the UNM can now bill DFA.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that Chris Chavez is working with UNM NREL Clinic and may request to use Council funding if he uses all of the funding available through the clinic. Anton Chico has requested a boundary survey and does need some survey work related to encroachments. Chairman Sánchez ask that they submit a new request as their request was several years ago.

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

The contract is out for signature and should be fully executed soon.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Jacobo Baca (LGSP/NMLGC) reported that the Santa Cruz de la Cañada submitted their annual report.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that he met with LM Garcia y Griego, who did an analysis of *US v. Sandoval* and is planning to turn it into a law review article. They may approach *Natural Resources Law Review* to do a land grant issue. The LGSP advisory committee will likely change as Cliff Villa is on leave and Durwood Ball will be retiring. He added that the LGSP purchased materials from Malcom Ebright / Center for Land Grant Studies. Anissa Baca (LGSP/NMLGC) reported that the LGSP is planning for a ALGE teacher workshop in Valencia County in March. Mr. Baca added that he and Ms. Baca worked with David Benavides of NM Legal Aid assessing and securing on their archive.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Materials from the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant were received via e-mail and Cy Martinez seems to have resigned from their Board.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Abel Sillas stated that his family is looking to restore their membership in the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for January Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on January 12, 10:00am, in Albuquerque, location tbd.

23. 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 11:15am MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
January 12, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 973 5333 7634

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Joseph Montoya (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Tony Lucero (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Minerva Anderson (BLM); Lesley Elser (BLM); Joaquin Arguello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Francisco Mendoza (Chilili); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Kristin Graham Chavez (NRCS); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Chantel Sandoval (NM Tourism Dept.); Jill Slaty (NM Tourism Dept.); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LG); Enrique Romero (NM Department of Justice); Augusta Watson; Belinda Mollard (USFS); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Joe Benito Chavez (San Miguel del Bado 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 December 19, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 19, 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 Presentation by NM Tourism Department

Chantal Sandoval of the NM Tourism Department presented New Mexico Clean and Beautiful Program. Its funding cycle is July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 and application cycle is March-April and requires a 25% match, including in kind. Jill Slaby (NM Tourism Department) presented the Destination Forward Program, which offers grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000. The goal is to increase out of state travel and in state travel with overnight stays. It aligns with the NM True branding, which is "Adventure steeped in culture." The Cooperative Marketing and Advertising Program requires a 2 to 1 match.

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

Belinda Mollard (USFS) reported that the Carson National Forest held a partnership meeting during the holidays and discussed co-stewardship. A weather created a blow down event and hundreds of acres need to be treated. The Carson NF is trying to meet one on one with communities to implement their plan. Councilor Padilla asked if there are wood projects in the Cibola NF. Ms. Mollard reported that she hopes so and that the Santa Fe and Cibola National Forests are working to have her position as the traditional communities liaison position in their forests.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

Minerva Anderson (BLM) reported that the RMP for the Rio Puerco will be ready this summer. The Placitas Withdrawal elicited 750 comments, 99.8% which were in support. The Rio Grande del Norte Plan is still in process and the amendment will be completed this month. Work is still being done on the recreational shooting range project in Santa Fe. The Ohkay Owingeh Land Exchange scoping report is being drafted. Pamela Mathis left the Taos Field Office and Eric Valencia filling in.

8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero reported that the SLO is working on projects and will reach out if they are near land grant communities.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update - Including review and approval of list of land grant eligible for capital outlay per Legislative Council Service request

State

The Legislative Council Service requested that the NMLGC provide a list of land grants that are eligible to receive monies. Greta Archuleta and Anissa Baca created this list of land grants and OSA and DFA compliance and many land grants are in the process of getting their AUPs contracted. While the NMLGC can provide this information, it cannot unilaterally decide if they are eligible to receive legislative funding, such as junior monies or capital outlay. It's also difficult because the at risk list does not show which land grants are under contract for their AUP, even if it has not been completed. Many can be in compliance by end of session if they are awarded monies and can be by the time questionnaires are completed and grant agreements are signed from May to July. Chairman Sanchez reiterated that the Council can help provide information but this is beyond our scope and cannot say whether a land grant is or is not eligible for funding. Anissa Baca pointed out that the at risk lists on the state auditors website has not been updated since September.

Councilor Padilla made a motion that NMLGC staff send to the Legislative Council Service listing all 27 land grants as eligible and explain why the NMLGC cannot determine eligibility; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta reported the Governor's budget recommendation does not contain details that reveals the recommended budget for the Council. The LFC recommended a flat budget. He spoke with Interim Land Grant Committee Chair Rep. Kristina Orteza, who said that the NMLGC budget should not be flat. The flat budget recommendation might be a result of the land acquisition fund, which is a competing interest. Councilor Polaco recommended that the Council prioritize the land acquisition fund over a larger budget. The deadline to prefile legislation is today.

Federal

Mr. Archuleta stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Enrique Romero and one Council member to discuss the traditional use bill. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Leger Fernández returned to Washington DC, where her priority is reintroducing the traditional use bill. She is working with the USFS on using the Small Tracts Act to return cemeteries to land grant communities. She has questioned the valuation (appraisal) of cemeteries if they use Small Tracts Act and would like to attend events, connect with heirs, and visit a cemetery this spring / summer. Her office is unsure if there will be CDS/CDF (Community Directed Spending / Funding) this year. If so, information will be released in March or April with a quick turn around. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that the Senator was in New Mexico and she would share CDS information as soon as she receives it. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) stated that the Senator would be in Washington DC soon and would be discussing budget and CDS funding. The Farm Bill was extended to September 2024 via continuing resolution and discussions will begin again in March 2024.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Governance Attorney Program Proposed Rule Comments

Enrique Romero presents his edits and comments on behalf of the NMLGC to the rule change for the Community Governance Attorney Program and added that the statutory authority the commission has is included in the rule.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to adopt comments submitted by the Council regarding the Community Governance Attorney Program rule change; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Issues remain with the CGA Commission. For instance, the acequia representative can be anyone from an acequia while for land grants, it needs to be current or past member of NMLGC. Hopefully this can change to a designee as commission appointments take a long time. The program is also badly advertised and there remains confusion over the responsibilities of HED and UNM Law School.

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

Enrique Romero (Treaty Division) reported that the New Mexico Attorney General's office has changed its name to the New Mexico Department of Justice. Mr. Romero reported that he would like to convene a land grant attorneys working group. The group will consider the traditional use bill as the Division is interested in issues emanating from the Treaty and this is one of them. The Division will also consider promulgating a rule about contested elections. The Division also is planning a land grant and acequia law and policy summit, likely in the summer of 2024. The Division was also invited to participate in meeting with Taos Valley Acequia Association and the Carson National Forest. The Division is also working on complaints regarding the Anton Chico Land Grant and is still working on Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant issues.

Mr. Romero added that he would like to schedule a business meeting with the Council after the legislative session ends, either an extension of a meeting or a special meeting. He would like to revisit a statutory authority. Mr. Archuleta suggesting including a OMA and IPRA training and invite land grants to attend. March 1, 10:00am-2:00pm was identified as a tentative date for a hybrid meeting at UNM STC.

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

Kris Graham Chávez reported that NRCS is continuing to work on EQIP and CSP contracts. The deadline was in November but sign up remains open and interested parties can visit their local field office. NRCS will work with them to get a conservation plan in place. NRCS will be getting significant monies from the Inflation Reduction Act. She reported that the NRCS can present at any meeting with land grants, provide a Council training or present to individual land grants. RCPP grant programs are coming up too. Councilor Polaco discussed issues the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant has had attempting to apply for NRCS funding.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day

Councilor Padilla reported that the Consejo executive committee met and determine lifetime achievement recipients. Entertainment will be provided by the Carlos Medina conjunto.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the NMLGC serve as a co-sponsor of Treaty Day; 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 Council FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided budget update and discussed Quickbooks training for land grants.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve of invoice #5908 from CB4U for \$431.85; 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 approval of externship agreement with Alicia Ulibarri; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

None.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant is discussing a property purchase and are working with their own surveyor, but he is unsure if they will have a request for services.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the New Mexico Legal Aid contract is in place but no billing has been generated as of yet. NMLA continues to work on pending litigation and Elizabeth Gutierrez passed bar and is helping David Benavides. There may be an issue as NMLA can no longer use federal funds to assist land grants now that they have income that is over their threshold for free services.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council received word from the Office of the State Auditor that Macias, Gutierrez withdrew from the AUP for the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. Mr. Romero stated that he has had no contact with the Auditor's office, but I will contact them to be sure NM Dept of Justice and OSA are on the same page.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

Jason Quintana (Manzano LG) commented that appraisals are an issue and an additional hurdle from DFA. The purchase of the 700 acre property has been in the works for 1 year and the process

has been burdensome. Monica Rodriguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) discussed the Water Security Planning Act that was passed last year, which requires OSE to create regional planning commissions. Acequias are engaged but mention is made of land grants. Land grants might write a letter Andrew Erdmann, coordinator of Act for the OSE.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

The annual Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day commemoration will be held on February 2, 2024, 12:00pm, at the Roundhouse.

23. Date and Location for February Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on February 23rd at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

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 12:45pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
February 23, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 965 3606 9003

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:05 am MST. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); Erin McElroy (New Mexico State Forestry Division); Francisco Mendoza (Merced del Pueblo de Chililí); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Kristin Graham Chavez (NRCS); Josh Nadas (USFS); Erick Stemmerman (USFS); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM Dept. of Justice, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division); Enrique Romero (NM Dept. of Justice, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division); Joaquín Argüello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community 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 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 12, 2024 Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Erick Stemmerman (USFS R3) introduced Bella Mollard (Carson National Forest traditional community liaison), who announced that the Carson National Forest is hosting a workshop for

small businesses interested in contracting with the USFS, to be held on February 24, 2024 at Bataan Hall in Taos, NM. Mr. Stemmerman introduced Josh Nadas, the Legislative Affairs Specialist for the USFS in Washington DC, who was visiting New Mexico to learn about projects in Region 3 and recovery efforts nearly two years after the Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire and watershed issues on the Gallinas and Pecos Rivers. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP) thanked Mr. Nadas for attending the Council meeting and stated that Council members and staff visited with Mr. Nadas in Washington DC in June 2023 to discuss USFS comments on the traditional use bill. Mr. Archuleta added that he has spoken with Carson NF Supervisor James Durán about the Council offering a Land Grant 101 in conjunction with an acequia training for the Carson NF and other national forests in New Mexico. Mr. Baca will do a “Land Grant 101” training for Region 3 in March in Corrales. Ms. Mollard suggested two days or one long training day that discusses the history and current partnerships and discusses Treaty Rights and misconceptions about land grants. Councilors Polaco and Padilla discussed the need to assist communities and individuals effected by the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) stated that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández has been pushing FEMA to provide prompt assistance and has been working with their case workers on HPCC claims.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

Lesley Elser from the BLM State Office reported that the Rio Puerco RMP is in process. 99.8% of public comments regarding the Placitas withdrawal were in support. Mr. Archuleta asked if the withdrawal included the Buffalo Tract and crest of Montezuma; Ms. Elser was uncertain but would find out and report back. The draft EA for the Rio Grande del Norte is being prepared by a contractor, who is working on the Taos Resource Management Plan Amendment. The EA for the Santa Fe County recreation shooting range is in process. The scoping report for the Ohkay Owingeh land exchange is available and the draft EA will be ready by April or May 2024. Mr. Archuleta reported that the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant, which reorganized and will seek political subdivision status in the next legislative session, submitted comments on the exchange. In the packet are redline edits by Enrique Romero (NM DOJ – Treaty Division) on the draft MOU between the Council and the BLM for the Rio Grande del Norte plan. Mr. Romero discussed his edits, including FOIA and IPRA issues.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the MOU when all language and changes are approved by BLM and designating Jacobo Baca as the NMLGC representative; 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 State Land Office Update

Mr. Archuleta stated that the SLO is working to identify fuelwood projects.

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

Federal

Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich) discussed the Hard Hats Program, created to fund an apprenticeship program. She also discussed the Congressional Directed Spending and

discussed a land grant records digitization project. Requests are between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. Mr. Archuleta added that this would likely be a collaboration between the Council, the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, the UNM Library, and the Treaty Division. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) stated that they will know soon if we can apply for FY 2025 funds. His office is working with Senator Ben R. Luján's office to finalize text on the Traditional Use Bill and hope it can be introduced in early spring. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Romero led a discussion on the traditional use bill, which changed from a consultation bill to coordination and cooperation between land grants and federal land management agencies and a definition of traditional uses and facilitating with federal agencies specifically through MOUs. It does not directly mention the Treaty, but includes broader language and simplifies areas controlled by the state, such as hunting, game and water management, with language that states uses will be "in accordance with state law."

State

Mr. Archuleta presented a list of land grants receiving capital outlay funds in the 2024 New Mexico Legislative Session. Collectively land grants received \$3.25 million, the most ever. He thanked Anissa Baca (NMLGC) for her work with land grants in creating and submitting capital outlay requests. The Governor has yet to sign the capital outlay bill.

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

Enrique Romero (Treaty Division) reported that the NM Department of Justice has created ten goals for the Treaty Division, including Treaty issues, developing laws and policies for land grants and acequias, respond to complaints against land grants and acequias, engage with the NMLGC and NM Acequia Commission, provide trainings for land grant-merced boards of trustees and acequia commissioners and provide general education and outreach. The Division has received and is assessing complaints regarding the Arroyo Hondo Arriba and Anton Chico Land Grants. Three applicants have applied for an attorney position in the Division. The Division also plans to host an acequia and land grant policy and law conference with policy makers and attorneys.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMLGC is co-hosting a meeting with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Property Tax Division and the NM Justice Department's Treaty Division on March 1, 2024. The meeting will be held at the New Mexico State Records and Archives in Santa Fe and will begin at 9:30am. About 85% of Land Grant Merced Property Tax questionnaires have been returned, which will help NM TRD-PTD work with the land grants to file protests with their respective county assessors.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day

Chairman Sánchez and Councilor Padilla thanked the NMLGC / LGSP staff for their work on Treaty Day, which was well attended and was a huge success.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update. \$246,900.54 of the \$701,900.00 budget has been expended thus far, leaving a balance of \$455,000.00.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve BAR for \$23,012.00; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay request 1 for July through December 2023 for \$201,055.03, including \$155,891.72 in project personnel, \$1,746.23 in travel, \$9,180.60 in surveyor costs, and \$33,509.17 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request 1 for \$201,055.03; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request 2 for the month of January for \$42,963.79, including \$25,953.65, \$3,334.13 in surveyor costs, \$3,500 in Law Clinic fee waivers, \$559.96 in copier expenses, \$240.00 in facility rental for Council meetings and \$7,160.63 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request 2 for \$42,963.79; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the Internal Budget Revision for \$23,012.00, moving funds from computer software, participant stipends and office rental to professional services.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Internal Budget Revision Request for \$23,012.00; 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 presented invoices from Territorial Land Surveying, LLC.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Invoice #01182024 from Territorial Land Surveying, LLC for \$3,334.13; 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 Invoice #02222024 for Territorial Land Surveying, LLC for \$2,500.88; 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

Councilor Polaco asked if David Benavides has completed his review of Laguna del Campo documents. Mr. Archuleta stated he is waiting to hear back from him.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Robert Sierra sent in a complaint regarding the Anton Chico Land Grant (in packet).

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

19. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

20. Miscellaneous Announcements

The UNM Land Grant Studies Program and Town of Tomé LG will host a ALGE teacher's workshop tomorrow (Feb. 24) in Tomé. Councilor Padilla announced the next Consejo Quarterly meeting is March 16 in Cebolleta.

21. Date and Location for March Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on March 8 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

22. 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 1:15pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
March 8, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Science & Technology Center,
Executive Board Room
851 University Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 996 0865 1780

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMDOJ – Treaty Division); Enrique Romero (NMDOJ – Treaty Division); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Tim Hagaman (NM EDD); Senaida Anaya (Torreón LG), Melvin Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG); Minerva Anderson (BLM); Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Senator Martin Heinrich); Kristin Graham Chávez (NRCS); R. Chavez; Avedona Lucero (Lower Gallinas LG); Sandy Escarcida (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas 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 February 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 23, 2024 Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

Minera Anderson of the BLM provided the following update via chat.

All documents and maps for the Placitas Withdrawal can be found on the following ePlanning page: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026585/510> Page one of the maps, <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026585/580>, gives an overview of the four tracts that are included in the Placitas Withdrawal Proposal: Tract A: The Buffalo Tract; Tract B: The Crest of Montezuma; Tract C – Unnamed; Tract D - The San Francisco Tract. The Environmental Assessment is currently open for review and comment. The comment period ends on **March 15, 2024**, and we welcome your comments. Mr. Arturo Archuleta added that the Congressional withdrawal is a 50-year administrative withdrawal.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve NMLGC staff to submit comments regarding the withdrawal; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Xochitl Campos Biggs (Office of Congresswoman Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that her office learned Congressional project funding will open today but they do not know accounts that will open. Requests will be due at the end of the month and the Congresswoman will have two information sessions next week. She reported that Adeline DeYoung of the DC office has been pressing USFS on the valuation of cemeteries. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández plans to introduce the traditional use legislation for introduction in early Spring and is working with Senator Ben R. Luján's office on introduction. The Congresswoman also will be in the state in August and October and would like to attend community events at land grants. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that her office is also working on Congressionally Directed Spending. Mr. Archuleta reported that Alana Purdy Montesinos of Senator Luján's office is leaving for a position with the legislative committee staff and sent her final correspondence regarding the bill. Enrique Romero (NM DOJ – Treaty Division) shared his analysis of the Traditional Use Bill. And commented that he would like to do additional research and meet with Council staff to discuss further.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that it appears that no land grant capital outlay was vetoed. The budget bill was signed and the Council's budget stayed flat (\$626,900).

7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the State Land Office is working with Claunch Pinto SWCD to expand the Bearcat Project but wants to talk to Chairman Sánchez and NMLGC staff before making plans for the expansion.

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

The San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG has requested maps for Cañón de Chama irrigation project. They have met with the NRCS for plans for the irrigation project. The USFS wants specifics to set up

a special use permit and Chris Chávez of Territorial Lands Surveying completed a survey and monumented the tract and has offered to meet with SJRC to work on a project map.

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

Enrique Romero (NM DOJ Treaty Division) reported that they met with NMLC staff to discuss an acequia and land grant law and policy leadership conference, most likely to be held in September. Mr. Archuleta and Mr. Baca shared the 2016 Land Grant Retreat report at a template for planning. The Treaty Division has reached out to the New Mexico Acequia Association and will reach out to the New Mexico Acequia Commission and New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo soon. Mr. Romero added that staff support from the Council (facilitating and notetaking) will be great and the same has been requested from NMAA. Mr. Romero also reported that he visited the UNM School of Law to perform outreach for employment opportunities and a UNM law student applied for an internship with the NM DOJ. He also met with acequias in Mora to facilitate a discussion regarding the shared acequia madre and the DOJ participated in the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division meeting in Santa Fe on March 1. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ Treaty Division) reported that the NM DOJ hosted a delegation from Austria and the executive team had them visit the land grant and acequia gallery.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the meeting with the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division on March 1 in Santa Fe was informative, and we were able to lay out a path to become tax exempt through tax protests. He also had the opportunity to go before the New Mexico Finance Authority board to pitch the idea of a loan fund and their initial feedback seemed supportive. Chairman Sánchez asked Kris Graham Chávez how many land grants applied for EQUIP this year. Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS) responded that the deadline is in November and encouraged would be applicants to sign up as soon as they can. Councilor Padilla reported that the Niagara Water Company wants more water for their bottling plant in Los Lunas and the Town of Tomé Land grant sent letters of opposition. The Los Lunas City Council granted them a larger lease from their own water right. Chairman Sánchez suggested reaching out to the Office of the State Engineer involved and Mr. Romero suggested reaching out to the NMAA.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget update (in packet).

Councilor Polaco made a motion to repeal the BAR of February 23, 2024; 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 repeal the BAR for the Internal Budget Review; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

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

The only changes to the budget since the February meeting are in council travel as no billing has been generated. The new BAR includes a confirmed QuickBooks price, which includes the purchase of two more licenses. Mr. Archuleta met with UNM Continuing Education regarding office space and they cannot get NMLGC office prepared until April. A move of \$14,088 is required for this lease. Budget adjustments include \$3500 out of office supplies, \$3500 out of law school externs and \$9,000 more into the surveyor contract. (see packet for details).

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Budget Revision Request; 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 purchase of QuickBooks for Torreon and Lower Gallinas; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #6033 from Checks and Balances for QuickBooks trainings; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

There will be two options for training in April, one on Thursday April 9 and another Saturday April 20th, both via Zoom.

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

Mr. Chris Chávez of Territorial Land Surveying completed the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG historic property boundary survey and will record the survey and plat today.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the invoice 03082024 from Territorial Land surveying for \$4,969.69; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG also requested assistance on producing a map for their irrigation project in the Cañón de Chama.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Chris Chavez to work with San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG to produce map for their irrigation project; 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 & Requests

Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMLA may co-counsel on Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant case as the UNM NREL Clinic is off this summer. Councilor Polaco asked if Mr. Benavides had any updates on Laguna del Campo; Mr. Archuleta responded he was meeting with Mr. Benavides next week.

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

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that a workshop was held in Tomé on February 24 to continue building lesson plans to contribute to the ALGE curriculum. It was a fairly small workshop, we had about 8 or 9 participants, but I thought it went really well. We had three groups we separated to write lesson plans for different age groups and left with 12 new lesson plans for the day.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None. Council staff have responded to several IPRA records requests.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

19. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Padilla thanked James Chávez of the Valencia SWCD and Rob Barr of the Valencia County Fire Department for their clean up efforts, which produced salt cedar and russian olive fuelwood, which was blocked and distributed by the Town of Tomé Land Grant

20. Miscellaneous Announcements

Dawn Webster has left DFA for a position at HED and Carmen Morin will take her duties in the short term. The New Mexico Land Grant Merced Consejo will meet on March 16 in Seboyeta, hosted by the Cebolleta Land Grant.

21. Date and Location for April Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on April 12 at 10:00am in Albuquerque, location tbd.

Chairman Sánchez suggested that the May 2024 Council meeting be held up north, perhaps in Las Vegas.

22. 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 11:51pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

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

Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:05 am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Joe Benito Chávez (San Miguel del Bado LG heir); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz e la Cañada LG); Christine Bustos (Santa Cruz e la Cañada LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Edward Sena (Las Vegas Land Grant); John Anthony Gonzales (Ojo de San José Land Grant); Cathleen Gonzales (Ojo de San José Land Grant); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Daniel Maes (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Cy Martinez (Juan Bautista Baldes LG heir); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba LG).

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 8, 2024 Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

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

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

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

State

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

6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

None.

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

None.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

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

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

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

None.

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

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

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

FY 2024

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

FY 2025

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

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the staff recommendation for FY 2025 NMLGC budget; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Trip to Washington DC

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

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

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

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Service Agreement ; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to purchase QuickBooks and renewals for subscriptions for a full year; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Invoice 04122024 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$7,069.78; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Town of Tomé Land Grant request for surveyor services; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – abstain

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

None.

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

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

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

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

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

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

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

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

20. Public Comments – discussion only

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

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for May Council Meeting

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

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
May 17, 2024 – 10:00am
New Mexico Highlands University
Student Center – Room 321
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas, NM 87701
Zoom – Meeting I.D. –916 5500 6267

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Abel Sillas; Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ Treaty Division); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben. R. Lujan); Erick Stemmerman (USFS R3); Jacob Key (Santa Fe National Forest); Belinda Mollard (Carson NF) Miguel Villareal (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community LG); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernandez); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS); Enrique Romero (NMDNJ Treaty Division); Ernesto Lujan; Jose Gonzales; Gomecindo Gonzales; Eddie Quintana (Los Vigiles LG); Emilio Aragon; Priscilla Sillas Rael; Elias Ontiveros; Jefferey Tenorio; Mario Tenorio; Melaquias Castellano; Rita Padilla Gutierrez; Geoffrey Plant; Claressa Romero (San Miguel del Bado 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 April 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and April 19, 2024 Special Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 12, 2024 Regular Council meeting; 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 the meeting minutes of the April 19, 2024 Special 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 reported the availability of fuelwood area near Tres Piedras, where piñón-juniper has been cut and permits are available for \$15.00. She also has met with Claunch-Pinto SWCD to plan phase 3 of Bearcat project this fall.

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

Jacob Key (Santa Fe NF) reported that Hermits Peak Calf Canyon fencing contracts and recovery work continues. The Encino Vista landscape restoration project continues. The SFNF is working with the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama to restore the old orchard in the Cañón de Chama. The National Forest Foundation is working in 68 acres on the San Joaquin Grant under their “Wood for Life” program. The SFNF is working with the Carson NF about mayordomo projects and want them on the Santa Fe NF and are coordinating with JR Logan and the National Forest Foundation. Belinda Mollard (Carson NF) reported of road closures because of elk calving, prescribed burns in the Rio Chama CFRP and the Echo Amphitheatre closing for improvements. Erick Stemmerman reported that the Cíbola NF is continuing to work on the north Sandia fuel reductions project. Scoping has been released and public comments period has been extended.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Bureau of Land Management Update

Lisa Morrison reported that the Rio Grande del Norte plan comment period open until May 23rd. The Santa Fe County shooting range project is ongoing and the Governor’s 60 day review period will start in June. Taos field manager Eric Valencia spoke with Councilor Polaco regarding fuelwood on the Okhay Owingeh land exchange. Mr. Archuleta provided a list of certified federal patents for land grants that the Council would like to purchase.

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

Federal

Eric Chavez (Office of Senator Lujan) and A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernandez) reported that Senator Lujan reintroduced traditional use legislation as S. 4271 and HR 8262. The Congressional delegation also had a hearing regarding the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and plan to extend and expand RECA went through Senate and are pushing Speaker Johnson to hear the bill. Mr. Pacheco reported that Congresswoman Leger Fernandez wants to visit land grant cemeteries and that they are not making progress on finding out more information on cemetery valuations. Mr. Archuleta commented that the traditional use bill will have hearings in both chambers. The bill has been thoroughly vetted and negotiated but the timeline is short in an election bill.

State

The Interim Land Grant Committee (chaired by Sen. Leo Jaramillo) adopted a work plan, which includes the following areas: Water, land, fire prevention and post-fire recovery issues; Land

acquisition and management issues; Governance capacity at land grants-mercedes and acequias; Reports from individual land grants-mercedes and other related entities. Meeting dates and locations are: July 25-26 – Northern New Mexico College, Española; Aug. 19-20 – at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas; Oct. 3-4 – at the San Antonio de las Huertas LG in Placitas; and November 18 in Santa Fe.

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

Enrique Romero (NMDNJ Treaty Division) reported that the DOJ is interviewing a 1 year intern attorney and 2 applicants for another attorney with Treaty Division. They have developed a process for incoming complaints, intakes, assigning an attorney, etc. They have 25 pending acequia / land grant complaints they are working through and the NMDNJ is reviewing the protections that acequias and land grants have. Planning is ongoing for a land grant and acequia policy conference in Santa Fe. There will also be 2 trainings for land grants and acequias in July and September, which will include presentations on OMA, IPRA, NM State Auditor, elections, bylaws. Ricardo Dow y Anaya reported that he attended the water planning open house (flyer in packet) and encouraged all land grants and acequias to attend these open houses. Priscilla Rael commented regarding her displeasure of the recognition of the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant and claimed to be a heiress of the federal sovereign grant, the Arroyo Hondo, which Councilor Padilla asked for elaboration.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Property Tax Exemption for Land Grants

Mr. Archuleta commented that the Council is not sure how many land grants submitted valuation protests. There appears to be some hesitancy on the part of counties, which have cited a Las Vegas Land Grant NM Supreme Court decision (1922) said they should pay taxes. The Council will explore this claim and hopes to meet with the New Mexico Association of County Assessors. This increases the likelihood that tax protests will go to the full NM TRD protest board. Councilor Polaco reported that the Tierra Amarilla LG submitted their protest and the Rio Arriba County assessor granted property tax exemption. Claressa Romero stated that San Miguel del Bado County was very accommodating and want the issue remedied before the tax protest.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grants establishing Academic Scholarships

The Council discussed the issue of land grants *mercedes* awarding scholarships to heirs/community members and how and if they can do so without violating the ant-donation clause. They asked the NM DOJ Treaty Division to explore the issue. Enrique Romero of the Division stated that the primary issue is anti-donation, but state agencies do give out scholarships. Perhaps a service requirement is part of the scholarship so something is given in return. Councilors asked if it matters where the source of the money is and if they can give out money that comes from donations or other sources without penalty since it does not come from the coffers of the state. They also discussed land grants having two accounts to distinguish those monies derived from different sources. Mr. Romero stated that he needs to do more research, but as soon as monies touch the land grant account, it becomes public monies. Mr. Archuleta stated that he needed to review the process that the New Mexico Lottery undertakes.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Assistance Fund

The Council discussed reviewing the requirements for the land grant merced assistance fund. In past, the NMLGC adopted its requirements in the June or July meeting. The NMLGC role centers around compliance with Chapter 49.

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

None.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024, FY 2025 & FY 2026 Budget

FY 2024

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update through April 2024, which includes travel at \$4,532.62, the UNM IGSA at \$360,152.62 for total of \$364,685.24. Chairman Sanchez and Councilor Polaco will need to have travel memos for the remainder of the year.

FY 2025

NM Legal Aid provided a statement regarding their rates. The Council contract with NM Legal Aid will be \$150 per hour for a total not to exceed \$60,000. The Council wants to get the process started to prevent gaps in service as NMLA cannot work on cases where land grants have monies and do not qualify for poverty requirement of federal funding. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the NMLA contract for FY 2025; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

FY 2026

Mr. Archuleta presented the staff recommendation for the FY 2026 budget of \$998,701, including \$912,101 under the UNM IGSA and \$600,783.54 in personnel. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve to approve staff recommendation of FY 2026 budget; 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 UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #5 for April 2024, including \$25,984.59 in personnel, \$84.42 in staff travel, \$7,069.78 in surveyor services, \$1,565.94 in office space rental and \$6,940.95 in F&A for a total of \$41,645.68.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #5 for \$41,645.68; 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 CB4U invoice #6185 for \$4,843.13; 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 Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests

Council member Andrea Padilla made a motion to approve Invoice 5172024 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$13,881.64; 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 Legal Services Contract Update & Requests

None.

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

The latest issue of the *El Grito* newsletter has been released. The LGSP is digitizing deed books for the Manzano Land Grant and is considering another purchase from the Center for Land Grant Studies / Malcolm Ebright.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

The Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant reported the results of their April 2024 election.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

22. Public Comments – discussion only

Jose Gonzales, Claressa Romero and Jose Emilio Aragon offered comment.

23. Miscellaneous Announcements

ICIPs are due June 14, 2024.

24. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The June meeting of the NMLGC will be on June 21, 2024 in Albuquerque, likely at UNM Continuing Education.

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 12:47pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 7, 2024 – 1:00pm
UNM Continuing Education
South Building, Room 212
1634 University Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Zoom – Meeting I.D. – 946 2380 4149

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 1:07pm 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); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP).

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. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024 Budget Adjustment Request and UNM IGSA Internal Budget

The budget update and BAR were presented by Mr. Archuleta. The proposed BAR would decrease \$275.00 in staff salary and fringe, \$381 in office supplies, \$6,000 in the legal service contract (rejected by Holland and Hart) and \$560.00 in facility rental. The balance of these items would be moved to personnel out of state travel and non-tagged capital equipment, increasing out of state travel by \$180.00 and non-tagged capital equipment by \$7,036.00.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented an internal BAR under the UNM IGSA, which includes a \$275.00 decrease in “administrative professional” (2020), a \$500.00 decrease in “office supplies” (3100), a decrease of \$6,000.00 in professional services (69Z0), and a decrease of \$560.00 in office rental (7060) for a total of \$7,335.00 in decreases. The non-capital equipment budget would increase by \$5,465.00

(3180), an increase in computers and servers of \$1,690.00 (3189), and a \$180.00 increase in out of state travel (3820) for a total of \$7,335.00 in increases.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the internal BAR for \$7,335.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

5. 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 1:18pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 21, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 204
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 986-7025-0222

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:09 am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Camila Romero (NM SLO); Enrique Romero (NM DOJ Treaty Division); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ Treaty Division); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben. R. Lujan); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Melvin Apodaca (Tierra Amarilla LG); Joe Valencia (CES); Paul Benoit (CES); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Lesley Elser (BLM); Abel Sillas (Arroyo Hondo); Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); Monica Rodríguez (New Mexico Acequia Association /San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Macario Griego (Cañón de Carnué LG); Priscilla Sillas Rael (Arroyo Hondo).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2024 Regular Meeting and June 7, 2024 Special Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 17, 2024 Regular 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 June 7, 2024 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 Presentation on Procurement Opportunities by Cooperative Educational Services (CES)

John Valencia (CES) introduced CES, Cooperative Educational Services, a purchasing cooperative which since 1979 has provided procurement and other services to public schools and with purchasing, procurement, professional services and more. They serve 98% of charter schools and a JPA expanded to include counties, municipalities, other political subdivisions like land grants and acequias. All income for CES is made through a 1.25% administrative fee that is included in vendor quote. There are sometimes restrictions on the using grant funding to pay the 1.25% admin fee, but CES can help to determine if this restriction applies. Applying for membership is a simple form and Paul Benoit is the CES representative for the northern half of New Mexico, but also covers parts of Valencia County. Mr. Valencia added that the traditional / legacy process is usually used for construction. The CES online portal allows users to manage a project, review pricing, and assists them in chasing down bonds. CES issues a PO to the vendor, less the admin fee, and will even do progress payments. The vendor invoices CES and CES invoices the member (i.e., land grant).

Jason Quintana (Manzano LG) asked how CES compares with the statewide price agreement. Mr. Valencia responded that State Purchasing does bids and CES does RFPs. Bids are awarded based on low price and RFPs are more technical based than just price. By example, under the statewide price agreement, vehicles have to follow exact specifications, where under an RFP, through CES, a buyer can purchase off of the lot, with different colors and specs. The state is part of a national agreement (NASPO) that administers a 3% fee where CES assesses a 1.25% fee. Monica Rodriguez (New Mexico Acequia Association) commented that acequias receive Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Funding and asked if CES has issues working with some agencies to spend these funds. Mr. Valencia responded that when he worked with the state he needed to convince them that he had to go through CES and had to create a justification. Some state agencies, state employees and state purchasing don't want to use CES. Ms. Rodríguez asked if CES works directly with DFA for invoicing, draw downs, etc. Mr. Valencia responded that CES does not get into administrative portion of spending their funding the entity needs to do that on their own. CES does the procurement portion of spending the award.

Councilor Padilla and Councilor Polaco expressed interest in using CES to help with projects at their respective community centers in Tomé and Tierra Amarilla. Paul Benoit (CES) responded that if they sign a PE agreement and become a member, they can use CES's services. The agreement is a simple 2 page application that needs board approval. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC) commented that local public bodies need to adopt their own procurement and we recommend that land grants adopt the state procurement code. Mr. Benoit discussed regions and did a walkthrough of the CES online bluebook.

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

Lesley Elser (BLM) reported that Rio Grande del Norte management plan is anticipating release of 60 day notice for public comment in September.

7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update

Camila Romero reported that the SLO has fuelwood for \$15 per cord near Tres Piedras.

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

Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) and Monica Rodriguez (NMAA) reported that they participated in a meeting with Carson National Forest Supervisor James Durán, discussing the forest mayordomo projects, a visit by the regional leadership team in late summer, and collaborations with entities like Taos County, who has a good neighbor agreement with the USFS. Enrique Romero added that the USFS has stewardship agreements with New Mexico State Forestry and meeting participants discussed expanding the forest mayordomo program with state forestry, especially in areas where land grants and acequias don't exist. Mr. Baca discussed continuing "Land Grant 101" presentations with the three northern forests (Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe). Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) reported that the Indios Fire is almost completely extinguished and fuelwood from fire lines that was promised to the San Joaquín Grant is getting stolen. There will also need to be some erosion control after the fire as all the canyons from the Mesa Alta feed the cañón and will flow more intensely after the fire.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Project Update from Chris Chavez, contracted Land surveyor

Chris Chavez shared the recent projects he has completed for the Tierra Amarilla and Tajique Land Grants, and for the Cañon de Chama Agricultural / Irrigation Project, where he mapped the historic acequias and diversion points, mapped the prospective fields to be irrigated and located the acequia constructed by the original inhabitants and the historic San Joaquin Plaza. Enrique Romero has questions regarding the water rights for the Cañon de Chama Agricultural / Irrigation Project and Leonard Martínez stated that the Forest Service has fought the Grant on using the water rights for the irrigation project but the land grant convinced the Forest Service that the project benefits the Forest Service. The Grant will have the meeting with the Santa Fe National Forest on July 11 where Mr. Chavez will present his research on the irrigation project.

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

Federal

Eric Chavez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) and Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) updated that both Senators were in state and pushed for the disaster declaration for the Ruidoso Fire for Lincoln County and the Mescalero Reservation, which was approved by President Biden. Mr. Archuleta reported that Todd Ringler from Senator Luján's office alerted the Council that the National Congress of American Indians readopted a resolution opposing the traditional use bill. Once again, the opposition was led by one pueblo and was not approved by the rest of region. Several pueblos voiced opposition to the action as it wasn't an action by region. We still need to have a hearing in order for the bill to advance and we still have until December to push the bill forward.

State

The Interim Committee will be meeting in July 25-26 in Espanola at Northern New Mexico College.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

See above

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

Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) reported that Taos training will occur on Friday, July 12, 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm at the UNM Taos Ranchos campus. People can register using a QR code or website link. An offer was made to another attorney to work at the Treaty Division. Two interns will start in September with the Treaty Division. Attorney General Raul Torrez is happy with the work of Treaty Division and complaints made to the NMAG's office have lessened.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Property Tax Exemption for Land Grants

Land grants reported the following regarding tax protests: San Antonio de las Huertas – filed and opposition; Tajique – filed and no response; Tomé - filed and no response; Don Fernando de Taos - filed and no response; Santa Bárbara - filed and no response; Manzano - filed and no response San Miguel del Bado – filed and San Miguel County was accommodating; Los Vigiles – filed late, received notice late, no response; San Joaquin del Rio de Chama – Rio Arriba County already does not charge taxes on land grant properties; Cristobal de la Serna filed on four linea properties and have not received a response. Chairman Sanchez reported that Torrance County is going to work with the Chililí Grant. Councilor Padilla asked if land grants can approach New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue if they have not heard back from the counties.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund FY25

The Council discussed reviewing the requirements for the land grant merced assistance fund. In the past, the NMLGC adopted its requirements in the June or July meeting. The NMLGC role centers around compliance with Chapter 49. Councilors reviewed the annual report certification form and added verbiage that the board understands that not complying annual report may impact their receipt of a LGMAF distribution. Enrique Romero (NMDOJ) suggested that the meeting dates be identified in the form. Other forms reviewed include the Adjusted Revenue calculation form, the bonding certification form, the election certification, the Government Conduct Act certification form, and the Tort Claims Certification form

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund certification forms, as edited; 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 Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal

Councilor Polaco reported that the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant has been applying since last year and has gotten the run around. They applied for a stock bond and when they received funding it was not considered an eligible purchase. JR Logan is working on a mayordomo project for the grant.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2024, FY 2025 & FY 2026 Budget

FY 2024

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update. As of end of May, over \$4,500 will be reverted in Council travel. There is \$190,751 remaining under the IGSA. He presented an estimate from New Mexico

State Printing and Graphics to print selections from the Center for Land Grant Studies (Malcolm Ebright) and land grant law books.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve estimate 13378 from New Mexico State Printing and Graphics for \$2,519.90; 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 estimate 13388 from New Mexico State Printing and Graphics for \$2,452.16; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

FY 2025

IGSA not reviewed yet; NMLA contract is under review

FY 2026

None

17. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta spoke with Camila Gonzales of DFA regarding the FY 2025 IGSA and it may take some time to be approved.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to authorize Chairman Juan Sánchez to sign FY 2025 IGSA, provided there are no significant changes. 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 invoice 6265 from CB4U for \$145.29; 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 invoice 6113 from CB4U for \$290.59; 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 invoice 2024-13 from Del Medio Forestry for \$5000.00; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #6 for May 2024, including \$25,984.62 in personnel, \$2,758.66. in staff travel, \$6,158.14 in staff out of state travel \$13,881.64 in surveyor services, and \$10,866.11 in F&A for a total of \$65,196.66.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #6 for \$65,196.66; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Council member Padilla made a motion to approve Invoice #06202024 from Territorial Land Surveying for \$8,433.25; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Council member Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$11,655.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update

None.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

The Town of Tomé Land Grant submitted the updated membership of their board.

22. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

23. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

24. Public Comments – discussion only

Macario Griego attended the meeting to raise concerns over administration of the Community Governance Attorney Commission by the Utton Center.

25. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Padilla reported that Town of Tomé Grant is purchasing properties. Chairman Sanchez reminded that land grants need an asset management plan in their audits. Councilor Polaco reported that most of the electrical work is complete at the Mercedes Unidas Center. The 2025 Consejo annual meeting will take place June 29 in Talpa, NM, hosted by the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant.

26. Date and Location for July Council Meeting

The July 2024 special meeting on July 12, 2024 @ 3:30pm in Taos, NM.

The July regular meeting of the NMLGC will be on July 18, 2024, 10:00am in Albuquerque, at UNM Continuing Education.

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 2:55pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date