

F
Y

NEW MEXICO LAND GRANT COUNCIL

Annual Report

2
0
2
5



New Mexico Land Grant Council Annual Report FY 2025



Council Members:

Juan Sánchez, Chair
Andrea C. Padilla, Vice-Chair
Steve J. Polaco, Member
Mónica T. Rodríguez, Member
Vacant, Member

Staff:

Arturo Archuleta, Director
Jacobo Baca, Research Historian
Greta Archuleta, Budget Specialist
Anissa Baca, Outreach Coordinator
Jacqueline Alderete, Unit Administrator

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
State of Land Grants-Mercedes	2
FY 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council Activities & Expenditures Overview	9
Council FY 2025 Accomplishments	11
Technical Assistance	11
Liaison Support	14
Policy Work	15
Research	17
FY 2026 Approved Budget	18
FY 2027 Budget Request & Justification	19
Appendix 1 – FY 2025 Meeting Agendas	31
Appendix 2 – FY 2025 Meeting Minutes	45

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of New Mexico Land Grant Council is to establish and maintain a support program for land grant-mercedes, which includes providing 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 2025 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received \$626,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature. This represented a slight, ten percent, decrease from the previous fiscal year total legislative appropriations to the Council of \$701,900. Information about the Council's FY 2025 budget expenditures can be found in the Council's Activities and Expenditures Section starting on page 9. The Council's FY 2026 approved budget can be found on page 18 and the Council's FY 2027 budget request and justification narrative can be found starting on page 19.

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 (page 11); Liaison Support (page 14); Policy Work (page 15); Research and Related Work (page 17), Youth Development (page 17). This included governance capacity support, legal services, professional surveyor services, and budgeting and capital outlay expenditure support. Twenty-four (24) land grants-mercedes that are political subdivisions of the State received direct services and/or support from the Council in FY 2025 including: Abiquiú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cañón de Carnué, Cebolleta, Chililí, Cristóbal de la Serna, Cubero, Don Fernando de Taos, Juan Bautista Baldés, Los Vigiles, Lower Gallinas, Manzano, San Antonio de la Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santa Cruz de La Cañada, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Tajique, Tierra Amarilla, Tomé, and Torreón. In addition, the four 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, the Jacona 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 Grants Section beginning on page 2.

The major policy focus for Land Grant Council at the state level in Fiscal Year 2025 was working on the development of a Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to allow for full funding of capital outlay projects for both land grant-mercedes and acequias. The Council worked on getting a bill passed to create the Fund in the 2025 Legislative Session. The bill passed the House and the Senate Conservation Committee but died in the Senate Finance Committee. The bill will be reintroduced in the 2026 Legislative Session. The major policy focus at the federal level continues to be the passage of a legislation recognizing traditional uses on former land grant-merced common land now managed by the federal government. Legislation to this effect has been introduced in both the U.S. House of

Representatives and the U.S. Senate. More information on these and all land grant related policies can be found on page 15

STATE OF LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES

Below is information about the activities of land grants-mercedes around the State. The information below is a summarization of the undertakings and major accomplishments of a majority of the active land grant-mercedes in New Mexico.

~ ~ ~

La Merced del Pueblo Abiquiú (Abiquiú Land Grant) recently acquired the Joe Ferran Gym, built in 1968 and the largest building on Abiquiú's plaza. It also submitted an application for a grid modernization grant from the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Energy Conservation and Management Division, seeking \$5 Million to research the potential of a geothermal plant within Abiquiú Land Grant. 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. The land grant completed its purchase of 12 acres (including one acre of irrigated land) on US Highway 84, below the historic plaza. The tract houses the post office, an ice cream shop and a hair salon, and the land grant is considering developing an RV park on the property, which also hosts the Farmer's Market annually from June through October.

~ ~ ~

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, where it hosted its April 2025 election. The Grant is working with Guadalupe County on capital outlay awarded to improve a playground at a community park on the land grant.

~ ~ ~

The **Arroyo Hondo de Arriba Land 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 won its case in a property dispute on the land grant's historic plaza and received assistance from the NMLGC and the UNM School of Law in the litigation. The grant is working with Taos County to ensure planned road improvements do not exceed easements and interfere with acequias and traditional uses in the village.

~ ~ ~

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 **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 working with the New Mexico Environment Department to ensure they are compliant with regulations.

~ ~ ~

La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí (Chililí Land Grant) is acquiring property to expand their community housing projects and is continuing to work with PNM to provide power to one of their community housing sites. The grant continues to work with local soil and water conservation districts and participate in conservation projects. Chililí also purchased several parcels within the exterior boundaries of the Grant, repatriating former common land for their community and are planning for a third housing project site. The Grant hosted Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury and other East Mountain land grants to discuss the impacts of cuts federal programs on which land grant communities and heirs depend.

~ ~ ~

The **Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant** has continued with our leñero project to help protect the forest from fire and we have continued to buy lineas back from heirs. With the help of the NMLGC and the NMDOJ Treaty Division, it has resumed the joint memorial meetings regarding the lineas issue with other stakeholders in the county. 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. The grant continued to host its annual matanza and works to preserve cultural practices, including Los Comanches de la Serna.

~ ~ ~

The **Cubero Land Grant** purchased a small piece of property across from the old land grant hall, which is located in the historic plaza. It plans to move portable buildings onto the property and develop the area into a community center and a small museum and archive to preserve the community's history. The Grant received capital outlay funding to remodel its old land grant hall /community center, which needs work on its foundation. It is also considering the purchase of additional properties on the historic plaza. The Cubero Land Grant continues to support

traditional uses on its common lands and repaired a windmill that grazers depend on to water their cattle herds. Its board is preparing for its next election and is working to update their bylaws.

~ ~ ~

The **Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant** secured its rare books collection and created a small library for public view. The Board of Trustees hired an office technician to oversee the administrative office and the library. It recently acquired a parcel of land near its administrative office to house equipment and vehicles and plans to pursue pasture and mountain land to support traditional uses.

~ ~ ~

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.

~ ~ ~

The **Los Vigiles Land Grant** received a settlement from FEMA for the USFS caused Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire, which destroyed approximately two-thirds of the Los Vigiles common lands. The land grant continued its remediation efforts, removing burnt trees, distributing them as firewood, preventing further erosion and restoring roads. This work has been possible through heavy equipment purchases made with capital outlay awards. They continue to work with the New Mexico State Forestry Division on their reforestation project, the first phase focusing on 40-50 acres that will be planted with seedlings in the spring or fall of 2026. The Grant is continuing its work on the community escuela, which has been examined by a structural engineer and determined to be unsalvageable. Asbestos abatement and a title report have been completed and plans for demolition and a plan and design for a new community building will follow. The grant is also acquiring 163 acres of property abutting their common lands from the United World College and is considering the purchase of 2,720 acres of land in the Las Vegas area.

~ ~ ~

The **Lower Gallinas Land Grant** received their settlement from FEMA for the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fire and is contemplating recovery options for their burnt common lands.

~ ~ ~

La Merced del Manzano (Manzano Land Grant) continues to pursue a long-term loan with the New Mexico Finance Authority to pay-off the real estate contract for the 764 acres it has been acquiring since 2023. The Merced was also able to acquire a small tract of land from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe that includes a historic building. The Merced plans to restore the building as well as construct a multipurpose center on the land. The Land Grant was also able to purchase an additional 80 acres of property from a private seller adjacent to the U.S. Forest

Service Boundary. This property will be managed for protection of the watershed and for traditional communal use of the natural resources. The Merced also received a donation of 78 acres of land from a private donor's estate. That property is located adjacent to the 764 under real estate contract. The Merced also held its annual matanza where to community gathered to with fresh made chicarrones, green chile roasting and live music.

~ ~ ~

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 is protesting property taxes assessed by Sandoval County, which took the issue to district court, where the grant awaits further action and decision by the Court. They continue to engage with the Cibola National Forest (Mountainair Ranger District) in fire prevention efforts in Las Huertas canyon.

~ ~ ~

The **San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant** purchased property near its sala in Capulín, demolishing dilapidated buildings and clearing land. It installed water lines to the historic morada in order to support ongoing restoration work on the building, including adobe repair and stucco plastering. The Land Grant continued youth work and won a New Mexico YCC grant for the second consecutive year, partnering with Coronado High School in Gallina to work on various projects, from a community garden and highway clean ups to adobe work and education on culture and history, including Spanish vocabulary. The San Joaquín Grant is pursuing an MOU with the U.S. Forest Service to restore acequias to support farming in its historic common lands in the Cañón de Chama and pursues the transfer of historic cemeteries on federal lands. It has continued working with federal agencies, including NRCS and USFS, on fire prevention and recovery, which is especially important after the Laguna and Indios Fires destroyed 26,000 acres of former common lands. The board also led an effort to examine the U.S. v. Sandoval decision, working with four other land grants, the NMLGC and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division of the NMDOJ. The Grant continues to work with the Tierra Amarilla land grant on the Mercedes Unidas Center.

~ ~ ~

The **San Miguel del Bado Land Grant** partnered with the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the Comanchero/Santa Fe Trail, which encouraged commerce through its plazas since the 1700s. A 4 x 3 foot granite stone memorializing this history was placed off of Highway 3 in San Miguel, a step toward restoring the San Miguel plaza, which includes work with Spears Horn Architects on the final phases of design and planning for the San Miguel del Bado History Museum. The Board has participated in meeting with the New Mexico Department of Justice's Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division to explore avenues for overturning the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case. Heirs have worked on mapping the remaining lands and reacquiring former common lands is one of the land grant's most urgent concerns. The Board and heirs have been digitizing their own database of land ownership, transfers, etc.. Working with old deeds, and the knowledge of the elders, they have been

exploring these documents with aims of finding remains of their oldest and original tract markers. They hope to have a comprehensive website for heirs to use when managing their lands. The board is very concerned about wealthy interests further decreasing the acreage it manages and gentrifying San Miguel del Bado's communities. They have worked to amending bylaws to add protections to their residential lands, the only lands that were left to our community after the notorious *U.S. v. Sandoval* decision. With support from the Land Grant Council, the Grant has distributed 43 truck loads of wood to those elder heirs who are struggling through the winter, and hope to give 65 in total when the deliveries are complete.

~ ~ ~

The **Santa Bárbara Land Grant** continued to collaborate with the Carson National Forest to acquire wood from the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak burn to deliver fuelwood to the greater Peñasco communities. Priority was given to the elderly, infirm, widows and veterans. A total of 200 cords were delivered in 2024; and another 200 cords are being readied for delivery this fall/winter. The old Guadalupe Clinic is being reinforced and remodeled. To date, the exterior of the building was reinforced where the adobes had started to collapse; a section of the roof was replaced; the back porch was extended; the building stuccoed; and new, stormproof windows replaced the old, mostly broken windows. A new, very attractive fence made of river rock pillars with rows of metal piping between pillars faces State Road 75. A custom gate will include a metal sign: *SANTA BARBARA LAND GRANT*. The rest of the property was fenced with a basic horse fence. The beginning phases of connecting community water to the building are in place and the interior of the building will require a complete remodel. Walls will be knocked down to make space for a conference room, a kitchen area, two bathrooms and three office spaces. The Santa Bárbara Land Grant also purchased a 43 horsepower John Deer tractor that will be used to maintain land grant properties.

~ ~ ~

The **Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant** was formally recognized as a political subdivision in June 2025, at the end of fiscal year. The Board completed requirements in anticipation of this recognition, including submittal and approval of their proposed budgets and other compliance requirements. The grant planned their capital outlay priorities, worked with Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties to identify common lands, including those under state and federal ownership, and discussed cemeteries on land grant property with the local Catholic parish. The grant continues to work with the NMDNJ's Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division on the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case, accepting and evaluating heirship applications, and building relationships with local bodies of government.

~ ~ ~

The **Santo Domingo de Cundiyo Land Grant** has completed projects that increase water availability within the land grant through creation of bentonite lined ponds for wildlife and livestock. Additionally, the grant recently completed a project that focused on manually thinning out a section of overgrown vegetation along the Rio Frijoles River improving fishing access and reducing wildfire threats. Improvements to two track roads within the grant boundary were completed and culverts were installed in areas where damage had occurred from summer

monsoon rains. A fencing contract for approximately 1 mile of fence that borders the Santa Fe National Forest is also underway. Lastly, the grant continues to focus on habitat improvements and fire prevention projects, including planning for an RFP to obtain mastication services on about 20 acres of overgrown vegetation to reduce fire threats to the community and improve forage. Water availability projects in the form of trick tank drinkers are also planned for the coming year. A surveyor continues to provide surveying services marking the existing boundary lines.

~ ~ ~

The **Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Land Grant** continued the Las Trampas Forest mayordomo project, thinning the forest near the communities of Chamisal, Las Trampas, El Valle and Ojo Sarco. Using wood from the thinning project and their wood processor, they have been able to continue community fuelwood projects. They are working with the Camino Real Ranger District of the Carson National Forest to expand the program and are working with the U.S. Forest Service on leasing forest land to stage decks of wood from forest thinning projects.

~ ~ ~

In FY 2025, **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 former common land, including a thinning project for fire prevention, providing fuelwood for elders and handicapped community members and improved soil for wildlife. The grant continues to work on their administration building and is working with Cooperative Educational Services to hire an architectural firm / contractor to design and install an elevator and community kitchen. They purchased heavy equipment, including a dump trailer, a tandem heavy-duty trailer to transfer their skid steer, and attachments for their skid steer. 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.

~ ~ ~

The **Town of Tomé Land Grant** recently purchased a residence that they intend to restore, including rewiring, digging a new well and installing new windows. They plan to rent the property to generate revenue. The Grant is also purchasing a 5.3 acres property, which they plan to preserve as open space. They are also completing ongoing improvements to their baseball field and community center, including landscaping and fencing, infield dirt replacement and improving the walking path. In FY 2025, the Grant began working with the UNM Valencia

Branch campus on curricula that includes the history of the grant and the Rio Abajo, in part by using the land grants archives.

~ ~ ~

La Merced del Pueblo de Tajiique (Tajiique 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 **Torreón Land Grant** is working with the New Mexico Land Grant Council on community genealogies to help register heirs for their 2026 election. The grant continues to work with local community organizations to maintain their shared community center.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

FY 2025 APPROVED BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

In fiscal year 2025 the New Mexico Land Grant Council received a \$626,900 General Fund appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature, which was a flat base budget with no increase from the previous fiscal year. However, in FY 2024 the Council had received an additional \$75,000 in one-time general operating appropriations, which means the Council's total overall budget in FY 2025 decreased by ten percent. Expenditures for FY 2025 totaled \$618,033, which amounted to expenditure of 98.5% of the Council's total budget for the fiscal year

The funds were utilized by the Council to fulfill its mission of supporting land grant-mercedes. This included: approximately \$343,148 on salary and fringe benefits for Council staff; \$67,789 in direct legal services for land grant-mercedes (\$60,000 in legal services contract with New Mexico Legal Aid and \$6,789 to the Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic at the University of New Mexico School of Law); \$5,532 for digitization of Spanish and Mexican Archival Records; \$53,000 on surveyor services for land grants; \$2,737 in QuickBooks online support for land grant-mercedes; \$5,000 in youth development support of youth fly fishing camps for Tribal and land grant youth; \$900 to support community fuelwood projects with the State Land Office; \$5,222 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; \$6,539 on in-state travel expenses for Council members to attend meetings; \$5,660 in personnel out-of-state travel expenses for two staff members to accompany Council members in Washington D.C.; \$8,329 in personnel in-state travel expenses for attendance at various meetings, legislative hearings and to meet with individual land grants; \$75 for a name placard for new Council member Monica T. Rodríguez; \$23,648 in office space rental; \$24 on postage; \$1,028 on the Council's copier maintenance contract; \$90,067 on the facilities and administrative overhead costs for the University of New Mexico Intergovernmental Services Agreement for housing the Council at UNM and \$336 in administrative fees from the Department of Finance and Administration.

The Council ended the fiscal year with a reversion of \$8,867. The majority of the unspent funds were attributed to the travel funds budgeted for both the Council members and staff totaling approximately \$5,787. The main reason for the Travel not being completely expended is that the Council has an outstanding vacancy for a council member that has not be filled by the Governor. Of the remaining unspent funds \$2,964 was tied to the Department of Finance and Administration not drawing down on their budgeted administrative fee as well as \$116 of undrawn UNM F&A fees resulting from the staff travel expenses being under budget by \$580.

The next page contains a table which compares the budgeted expenditures versus actual expenditures for FY 2025.

Table 1 – FY 2025 Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

Budgeted Line Items	FY 2025 Budget	Actual Expenditures	Un-expended Ending Balance
DFA Admin Fee	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 335.70	\$2,964.30
Legal Service Contract - New Mexico Legal Aid	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$0.00
Publishing	\$ 5,532.00	\$ 5,531.93	\$0.07
In State Travel	\$ 9,968.00	\$ 6,538.88	\$3,429.12
Out of State Travel	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,222.21	\$1,777.79
UNM Inter-Governmental Services Agreement*	\$ 541,100.00	\$ 540,404.40	\$695.60
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$ 343,147.64	\$ 343,147.64	\$0.00
Personnel In-State Travel	\$ 8,328.81	\$ 8,328.81	\$0.00
Personnel Out-of-State Travel	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 5,660.28	\$579.72
Postage	\$ 23.59	\$ 23.59	\$0.00
Name Plate Council Member	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$0.00
Surveyor Contract	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$0.00
QuickBooks Support	\$ 2,736.59	\$ 2,736.59	\$0.00
Community & Economic Development Contract(s)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$0.00
Natural Resources Project Development Contract(s)	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$0.00
Law Clinic Fee Waiver LG	\$ 6,789.00	\$ 6,789.00	\$0.00
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$ 1,028.15	\$ 1,028.15	\$0.00
Facility Rental	\$ 23,647.92	\$ 23,647.92	\$0.00
F&A	\$ 90,183.34	\$ 90,067.42	\$115.92
Total Expenditures	\$ 626,900.00	\$ 618,033.12	\$8,866.88

** 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 2025 COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Fiscal Year 2025 the Council held twelve regular monthly meetings and one special meeting. 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 2025, the meetings were held at the Council's Offices at the UNM Continuing Education South Building. The one special meeting was held at UNM Taos in July of 2024. Council meeting dates for FY 2025 were: July 12, 2024; July 18, 2024; August 16, 2024; September 27, 2024; October 18, 2024; November 22, 2024; December 13, 2024; January 17, 2025; February 21, 2025; March 27, 2025; April 11, 2025; May 29, 2025; and June 20, 2025.

Council meeting agendas have standing updates from the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Land Office, New Mexico Congressional Delegation, New Mexico Department of Justice Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division and Natural Resource Issues and Concerns, which includes updates from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, when available. 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. Under 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 2025 the Council processed 11 different items submitted to the Land Grant Registry from 8 different land grant-mercedes, which included: Bylaws updates for the Lower Gallinas, Santa Cruz de La Cañada, Don Fernando de Taos, and Tierra Amarilla; and updated election results/board membership for Manzano, Juan Bautista Baldes, Tierra Amarilla, Abiquiú, Cristóbal de la Serna, and Don Fernando de Taos.

Throughout the fiscal year the Council focused its work on a variety of areas. These areas included: direct technical to land grant-mercedes; serving as a liaison between land grant-mercedes and other government entities, including dissemination of information; policy review and development at both the state and federal level; 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 the technical assistance is to support land grant-mercedes to better serve their communities and build their governance capacity. Below are specific details about direct technical assistance provided by the Council in FY 2025.

Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund

In FY 2025 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 compliance certifications required for fund eligibility. The Council disseminated the certifications to land grant-mercedes and aided those needing assistance with completion. In FY 2025 a total of seventeen land grant-mercedes were deemed eligible for a distribution in October of 2024. These included: 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, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Santo Tomás del Río de Las Trampas, Tierra Amarilla, and Tomé. In accordance with the income tiers set in the statute, fifteen of the land grant-mercedes were

eligible for a 100% distribution from the fund totaling \$123,121 and two land grant-mercedes were eligible for a 75% distribution from the fund totaling \$92,341.

Financial Management and Reporting

In FY 2025 the Council provided direct technical assistance to land grants with preparing and submitting their annual budgets and quarterly budget reports to the 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 land grant-mercedes with their budgets, this included: Abiquíú, Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de 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, San Miguel de Bado, Santa Bárbara, Santo Domingo de Cundiyo, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas, Taji que, Tierra Amarilla, Tomé, and Torreón.

In addition, Council staff continued to provide technical assistance to land grant-mercedes with using QuickBooks online for helping manage their finances. The use of QuickBooks Online streamlines their budgeting and financial reporting and is useful for generating periodic financial reports and as a tool for Independent Public Accounts (IPAs) performing agreed-upon-procedure engagements.

The Council also provided support to land grant-mercedes with annual reporting compliance requirements to the Office of the State Auditor. This included assistance with completion of tier certifications or with procuring and executing contracts with IPAs to complete Agreed-Upon-Procedures (AUP) engagements. Specific support was given to fifteen land grants in FY 2025, including: Anton Chico, Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Chililí, Cristobal de La Serna, Don Fernando de Taos, Los Vigiles, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Miguel del Bado, Santa Bárbara, Taji que, Tierra Amarilla, Tomé and Torreón.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning (ICIP) & Capital Outlay Support

In FY 2025 the Council helped eighteen land grant-mercedes with updating their FY 2026-2030 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.

The Council also assisted these eighteen land grant-mercedes with seeking and expending 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 associated goods and services relating to expenditure of the capital outlay 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.

Assistance with capital outlay was provided to the following land grants: Abiquiú; Anton Chico; Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Chilili; Cristóbal de la Serna; Cubero; Don Fernando de Taos; Los Vigiles; Manzano; San Antonio de las Huertas; San Joaquín del Río de Chama; San Miguel del Bado; Santa Bárbara; Santa Cruz de la Cañada, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Las Trampas Tajique, Tierra Amarilla; and Town of Tomé.

The Council provided direct ICIP and 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

Legal Assistance

In FY 2025 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, the New Mexico Department of Justice Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division and the UNM Law Clinic, through research and assistance with coordination of meetings with land grants. Third, 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 seven land grants, including: Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Cristobal de La Serna, Juan Bautista Baldés, Manzano, San Antonio de Las Huertas, Tajique and Tierra Amarilla. Legal assistance included legal advice, property acquisition negotiations, contract review, representation before administrative boards and active litigation. The Council also continued to serve as a liaison for the pro bono legal services assisting the San Joaquín del Río de Chama, Tierra Amarilla and Juan Bautista Baldés Land Grants relating to the Mercedes Unidas Center.

Services Related to Management and Protection of Common Lands

During the fiscal year the Council contracted with a professional licensed land surveyor, Territorial Land Surveying, to provide direct land surveying services to land grants-mercedes. Land grant-mercedes receiving services included the Arroyo Hondo de Arriba, Manzano, and Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Mercedes. Services included boundary surveying, plat mapping, reviewing adjacent land-owner surveys and serving as an expert witness for litigation affecting land grant-merced common land. In addition, the Council continued to provide direct support to land grants seeking property tax exemption as units of government. This work included supporting the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant through the Valuation Protest Board process as well as supporting the Los Vigiles Land Grant in their efforts to get tax exemption. The Council also provided support to seven land grant-mercedes with property acquisitions that added acres to the common lands.

General Governance Support

During the fiscal year the Council provided technical support with general governance to twenty-one land grant-mercedes. This work included providing support to land grant-mercedes with Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act compliance, as well as assistance with by-law review and development. In addition, the Council provided support to seven land grants with preparing and conducting their elections.

This included assisting the land grant-mercedes of Anton Chico, Cristobal de la Serna, Torreón, Cañón de Carnué, San Miguel del Bado, Los Vigiles, and Santa Cruz de La Cañada. This work included providing the land grants with instructions and guidelines for running an election in accordance with the statutory requirements, as well as sample election materials. The Council also aided ten land grants with obtaining bonds and tort liability coverage as required by statute.

~ ~ ~

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 and Office of the Governor relating to policy matters; Office of the State Auditor relating to audit compliance and policy; Department of Justice relating to legal services for land grant-mercedes and policy; State Land Office relating to fuel wood reduction projects with land grant-mercedes; Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division and Infrastructure Planning and Development Division relating to capital outlay; Department of Indian Affairs relating to policy questions; Environment Department relating to environmental standards compliance for a laguna system on the Cebolleta Land Grant common land; Taxation and Revenue Department relating to tax exemption for land grant-merced common land; Cultural Affairs Department relating to the Art in Public Places Program; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish relating to a property transfer from the Game Commission to the Merced de Los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla; New Mexico Finance Authority relating to a Public Project Revolving Loan Fund application for the Merced del Manzano; and Community Governance Attorney Program Commission relating to the development and expansion of the Program.

Liaison work at the federal level included working with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation relating to federal land grant legislation; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relating to Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon post fire recovery claims; the United State Forest Service relating to implementation of the forest plans to include land grants; the Bureau of Land Management relating to working with land grants; and the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service relating to land grant-merced projects.

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, 2025. Lastly, the Council disseminated information to land grant-mercedes sent to the Council by various State and Federal agencies. This included 91 separate emails sent to land grant-mercedes throughout the course of the fiscal year.

~ ~ ~

POLICY WORK

The Council worked on a variety of policy issues at both the federal and state level during Fiscal Year 2025. Below is additional information relating to the Council's policy.

State Level

During the fiscal year the Council staff attended all the NM Legislative Land Grant Interim Committees held for the 2024 Interim Session. This included the May 10, 2024, meeting in Santa Fe, the July 25 & 26, 2024, meeting in Española, the August 19 & 20, 2024, meeting in Las Vegas, the October 3 & 4, 2024, meeting in Placitas and the November 18, 2024, meeting in Santa Fe. Council staff provided testimony before the committee in the November meeting relating to expansion of the Council's services. Council staff also provided support to the Tierra Amarilla, Santa Cruz de la Cañada, Los Vigiles, San Antonio del las Huertas and Doña Ana Bend Colony land grants with preparing their respective presentations before the Committee. The Council focused its legislative policy work in FY 2025 on the following:

1) The creation of the Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Fund that would provide a mechanism for funding full capital outlay projects through use of a severance tax bond set aside similar to the Tribal and Colonias Infrastructure Funds. The Bill would also aim to create a Trust Fund to provide a long-term capital outlay funding solution in the future. The bill was introduced during the 2025 Legislative session and made it past the house, but died in its second committee in the Senate, the Senate Finance Committee;

2) The exemption of land grant-mercedes from the New Mexico Subdivision Act to allow land grant-mercedes more flexibility when developing affordable housing projects. Land grant-mercedes currently have zoning authority over the common lands but may be subject to County subdivision ordinances when developing multiple unit housing developments on common lands, even where no physical division of real property is to take place. This will in essence force a land grant to subdivide land common land, even if that is not the will of the board of trustees. A bill to this effect was endorsed by the 2024 Land Grant Interim Committee but was not introduced during the 2025 Legislative Session due to a mix up in who was assigned as the lead sponsor;

3) Changes to the Community Governance Attorney Program to streamline the operation of the Community Governance Attorney Commission and Program. The Program is aimed at providing a loan for service program for third-year law students that commit to serving land grant-merced, acequia and colonias communities, after passing the bar, for a period of two years. Participating attorneys work with legal service providers under contract with the Community Governance Attorney Program. The only change was removing the requirement that funds for participant salaries be limited to less than 50% of state derived funds. This change now means that program participants can also work for the New Mexico Department of Justice and other state agencies whose budgets derive from state appropriations. A bill, House Bill 24, was introduced with these changes in the 2025 session and it passed and was signed into law by the Governor;

4) Changes to the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund that would raise the distribution tier amounts so that a land grant-mercedes with annual revenues of less than \$100,000 would be eligible for a full distribution from the Fund. In addition, it would remove the automatic reversion of the year-end balance of the fund to the General Fund. Both these changes would result in ensuring that money allocated to the fund every year could go to the intended purpose of supporting land grant-mercedes. Without the changes money

not allocated in October of each fiscal year sits in the fund unused until June 30, when it reverts into the general fund. Because of the currently language in the Act at total of \$187,307 has reverted with use since the fund started in FY 2023. A bill (HB 21) was introduced to make these needed changes in the 2025 Legislative Session. The bill passed the House and all committees in the Senate but died on the Senate Floor at the end of the Session before third reading. If the described changes are not made in the 2026 Legislative Session, \$144,542 in unallocated funds will revert at the end of June of 2026;

5) Recognition of the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision of the State. The Council supported the efforts of the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant to be a named as a political subdivision land grand in the Land Grant General Provisions, NMSA 1978, §49-1-2. Senate Bill 47, the bill aimed at naming the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant as a political Subdivision was introduced and passed during the 2025 Legislative Session. The bill was signed into law by the Governor.

In addition, to state legislative policy work the Council also worked on policy matters relating to property tax exemption for land grant-merced common lands. This work included communications with the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue, assisting land grants with filling tax valuation protests to seek exemptions, and support during formal valuation protest board hearings. The Council also presented at an Assessor's Affiliate Conference on the issue. The Council participated in regional water planning workshops held by the Office of the State Engineer and provided official written comments to the Office. The Council has been actively participating in the Office of the State Auditor's working group aimed at proposing changes to the Tier System of Reporting under the State Audit Act. The Council has also participated in workshops held by the Department of Finance and Administration Infrastructure Planning and Development Division aimed at increasing efficiency in technical assistance being provided to local governments. Lastly, the Council has continued to work with the New Mexico Finance Authority to develop a financing mechanism for land acquisition through use of the Public Purposes Revolving Fund. The pilot project involving the Manzano Land Grant hit a slight snag when legislative language allowing for a 2025 capital outlay appropriation to the Land Grant to be used to help pay down the principal balance on the loan was line-item vetoed by the Governor. This has resulted in the need push back the loan closing so that the Land Grant can utilize the capital outlay to pay directly towards the purchase prior to closing on the loan.

Federal Level

Throughout the fiscal year the Council continued to work with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation on the bill to create Traditional Use Cooperation and Coordination Act. The bill has been introduced in both the United States Senate (S. 1363) by Senator Ben Ray Luján and in United House of Representatives (H.R. 2785) by Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández. The bill will codify the recognition of traditional uses on former common lands now managed by the Federal Government, including ensuring that management plans consider traditional uses when developed and during implementation. Additionally, the Council also worked with Congresswoman Fernández on the development and introduction of House Resolution 4284 the Small Cemetery Conveyance Act. The bill is aimed at creating a mechanism to return land grant and tribal cemeteries at no cost to their communities of origin. The Council also worked on analysis of the U.S. Senate Reconciliation Bill provision regarding the potential disposal of federal lands for housing. The Council reviewed the bill language and to determine the potential impact to land grant-mercedes.

Throughout FY 2025 the Council continued it working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Both agencies attend the Council's monthly meetings and provide updates as part of the standing Council agenda items for each. The Council and the Carson, Santa Fe and Cibola

National Forests are in discussion to enter a Memorandum of Understanding in FY 2026. The MOU will establish a mechanism for implementing future projects with land grant-mercedes in and adjacent to those three National Forests.

~ ~ ~

RESEARCH AND RELATED WORK

During the fiscal year the Council through its staff conducted research on the Santa Bárbara Land Grant relating to preservation of historic buildings within the community. The Council conducted research on the Cristóbal de La Serna Land Grant relating to historic court cases. The Council assisted the Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant with research on historic community buildings in Chimayó. The Council also assisted the Manzano Land Grant with genealogical and historical research. The Council also conducted research on the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant relating to their historic common lands and the Council Research Historian served as an expert witness in real property litigation affecting the land grant. During the period the Council's Research Historian was appointed to the National Hispanic Cultural Center's Collection Committee. The Council also provide support to the New Mexico Department of Justice with historical research relating to the New Mexico Territorial Period, and the United States Court of Private Land Claims. The Council also assisted the Town of Tomé Land Grant with discussions with the UNM Valencia Branch Campus relating to digitization and archiving of the Land Grant's historical documents.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

Last, the Council provided financial support to two youth fly fishing camps aimed at providing youth leadership development skills for land grant-merced and tribal youth. The camps were in partnership with the Uncivilized Outdoorsman, Trout Unlimited, and the Consejo de Las Mercedes. The camps were made possible through and grant from the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division as well as matching funds from project partners. In total the Council invested \$5,000 in the youth fly fishing camps. The camps were held in June of 2025 in Northern New Mexico and included youth from several land grants.

~ ~ ~

FY 2026 APPROVED BUDGET

In FY 2026 the Council received a flat budget of \$626,900 in its legislative general fund appropriation. This amount represents zero net increase the total legislative funding received by the Council from FY 2025. In FY 2027 the Council is requesting a budget of \$1.2 million, which represents a 48% increase from the Council’s FY 2026 budget. The purpose of the increase is to allow the Council to expand its staff to include natural resources planner, a community and economic development planner, an attorney and a surveyor. This will allow the Council to provide more direct services to land grant-mercedes rather than relying on outside service contracts. Reliance on service contracts is less efficient given the ever-increasing demand for services.

Table 2 – FY 2026 Approved Budget

Budgeted Revenues	
2025 Appropriated Budget	\$ 626,900
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$ 626,900
Budgeted Line-Item Expenditures	
DFA Admin Fee	\$ 3,300
Legal Service Contract	\$ 60,000
In State Travel	\$ 10,000
Out of State Travel	\$ 6,000
UNM Inter-Governmental Services Agreement*	\$ 547,600
Staff Salary & Fringe	\$ 373,933
Personnel In-State Travel	\$ 7,500
Personnel Out-of-State Travel	\$ 2,800
Subscriptions	\$ 600
Surveyor Contract	\$ 40,000
Law Clinic	\$ 3,500
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$ 1,500
Community & Youth Development	\$ 2,500
Facility Rental	\$ 24,000
F&A	\$ 91,267
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 626,900

**Line items below UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement all roll up into the \$547,600 Intergovernmental Services Agreement total.*

FY 2027 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 and FY 2026 the Council received a flat budget of \$626,900 from the Legislature with no increase since fiscal year 2024. For FY 2027 the Council is requesting a budget of \$1,200,000, which would represent a 91% increase from the FY 2026 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 and provide better support to land grant-mercedes.

Currently there are 28 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 development programming in in the Spring and Summer.

In total, community land grant boards of trustees manage more that 250,000 acres of common land across the state, which often include the upper watersheds in many communities. They also manage and maintain community multipurpose centers, volunteer fire departments, community water and wastewater infrastructure. In addition, they provide programming for youth development and are engaged in affordable housing and community agricultural initiatives.

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 2027 Budget Request Breakdown

Budgeted Line Items	
DFA Admin Fee	\$3,300
Legal Service Contract	\$60,000
Publishing	\$5,000
In State Travel	\$10,500
Out of State Travel	\$6,500
UNM Inter-Governmental Services Agreement*	\$1,114,700
Staff Salary & Fringe**	\$751,778
Personnel In State Travel	\$8,000
Personnel Out of State Travel	\$5,939
Office Supplies (General)	\$0
Computer Software	\$1,500
Computer Supplies	\$500
Non-Capital Equipment <\$5,001	\$22,000
Tagged Non-Capital Equipment (Computers)	\$7,500
Web design and maintenance	\$10,000
Surveyor Contract	\$30,000
Law Clinic	\$5,000
Copies, Printer Maintenance	\$1,800
Community & Youth Development	\$50,000
Facility Rental	\$30,000
Subscriptions	\$4,900
F&A	\$185,783
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$1,200,000

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

**Personnel Cost Breakdown	
Program Director @ .9 FTE	\$ 94,876
Research Historian @.5 FTE	\$ 42,911
Unit administrator @ .25 FTE	\$ 15,821
Capital Outlay & Audit Compliance Specialist @ 1.0 FTE	\$ 67,832
Budget & Financial Management Specialist @1.0 FTE	\$ 77,496
Natural Resources Conservationist @ 1.0 FTE	\$ 65,000
Community & Economic Development Planner @ 1.0 FTE	\$ 65,000
Surveyor Entry Level 1.0 FTE	\$ 65,000
Attorney Entry Level 1.0 FTE (.5 FTE paid through CGAP)	\$ 32,500
Student @ \$17.00 per hour for 900 hours (.5)	\$ 11,250
Fringe	\$ 214,091
Total	\$ 751,778

FY 2027 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 and mentorship of Council's entry-level attorney.

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.

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

In-State Travel Mileage & Per Diem for Council - \$10,500

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 - \$1,114,700

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.

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

Staff Salary & Fringe - \$751,778

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 director, a research historian/records custodian; community-based project specialist; budget and finance specialist; a conservator, a community development planner; surveyor, attorney, a part-time unit administrator and a graduate student intern. Several positions (program director, research historian, land grant community-based project specialist, and unit administrator) will be shared positions with the University of New Mexico Land Grant Merced Institute. 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 meeting 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. Director (.9 FTE)- \$94,876

Purpose: The 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. Oversee surveyor and prioritize surveying projects. 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.

Deliverable: 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/Records Custodian (.5 FTE) - \$42,911.00

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 serves as the custodian of records for the Council and is in charge of keeping minutes of the Council meetings. The research historian may also serve as an expert witness in litigation relating to land grants. 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.

Deliverable: 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 Project Specialist (.8 FTE) - \$67,832

Purpose: To coordinate technical assistance to land grants with: completion of ICIP's; expenditure of capital outlay; completion of capital outlay project and annual financial reporting.

Benefit: To help land grants more effectively and efficiently plan, complete and report on capital projects and annual Audit Act requirements.

Deliverable: Provide assistance to at least: 15 land grants with completion of ICIPs; 5 land grants with expenditure of Capital Outlay appropriations and reporting; 15 land grants with financial reporting to Office of the State Auditor.

D. Land Grant Budget and Finance Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$77,496

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

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

Deliverable: Provide assistance to at least: 15 land grants with completion of annual budgets, quarterly and annual budget reports.

E. Conservationist (1.0 FTE) - \$65,000

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.

Deliverable: 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) – \$65,000

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

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

Deliverable: Provide comprehensive planning and community and economic development services to at least 5 land grants throughout the fiscal year.

G. Entry-level Surveyor (1.0 FTE) - \$65,000

Purpose: To provide professional land surveying services to 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 and not the land grant-merced. The cost of land surveys and lack of available surveyors is still a factor prohibiting most land grants from being able to conduct surveys on the existing common lands. Having a survey on staff would not only allow land grants to have their lands surveyed but would also provide them with the technical expertise to review and, if needed, challenge any surveys being conducted by private parties adjacent to their existing common land.

Deliverable: Provide professional land surveying services to at least 5 land grants-mercedes throughout the fiscal year.

H. Entry-level Attorney (.5 FTE*) - \$32,500

Purpose: To provide legal services and assistance to land grants-mercedes.

Benefit: Most land grants-mercedes lack the budgetary capacity to obtain the legal services necessary to administer and protect the land grant and its assets. This includes issues relating to real property disputes, water rights, contracts and negotiations, legal research and advice, compliance with federal and state law, and policy formulation and bylaw development and amendment. In addition to legal issues at the individual land grant level, there are also higher-level issues that have the potential to affect numerous land grants.

Deliverables: Provide legal services to 5 land grants-mercedes throughout the fiscal year.

*.5 FTE based on utilizing application to Community Governance Attorney Program to fund additional .5 FTE for two years, to fund the position at full-time status.

I. 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

J. 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 programming for youth.

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

K. Fringe Benefits - \$214,091

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

Benefit: Provide employee benefits as required by law.

Deliverables: Ensure compliance with federal and state deduction requirements.

Personnel Travel In-State – \$8,000

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

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

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

Out-of-State Travel – Personnel - \$5,939

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.

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

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.

Web Design and Maintenance - \$10,000

Purpose: To procure website development services to modernize and update Land Grant Council Website.

Benefit: Provide interactive website available to the public for accessing resources and materials relating to land grant-mercedes.

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

Surveyor Contract - \$30,000.00

Purpose: To provide professional surveying services to land grants-mercedes to properly locate boundaries of existing common lands to decrease illegal encroachments and to review surveys conducted by private parties within or adjacent to exterior boundaries of land grants-mercedes and provide supervision and mentorship to Council's entry-level surveyor.

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 to the detriment of the common lands.

Deliverables: Provide surveying services to at least 5 land grants throughout the fiscal year.

UNM Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic (NRELC) - \$5,000

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 - \$1,800

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

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

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

Community & Youth Development Contracts - \$50,000

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

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

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

economic development, natural resource protection and youth development programming.

Facility Rental - \$30,000

Purpose: Allows the Council to pay for rental of office space and for conference room 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 2027.

Subscriptions -\$4,900

Purpose: Allows the Council to pay for annual online subscriptions Lexis+ legal research database.

Benefit: Provides access to online services to aid land grants relating to legal research.

Deliverable: One year subscription for Lexis+.

Facilities and Administration Fee to University of New Mexico -\$185,783

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 2025 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

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

In Person

UNM Taos Klauer Campus

Padre Martinez Hall

1157 County Road 110

Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico, 87557

July 12, 2024 – 3:30 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 FY 2024 UNM IGSA Internal Budget Revision
5. Approval of FY 2024 service contract invoices and FY 2024 NMLGC-UNM IGSA final pay request
6. 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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **In-Person + Virtual Meeting**

UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207

1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque

Zoom Meeting I.D. – 954 3355 1064

July 18, 2024 – 10:30 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2024 -Regular Meeting and July 12, 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 Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action Presentation on presentation of concerns by Ernesto Lujan and José Emilio Aragon.
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & 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, FY 2025, FY 2026 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 August Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Mailing: MSC02 1680, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 **Physical:** 1634
University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131 ♦ 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 – RM 207

1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque

Zoom Meeting I.D. – 985 3838 3217

August 16, 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 July 18, 2024 Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative 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 presentation of concerns by Ernesto Lujan and José Emilio Aragon.
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY2024, FY 2025, FY 2026 Budget
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Support for Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Leadership Outdoor Recreation Grant
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor 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 September Council Meeting
25. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **In-Person + Virtual Meeting**

UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –975 4581 0604
September 27, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2024 Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update, including pres. by Santa Fe NF
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative 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 FY 2025 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund
11. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
13. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
15. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor 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 October Council Meeting
25. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 986 3705 5255
October 18, 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 September 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action on U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 November Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –926 1836 7916
November 22, 2024 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 December Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
In-Person + Virtual Meeting
UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 975 5477 6418
December 13, 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 November 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
6. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action Federal and State Legislative 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 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 January Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 924 5926 0456
January 17, 2025 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 February Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **In-Person + Virtual Meeting**

UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 975 8997 8259
February 21, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2025, Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service 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 Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice & Treaty Division Update
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 March Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
In-Person + Virtual Meeting
UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 930 1716 9979
March 27, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice Treaty Division Update & Requests
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 April Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 977 2820 3291
April 11, 2025 – 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 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
5. Discussion and Possible U.S. Forest Service Update
6. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action Federal and State Legislative Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice Treaty Division Update & Requests
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Vidal Gonzales, Uncivilized Outdoorsman Fly Fishing Camps
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on 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 May Council Meeting
22. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 999 6110 3010
May 29, 2025 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action U.S. Forest Service Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice Treaty Division Update & Requests
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025, FY2026, FY2027 Budget
13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement – Approval Service Contractor Invoices and purchases for FY2025 and Approval of FY 2026 Scope of Work.
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services Contract Update & Legal Services Requests
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor 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 June Council Meeting
23. Adjournment



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Address: 1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Email: nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu ♦ **Website:** www.lgc.unm.edu

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING In-Person + Virtual Meeting

**UNM Continuing Education – South Building – RM 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 996 4118 6365
June 20, 2025 – 10:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 29, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bureau of Land Management Update
7. Discussion and Possible Action U.S. Forest Service Update
8. Discussion and Possible Action State Land Office Update
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Federal and State Legislative Update
10. Discussion and Possible Action on NM Department of Justice Treaty Division Update & Requests
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Natural Resource Issues & Concerns - Local, State and Federal
12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY2026 Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Certifications and Approval Process
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025, FY2026, FY2027 Budget
14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 & 2026 Intergovernmental Services Agreement
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services 2025 & 2026 Contract Update & Legal Services Requests
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Surveyor Services Contract Update & Requests
17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Merced Institute Update
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 July Council Meeting
24. Adjournment

APPENDIX 2
FY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
July 12, 2024 – 3:00pm
UNM Taos Klauer Campus
Padre Martinez Hall
1157 County Road 110
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico, 87557

**Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 3:30pm MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC);

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilor 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. Discussion and Action on FY 2024 Budget Adjustment Request and FY 2024 UNM IGSA Internal Budget Revision

Mr. Archuleta presented a budget adjustment request to submit to DFA for a total of \$701.900
Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the budget adjustment request; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented a Budget Revision Request to submit to UNM for a total of \$5,239.59.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the UNM Budget Revision; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of FY 2024 service contract invoices and FY 2024 NMLGC-UNM IGSA final pay request

Mr. Archuleta presented pay request #3 from New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. for \$4,485.00. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve pay request #3 from New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented an invoice #11658 from Albuquerque Office Systems, LLC for \$9,915.16. Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice #11658 from Albuquerque Office Systems for \$9,915.16; 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 invoice from Chicago Dell Marketing LP for \$1,689.07. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the invoice from Chicago Dell Marketing LP for \$1,689.07; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #06202024 from Territorial Land Surveying LLC for \$8,433.25. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #06202024 for \$8,433.25; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

A group of individuals entered into the Council meeting and indicated that they wanted to be placed on the agenda of the meeting to be heard on a matter of concern. Chairman Sanchez responded that the Council could not revise the agenda on the spot as doing so would violate the Open Meetings Act, which requires that an agenda be finalized at least 72 hours prior to the meeting [10-15-1(F)]. He informed them that they could contact staff if they would like to be placed on the agenda of a subsequent Council meeting.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #06282024 for Territorial Land Survey for \$629.82.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice #60282024 for \$629.82; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #6301 from CB4U for \$5,708.16.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #6301 from CB4U for \$5,708.16; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice FY2024-01 for Roger Valdez for \$4920.00.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice FY2024-01 for Roger Valdez; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #1 from Community Development Consulting Associates, LLC for \$2,518.09.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the invoice from the Community Development Consulting Associates, LLC for \$2,518.09; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #2024-13 for Del Medio Forestry, LLC for \$5,000.

Chairman Sanchez made a motion to approve invoice #2024-13 for \$5,000; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #2024-13 from Del Medio Forestry, LLC for \$5,000.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice #2024-14 from Del Medio Forestry for \$5,000; Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice #23257 from Conservation Legacy for \$30,000.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve invoice #23257 from Conservation Legacy for \$30,000; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented invoice LG2024-1 for East Rio Arriba SWCD for \$30,000.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve invoice LG2024-1 from East Rio Arriba SWCD for \$30,000; 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 #7 for \$190,750.72.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve pay request #7 for \$190,750.72; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

6. 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 4:05pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
July 18, 2024 – 10:30am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 954 3355 1064

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Juan Sánchez called the meeting to order at 10:30am MDT. Roll call of the Council members: Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco, Monica Rodriguez and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodriguez (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Enrique Romero (NM DOJ Treaty Division); Belinda Mollard (USFS – Carson NF); Sandra Lopez (USFS – R3); Erick Stemmerman (USFS R3); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben. R. Luján); Rachel Montoya (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); John Anthony Gonzales (Ojo de San José LG); Robyn Whitney (USFS R3); Brian Martínez (Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Edward Sena (Las Vegas 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 June 21, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 12, 2024 Special Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the June 21, 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 July 12, 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

None.

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

Erick Stemmerman (USFS R3) reported that he is going to Washington DC on detail for 4 months. Robyn Whitney and Sandra López will fill in for Mr. Stemmerman as the Regional Liaison while he is away. Heidi McRoberts is the new Forest Supervisor on the Cíbola NF. Belinda Mollard (USFS – Carson NF Traditional Communities Liaison) reported that the Taos Canyon Project comment period ended and the Carson NF met with the acequia association. The Carson NF would also like to have the Land Grant Council provide a Land Grant 101 for the executive leadership, which the Carson will host a planning session with next week. The Regional Leadership Team will visit in August. The Encino Vista Restoration Project on the Santa Fe National Forest is ongoing and effects the following watersheds: Rio Gallina, Cañones Creek, Polvadera Creek, Chihuahenos Creek, Coyote Creek, Rito Encino, Rio Puerco and Poleo Creek. Jacob Key (jacon.key@usda.gov) is the contact.

Councilor Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC) mentioned that the Santa Fe NF met with the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG and hopes that Encino Vista Project Engagement is ongoing as the communities need access to forest. Ms. Mollard responded that she will encourage Santa Fe NF to continue contact the effected communities. The Carson sends SOPA (Schedule of Proposed Actions) out and she has asked that the Cibola and Santa Fe NFs do the same.

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

Federal

Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján met with the Secretary of Commerce, Governor Luján Grisham and members of the NM Congressional Delegation to celebrate investment under the Chips and Science Investments Act. He also visited Santa Domingo Pueblo regarding a tribal infrastructure grant and the Senator's office is tracking flooding from fires and disaster areas in Ruidoso, as well as Rio Arriba, San Juan and San Miguel Counties. He reported that the Traditional Use Legislation is not going anywhere and the Senate is recessed. Councilor Polaco inquired about Congressional Directed Spending for the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant for an elevator for their building. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Teresa Leger Fernández) stated that his office is working with BLM and USFS on the valuation of cemeteries. They have not ruled out legislative action and the office is also tracking flooding and burn scars and effects on communities such as Medanales. The Office will conduct mobile office hours in Chama on Friday (July 19). He introduced Rachel Montoya, who is from Taos, and is working in the Washington DC Office, replacing Adeline DeYoung. Councilor Rodríguez stated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant passed a resolution asking for the closure of the Canón de Chama and restrict public access to protect the future of the site.

Councilor Padilla stated that the Consejo received a request that the from the Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas Land Grants regarding issues they are having with FEMA recognizing their communities ownership of the lands. Edward Sena (Las Vegas Land Grant) stated that the Las Vegas Land Grant will issue a letter to FEMA's attorneys to clarify the status of the Los Vigiles Land

Grant. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP) asked if the congressional delegation has any updates on the Farm Bill; they reported that draft text was released but there has been no movement. Enrique Romero (NM DOJ Treaty Division) added that his office was CC'd on an e-mail from the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant to the Delegation regarding the penalties cattlemen are experiencing for the intrusions of their cattle into the Valles Caldera while the Valles Caldera (NPS) fails maintain their fences. Mr. Sena added that the Las Vegas has a land fill that has seepage issues. The landfill includes medical waste and other toxins and people that live down water are losing animals. He reported that San Miguel County is supportive and the mayor of Las Vegas does not know what to do about the situation and the need to mitigate waste site and monitor the methane and the polluting of the aquifer. Mr. Chávez stated that the New Mexico Environment Department might be the appropriate agency to contact.

State

Mr. Baca reported that in the meeting packet is the agenda for the first meeting of the Interim Land Grant committee, which will take place in Española on July 25-26 at Northern New Mexico College. The agenda includes updates and a presentation from the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant, which is seeking political subdivision status and will lead tour on 26th. The Council reached out to la Petaca LG (which owns property and is organized) but they don't feel they are ready to seek political subdivision status at this time. Councilor Polaco and Leonard Martinez of the San Joaquín will provide an update of the Mercedes Unidas Center.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the BLM has reviewed comments on the Rio Grande del Norte management plan and the BLM plans to publish final plan for final protest for those that submitted comments will be able to review and protest. The Rio Puerco resource management plan is also coming soon and will be available for review. The BLM (nationally) also has a public lands rule that includes grazing leases and conservation leases. Mr. Romero (Treaty Division) asked about the rule and which land grants were in the effected area. Ms. Morrison stated that the rule is complicated and offered to set people up with BLM resource managers to answer any questions. She will forward information to Council staff. Mr. Baca added that effected land grants include San Antonio del Río Colorado (which is inactive), the Arroyo Hondo Arriba, El Salto Community, which is a grazing association that includes some portions of the Antonio Martínez Grant. Chairman Sánchez added that the Rio Puerco includes the Chililí, Tomé, part of Cebolleta, Manzano, Tajique, Torreón and San Antonio de las Huertas and possible Cubero.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Presentation on presentation of concerns by Ernesto Lujan and José Emilio Aragón.

None.

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

Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) thanked the Council and staff for presentations and the Division is working on the next training in September. The Division also hired another attorney, Lisa Brown. Ricardo Dow y Anaya is retiring at the end of 2024 and will hire his position early to allow for cross training. Mr. Romero added that adding these positions will assist the Division to make good on commitments to the Council to do research, including research on common waters. Robust interest in the positions demonstrates that acequia and land grant matters is important. Chairman Sánchez stated that the training was excellent and it highlighted the need for the Council

to work with agencies as they expand their services to their communities and grow as units of government. Mr. Romero stated that the Council needs to adopt an FY 2025 Open Meetings Act resolution that is shorter. Councilor Polaco commented that the Office of the State Engineer should be at Council meetings. Mr. Romero stated that the OSE does not even send a representative to the Acequia Commission meetings and that the NM DOJ deputizes attorneys that work for the OSE. He stated that the NM DOJ and the Treaty Division wants to impress upon the OSE that land grants and acequias matter. Councilor Rodríguez added that the Acequia Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund is important as it pays for attorneys representing acequias during adjudications. Councilor Polaco added that acequias received \$7 million from the Rio Chama adjudication and acequias in Tierra Amarilla want to know how they can access the funding. Mr. Romero responded that the monies come from the Indian water rights settlements and the state funds other communities effected and monies made available are to offset loss.

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

None.

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

Mr. Baca reported that the Council still does not know how much DFA used of their \$3,300 administrative fee, so whatever that amount ends up being it will be deducted from the total reversion amount. The only other major reversion area was Council Travel but this was due to not having appointments made. The entire IGSA was UNM was expended. After everything the Council expended at least 94% of the budget not including the DFA deduction. Chairman Sánchez added that with exception of the NM Legal Aid contract, only \$8,700 is being reverted and that this should be reflected in the report to the Governor.

FY 2025

None.

FY 2026

The draft budget and FY 2026 request has been submitted to DFA.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement

In the packet is the final FY 2025 IGSA, which has been reviewed by UNM Office of University Counsel and has been submitted to the OVPR to finalize the University's review. The IGSA is nearly the same as the previous (FY 2024) review. Mr. Romero will need to complete a review.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the FY 2025 IGSA, when reviewed and revised, giving Chairman Sánchez authority to sign the IGSA when ready; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

The new FY 2025 contract has been processed by DFA and the NMLA cannot yet bill toward this contract, but hopefully will be able to shortly.

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

Mr. Baca clarified that the surveyor's contract is under IGSA, so work cannot commence until the IGSA is finalized. Mr. Sena commented that lack of surveys of the Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas land grants is holding up the FEMA process.

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

Mr. Baca reported that the LGSP/Council have relocated to the new office.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the following has been submitted to the Council.

- Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG - bylaws and annual report - July 2024
- Lower Gallinas LG – results of May 2024 election and current board membership - July 2024

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Chairman Sánchez commented on the appointment letter for Monica Rodríguez to the Council and Council members congratulated Ms. Rodríguez. Mr. Polaco reported that the last electrical panel for the Mercedes Unidas. Ms. Padilla asked that staff send out the FY 2025 LGAMF certifications ASAP. Mr. Sena stated that Ernesto Luján and José Emilio Aragón do not represent the Las Vegas Land Grant as their appointments from the 4th judicial district have expired. They have worked to establish a relationship with the Lower Gallinas and Los Vigiles Land Grant. Chairman Sánchez clarified that the Council understands that they do not represent the Las Vegas Land Grant and the Council allowed their request to address the Council to clarify that the Council cannot assist individuals, but works with land grant boards of trustees to offer a program of support.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Greta Archuleta commented that the DFA Budget conference will take place from November 20-22 in Albuquerque. Chairman Sánchez added that GSD sent an e-mail regarding Tort Liability coverage, which is now applied for online. The Consejo has officially changed its name to *El Consejo de las Mercedes*, partially in an effort to clarify the difference between the Council and the Consejo.

22. Date and Location for August Council Meeting

The August 2024 Regular meeting will be held on August 16, 2024, 10:00am in Albuquerque, at UNM Continuing Education.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:56pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
August 16, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 985 3838 3217

**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, Monica Rodríguez and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Camilla Romero (SLO); Lesley Elser (BLM); Enrique Romero (DOJ); Lisa Brown (DOJ); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG); Ernesto Luján; José Emilio Aragón; Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján); Roger Valdez; Jason Quintana (Manzano LG); James Durán (USFS – Carson NF); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández); Sandra López (USFS-R3); Priscilla Rael; Geoffrey Plant (Taos News).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 18, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

James Duran (Forest Sup. Carson National Forest) reported that the USFS would like to expand the forest mayordomo projects. The FS is awarding contracts and working with communities through agreements and the program is gaining success. The Santa Fe National Forest is interested in

implementing these projects in its ranger districts. Taos County has a good neighbor agreement with the USFS and there is interest in similar agreements from Rio Arriba and Colfax Counties. He announced that Heidi MacRoberts is the new Forest Supervisor for the Cibola National Forest. The USFS is also seeking to build capacity in cultural awareness through trainings. Councilor Monica Rodríguez commented that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG coordinated a positive meeting with the US Forest Service to establish the history of the land loss to the USFS and the future plans of the Grant, including the Río Chama irrigation project. San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG President Leonard Martínez added that they presented the irrigation project to Eric Chávez, A.J. Pacheco and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández on the irrigation project and the plaza project and the Board and surveyor Chris Chávez met with the Santa Fe National Forest to discuss the irrigation project and requested fencing for the plaza and capilla sites.

Councilor Padilla thanked the USFS for their presentation and added that the Council and El Consejo de Las Mercedes have advocated for and supported mayordomo projects and discussed the many benefits of the program. She added that the Town of Tomé LG has benefitted from becoming a political subdivision and they work with state agencies and are working to recover from the massive loss of land that the Tomé Grant suffered. She encouraged Messers Luján and Aragón to build partnerships as well. Mr. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC) stated that the Council is interested in renewing the MOU with the USFS and using the good neighbor authority to pursue work with land grants. Jacobo Baca and Enrique Romero reported that they met with James Durán, Belinda Mollard and the Council regarding mayordomo project, land grant 101 and acequia trainings, etc. Mr. Durán reported that the grants and agreements department has improved and there is greater recognition that our disadvantaged communities were unable to have the capacity to pursue funding and projects. He encouraged the pursuit of a broader agreement with the Council which smaller agreements with land grant communities can fall under.

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

Federal

Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján is working on a hearing from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for the Traditional Use Legislation. The Senator is also pursuing legislation regarding AI, disaster relief for communities affected by the South Fork Fire and Rio Arriba county residents affected by floods. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman Leger Fernández continues to explore ways to pursue the cemetery issue. Rachel Montoya (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) asked if the Council was available to coordinate and attend site visit August 22nd - 23rd or 26th - 27th. The the Traditional Use Bill has been assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee but the committee hasn't taken action on the bill. Councilor Rodríguez thanked her office for their work on cemetery legislation.

State

The Legislative Land Grant Interim Committee will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday (August 19 & 20) at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas (*agenda in packet*).

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

Lesley Elser (BLM) reported that the Rio Puerco Management Plan is nearly complete.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Bearcat Project and Villanueva Plan to be extended once project plans are signed by the Commissioner SGR

9. Discussion and Possible Action Presentation on presentation of concerns by Ernesto Lujan and José Emilio Aragón.

Ernesto Luján asked why the board of the Las Vegas Land Grant was removed without justification from the judge. He asked for documentation saying the District Judge has the power to take that action. He claimed that east Las Vegas is running west Las Vegas and that east Las Vegas is making decisions and it should be the Town of Las Vegas Land Grant Board and added that he was unsure if West Las Vegas has a say. Mr. Luján alleged that changes were made to the Land Grant's status and their by-laws by Representative Miguel García, Chairman Juan Sánchez and Arturo Archuleta, and added that the last meeting he attended there was a new group of people. He questioned the goal of the BLM's, whether it was to make some money and support education. He commented that acequias cannot be separated from the land grant and that they were only separated for management purposes. He added that acequias are doing a good job and they know how they should be run and that when he was on an acequia in Dilia near Santa Rosa, the county used to clean the main acequia and the county should also help with land grants.

Mr. Luján commented that the purpose of land grants is to preserve the culture, questioned how land grant board members were being paid and wondered how land grants maintain their boards without payment. He finished by stating that the leña and pastos are supposed to be free to people in the land grant. José Emilio Aragón commented that his biggest concern is the victims of the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon, adding that the victims could not make it to the Council meeting because their vehicles were harmed. He stated that FEMA is delaying the payments so people could be tricked into selling their lands and that newcomers are taking over this property and the former board of the Las Vegas Land Grant (himself and Mr. Luján included) wanted to fight this but they were unjustly removed from the board. FEMA lost his submission of 21 pages of blueprints and proposals to rebuild and victims do not know who to talk to anymore at FEMA. They are unresponsive and this is affecting him, viejitos, and other land grant heirs who lost their homes and are being forced out. He claimed that the Las Vegas Land Grant board is not helping him and asked the Council if they were concerned, adding that helping individual victims of the HPCC fire should be the number one priority of the Council since he and others are sacrificing for the land grant by taking care of the land by managing their individual tracts.

Mr. Luján added that illegal land splits and subdivisions that were not supposed to be approved have been approved. He stated that the board from the Las Vegas Land Grant is not questioning it, and the county (San Miguel County) is allowing it when they are supposed to be supporting the land grant. He questioned the status of monies that were supposed to be for the acequias and stated that there is a subdivision near Las Vegas and the City is providing water to them and without a plan or community voice. Mr. Luján stated that the County and Las Vegas Land Grant should be advocating against the subdivisions that are being made to cater to outsiders and that there needs to be representation from the Grant as the district commissioners should be there to include land grant's input. He complained about easements shutting out people who should have a right to the land grant and stated that newcomers took over thousands of acres because they are not allowing locals into the mountains. He added that the Governor has no legislative right to manage the land grants. According to Mr. Luján, when it happened in the past In Taos, Father

Martinez fought it as someone who was there for the people and not for himself. He finished his statement, stating that everyone should know the history of land grants, including Dr. Eric Romero of NMHU. He argued that political subdivision equals oppression and Manifest Destiny and that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is more powerful than the legislature and complained that Representative Miguel García was an outsider from Bernalillo that came in and tried to take over Las Vegas. He added that the Las Vegas Land Grant is illegal and that the New Mexico Legislature had no standing to partition.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDOJ Treaty Division) introduced herself as the new attorney with the Treaty Division. Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) discussed the September 13, 2024 Land Grant and Acequia training in Taos, stating that all are welcome to attend and that New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Tórrez is interested in building the capacity of land grants and acequias as political subdivisions of the State. Councilor Rodríguez commented that the NMAA is contacted frequently regarding property law, probate and ‘transfer on death’ deeds and disaster recovery. Mr. Romero responded that the Division seeks to learn what works and doesn’t work regarding the HPCC recovery and working with FEMA in the Las Vegas and Mora areas, but also with the Enchanted Circle and Taos Canyon work as well.

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) stated that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG had requested that the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives return original land grant records deposited at the NMSRCA to the Grant. He inquired with the Treaty Division during the pandemic and worked with Council staff and the Division, but nothing came of the request. Mr. Baca commented that the records are considered the property of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and are “on loan” with the NMSCRA, so pursuing the return of the records would necessitate the involvement of the State Records Administrator, Dr. Rick Hendricks and the appropriate representative from NARA. The NMDOJ and NMLGC committed to follow up on the issue.

Priscilla Rael commented that she was happy the New Mexico Attorney General’s office is hiring more staff but commented she was angry that her files were and inquired regarding about a policy regarding “federal land grant heirs” and land grant heirs that do not affiliated with a political subdivision. Mr. Romero responded that the September 13 training will not be a forum for these complaints or other questions regarding HB 268.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that as FEMA issues continue to reoccur, the Council is working to facilitate conversations between FEMA and the NMDOJ, but since it is a federal issue, there is little the Council can do. The Council will work to educate agencies on what land grants are.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution

Lisa Brown (NMDOJ-Treaty Division) presented the Council’s FY 2025 Open Meetings Act Resolution, which is substantively the same as the FY 2024 OMA Resolution, but in a different format. It does not mention telephonic contact from news organizations as e-mail is considered a compliant action nor does it specifically mention Zoom as a virtual meeting option as it is also unnecessary. Mr. Archuleta asked if public health emergencies necessitated a virtual or hybrid

meeting needs to be specifically addressed in the resolution; Enrique Romero (NMDNJ-Treaty Division) responded that it is not required by the OMA.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to adopt the resolution; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

FY 2024

None.

FY 2025

The FY 2025 Contract (IGSA) is in place and the Council can now bill toward this contract.

FY 2026

None.

14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta reported that the FY 2025 IGSA is in place and the Council can bill toward it in the next Council meeting. Councilors and staff discussed the surveyor contract including the need for a new RFP, which may not need to through an RFP and may be able to be obtained through a small service agreement. Jason Quintana (Manzano LG) asked if Chris Chávez of Territorial Surveying, LLC, offers a discount to land grants. Mr. Archuleta encouraged Mr. Quintana to reach out to Mr. Chris Chávez to obtain a price quote and arrange for services, but added that the Grant would need to pay Mr. Chávez directly for his services.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Support for Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Leadership Outdoor Recreation Grant

The Council discussed Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Leadership (flier in packet; story in *El Grito* newsletter, both in packet). Vidal Gonzales, former NMLGC/LGSP student, is now with New Mexico Acequia Association, but also has his own fishing and guiding business, The Uncivilized Outdoorsmen, LLC, created the Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Leadership which partnered with Trout Unlimited to expand the program. The program, which connects land grant and tribal youth, is reflective of his of own history. The Leadership program received a \$40,000 grant from the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division in 2024 for a three-day project. Vidal Gonzales approached the Council through its staff and requesting a letter of support and Mr. Archuleta was able to identify funds available in the Council budget to support the program. The application is due at the end of August.

The Council discussed capping the funding at \$5,000.00 and options to support the program through supply purchases and the importance and success of youth focused programs. Mr. Durán commented that he heard about the program and the USFS is interested in these programs and

that there is national funding available that is highly competitive. The Council supported youth programming through YCC partnerships with land grants and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps and with the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District. The Council is interested in finding a good pipeline of funding to build partnerships to extend to 10 week crews, which is beyond the few weeks of funding that the Council can afford. Councilor Rodríguez mentioned the YCC that San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG implemented through a partnership with Jemez Mountain Schools and the US Geological Survey (Abiquiu Dam)

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion that the Council submit a letter of support for the application by The Uncivilized Outdoorsman and to approve funding from the NMLGC, capped at \$5,000.00, for the Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Leadership program; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

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

The motion was passed.

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

The legal services contract has already been put in place. We currently do not have any new requests for legal requests at this time.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Council will need a new surveyor contract in place now that the new fiscal year has started.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to allow staff to seek out contract with Territorial Land Surveying LLC; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Monica Rodríguez made a formal request that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG be placed on the survey list. Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG on the list for surveying services; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Jason Quintana made a formal request for Manzano to be placed on the survey list. Councilor Padilla made a motion to place Manzano on the list to survey; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that Council staff participated in the UNM OVPR annual retreat, Anissa Baca has assisted the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant with oral history interviews and that Jacobo Baca presented to the San Joaquín del Río de Chama YCC crew and the TUO/TU group at Hopewell Lake.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

- Tierra Amarilla LG - updated board membership
- Juan Bautista Baldes LG - updated board membership
- Don Fernando de Taos LG - bylaws amendments
- Manzano LG - board membership

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

The Council discussed a request from Jason Quintana for a letter of recommendation for an ombudsman position at DFA. Even in absence of a policy on these requests, Lisa Brown (NMDOJ-Treaty Division) advised that while the Council could offer a letter to DFA discussing the attributes of an ideal candidate, issuing such a letter for an individual could have anti-donation issues that need to be explored. Council staff also reported that Andrea la Cruz Crawford now on the Community Governance Attorney Commission as a representative for acequias (Ms. La Cruz Crawford serves on the New Mexico Acequia Commission). The CGAC only allowed a small window for its last round of applications (less than 1 day) and has repeatedly violated the Open Meetings Act by not properly advertising the meeting. Chairman Sánchez asked Council staff to draft a letter detailing concerns discussed. Mr. Archuleta reported that he received an e-mail from Robert Sierra accusing the son of a member of the Anton Chico Land Grant Board of illegal dumping on the Grant. The appropriate intervention would be done by NMED. Councilor Padilla commented that the Council should reach out to the Anton Chico LG Board for clarification.

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

22. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Polaco reported that Sansbro, the electrical contractor for Mercedes Unidas, has completed the work and wants the three land grants to have a tour of the work. Priscilla Rael thanked Mr. Aragón and Mr. Luján for their presentation and Geoffrey Plant for his article.

23. Miscellaneous Announcements

Lisa Brown (NMDOJ-Treaty Division) discussed the FY 2025 Open meetings Act Resolution and inadvertent quorums. She presented a prepared statement regarding inadvertent quorums, which Chairman Sanchez read. The statement read:

“Andrea Padilla, Steve Polaco and I attended the New Mexico Department of Justice’s Land Grant and Acequia Training Program in Taos July 12th, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

Council members and staff and NMDOJ-Treaty Division staff discussed the possibility of inadvertent quorums at future meetings, including the Interim Land Grant Committee meetings and future trainings.

24. Date and Location for September Council Meeting

The September 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on September 27, 2024 in Albuquerque 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
- Councilor Rodríguez - aye
- Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

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

Final Meeting Minutes Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure

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

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez and I attended the New Mexico Department of Justice’s Land Grant and Acequia Training Program in Taos September 13, 2024, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez and I attended a meeting with the New Mexico Department of Justice in Santa Fe on September 20th, 2024, which created an inadvertent quorum. Ms. Padilla represented the Consejo de Las Mercedes, Ms. Rodríguez the New Mexico Acequia Association and I represented the Council as Chair. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Lisa Brown (DOJ); Jason Quintana (Manzano Land Grant); Crystal Romero (Office of Sen. Heinrich); Kenneth Alcon (SFNF - USFS); Amina Sena (SFNF – USFS); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Eric Valencia (RGDN); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Anima Sena (Ranger Pecos Las Vegas District); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Daniel Maes (Cristobal de La Serna); Don Bustos (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Jose Luis Ortiz y Muniz (Santa Cruz de La Cañada); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquin del Rio de Chama); Jose Mondragon (Cristobal de La Serna); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado); Tony Benavidez (Lower Gallinas Land Grant); Eric Chavez (Office of Sen. Ben Ray Lujan)

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye
Councilor Rodríguez - aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Federal

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

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

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

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

State

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

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

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

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

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

There is wood available through October in Tres Pierdas.

Practice plan for Bearcat should be completed soon.

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – abstained

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye
Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye
The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

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

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

None.

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

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

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

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

21. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

22. Public Comments – discussion only

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

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

23. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

24. Date and Location for October Council Meeting

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

25. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

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

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
October 18, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –986 3705 5255

**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: Steve Polaco, Monica Rodríguez, Andrea Padilla and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Enrique Romero (NMDOJ); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ); Heidi McRoberts (Cibola NF); Representative Melanie Stansbury; AJ Pacheco (Rep. Leger-Fernandez); Sofia Sanchez (Rep. Stansbury); Belinda Mollard (USFS); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado Land Grant); Camilla Romero (SLO); Aurora Valdez (Sen. Heinrich); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Meghan Veech (NMDOJ); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant)

3. Approval of Agenda

Juan Sanchez asked to move agenda item number 7 to number 5.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the September 27, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury stated that Congress is currently on recess until Veteran's Day. Rep. Stansbury let the Council know that the Traditional Use Bill has hit a stop and suggested we talk with other Congressmen to form a strategy now that language has been amended. Mr. Arturo Archuleta asked Rep. Stansbury about the likelihood of the Farm Bill passing. Rep. Stansbury said she thinks the bill has a good chance of passing and suggested the Council touch base with Sen. Ben Ray Lujan regarding the issue.

Anthony Pacheco (Rep. Leger-Fernandez) stated that Congressmen approved language on the traditional use bill this morning. He is still working with San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant on funding for a fencing project, which may be included in the forest plan. He has begun working with another land grant on cemetery issues. The Congresswoman is working on legislation for affordable housing.

Aurora Valdez (Sen. Heinrich) stated that it may be possible use funding for land grant archives or digitalization. She would like to meet to speak of potential projects. Other announcements included the new homes tax credit to handle housing crisis, the chief of staff met with FEMA, began working directly with constituents to see what the process is and to make sure people affected by aide for Hermit's Peak / Calf Canyon Fire are receiving funds. She shared that she recently visited Cristobal de la Serna and met about leñero projects.

State

Mr. Archuleta presented all Council recommendations for the 2025 legislative session (in packet), including raising the cap on the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund, expanding the Community Governance Attorney Program and excluding land grants from the Subdivision Act.

Next Interim meeting is November 18th.

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

Lisa Morrison announced today was the last day to protest the Rio Grande del Norte management plan. Deb Haaland is creating a 15-member advisory committee to determine how to manage public lands. Nomination period closes on November 18 and Council staff have the news release and link.

Council staff's requests for land grant patents are in progress and the BLM is working with Mr. Louis Gallegos on cemetery issues. The nomination form for the RAC is included in the packet. The next meeting is January 28.

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

Bella Mollard gave the following updates:

The US Forest Service has treated 9,000 plus acres with prescribed burns, and will treat more this fall. La Jara prescription burn is finished. The USFS will complete two more burns soon.

The scoping period for Ghost Ranch is now open and closes on October 30th.

Taos Ski Valley draft decision will be released this week.

Heidi McRoberts gave the following updates for the Cibola National Forest:

There are several prescribed burns planned for the fall, and they may begin this week. They USFS is close to reaching a decision on North Sandias Project.

Chairman Sanchez suggested to Ms. McRoberts that the USFS take a look at the Consultation Use Rights Bill regarding land grants and incorporate it into an MOU. The Council and staff would like to have a conversation and Land Grant 101 training with the Cibola soon.

Councilor Padilla stated the Town of Tomé Land Grant would like to acquire firewood from the Cibola NF for people in need in the Tomé community.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camilla Romero announced that the fuelwood area Tres Piedras is still open and the Bearcat Project is still in the works.

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

All 17 land grants on the LGMAF list met their contingency requirements. Council staff sent the list to DFA and DFA has processed. The distribution plan is included in the packet.

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

Enrique Romero(NMDOJ) introduced Megan Veech, the new honors attorney. He would like to meet with Council staff and Chairman Sanchez to discuss expanding the Treaty Division's services. Ms. Veech submitted a FIOA request for GAO report. Treaty Division staff met with Mr. Baca and board members from the San Joaquin del Rio de Chama Land Grant to discuss the process and/or problems with receiving historical documents.

Councilor Padilla let Treaty Division staff know that the common lands of the Town of Tomé Land Grant are suffering from destruction and misuse, and the land grant is not receiving the support it needs from the county's police or sheriff's department.

Mr. Romero let the Councilor know that it's a complicated situation and its important they encourage law enforcement to participate in DOJ's trainings regarding land grants.

Chairman Sanchez asked Treaty Division staff what for possible options might be for land grants that are interested in the Sandoval Seven case.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to add language to the expand the duties of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Leonard Martinez (SJDRDC) asked for an update on U.S. vs. Sandoval. Jacobo Baca let him know he spoke with Treaty staff about archives and plans on setting up a meeting with archive center on possible solutions.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

The IGSA will be executed soon. The only figure reported is Council travel for \$2,342.24.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

We don't have a billing because the agreement is not in place yet.

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

There were no billings from Legal Aide. The Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant had come forward with a request when they first became a political subdivision. They have a new separate item where they're acquiring a new property and wanted to ask Legal Aide for a new issue.

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

Council staff let the Council know that the Anton Chico need surveying services once the contract is approved with Chris Chavez.

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

Council staff is seeking avenues for expanding the Land Grant Merced Institute.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

- Tierra Amarilla Land Grant – updated bylaws

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

Council staff reported one correspondence from Mr. Rob Sierra. Email correspondence was included in the packet.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Councilor Rodriguez invited everyone to San Joaquin del Rio de Chama's Thanksgiving lunch on November 9th in Capulin. Mr. Archuleta informed everyone of the Manzano Land Grant's matanza on October 19th. Councilor Padilla announced that candy will be given at the jail site for Halloween. Chairman Sanchez announced that capital outlay forms opened on October 17th.

22. Date and Location for November Council Meeting

The November 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on November 22, 2024 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez - aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:56 pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
November 22, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –926 1836 7916

**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: Steve Polaco, Monica Rodríguez, Andrea Padilla and Juan Sánchez were present.

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure

Chairman Sánchez read the following statement.

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Steve Polaco and I attended the Land Grant Interim Committee hearing in Santa Fe on November 18, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ); Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NMDOJ); Camila Romero (SLO); Lisa Morrison (BLM); A.J. Pacheco (Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Aurora Valdez (Senator Martin Heinrich); Bella Mollard (Carson NF); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de La Cañada LG).

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Monica Rodríguez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 18, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Councilor Polaco – aye
The motion was passed.

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

Federal

Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich) reported that Senator Martin Heinrich was re-elected and has pressed President Biden on HPCC compensation delays and FEMA for more information and to work on the more complex claims. He is also working to ensure ACA (Obamacare) is secure and reported that the USDA Secure Rural Schools Program passed Senate (Senator Ben Ray Luján worked with Senator Heinrich on the bill). A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that the Traditional Use Bill is essentially dead as the House Natural Resource Committee did not accept a request to hear the bill and it was not included on the Federal Lands Subcommittee either. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's office also received technical feedback from the US Forest Service and her office will have to rework the cemetery bill. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP) reported that Eric Chávez of Senator Ben Ray Luján's office sent a copy of the Farm Bill and a summary of where it stands.

State

Mr. Archuleta presented the bills endorsed by the Interim Land Grant Committee, including (sponsors in parenthesis): An adjustment to the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund, increasing the caps and ending the reversion of remaining balances (Rep. Matthew McQueen/Sen. Liz Stefanics); a bill to recognize Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico (Senator Leo Jaramillo and Representative Susan Herrera); the land grant merced infrastructure act, which is modeled on the tribal and colonias infrastructure funds and apportions a percentage of the severance tax funds into a fund from which land grants can apply (Rep. Miguel García); changes to the Community Governance Attorney Commission (Rep. Miguel García); amendments to the subdivision act to exclude land grants from getting approval from counties when subdividing land (Rep. Herrera / Senator Antonio "Moe" Maestas). The Council will discuss the legislation and endorsement at its December 2024 meeting. Council members and Dr. Dow y Anaya (in his person, not professional capacity) discussed internships and apprenticeships and potential partnerships with other government and non-government organizations.

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

Lisa Rivera Morrison (BLM) stated that the BLM is interested in helping communities and urged the Council to keep the BLM involved in discussions related to land grants. She reported that BLM fuelwood permits are online and available from the Taos, Farmington and Las Cruces Field Offices. Christmas tree permits are also available at \$5.00 per tree. The BLM is working to get the Rio Grande del Norte, Rio Puerco and Organ Mountain Resource Management Plans (RMPs) finalized. The Northern New Mexico RAC is accepting nominations (Dr. Jacobo D. Baca currently serves on the Northern New Mexico RAC and reported that the NNM RAC will meet in early 2025). Ms. Morrison (J.D.) also asked about the status of the NMLGC's request for patents and offered her assistance. Representatives from the San Miguel del Bado and San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grants discussed issues on their grants and cemeteries on their respective land grants that are managed by the BLM.

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

Bella Mollard (Carson NF) provided updates regarding pile burning in the Carson National Forest and the likelihood that smoke would effect the communities near Tres Piedras and Canjilón. She thanked NMLGC staff (Jacobo Baca and Arturo Archuleta) for their presentations for the Joint Leadership Team meeting in Taos last week and discussed the importance of educate USFS leadership on the needs of traditional communities. Region 3 will work on a new MOU with Council. Mr. Archuleta commented that a report from the Cíbola National Forest is provided in the packet.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (NM SLO) reported that the SLO will have a site visit at the Villanueva (Gonzales Ranch) fuelwood project site on December 17. They are awaiting to hear from the Claunch Pinto SWCD re: Bearcat project. She asked that a 'Land Grant 101' presentation be provided during the NM Legislative Session as attendees will be in Santa Fe.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDNJ – Treaty Division) thanked Dr. Ricardo Dow y Anaya for his work at the New Mexico Department of Justice (formerly Office of the New Mexico Attorney General) for his work with the Treaty Division. Ricardo Dow y Anaya (NM DOJ) thanked Council members and staff for their work and support during his tenure with the NM DOJ and reported his last day with be December 31st. Council members and staff thanked Dr. Dow y Anaya for his work.

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

Council members discussed easement issues, donation of common lands, taxes, and county assessors and the taxation of common lands.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

In packet. Total Budgeted Expenditures are \$111,615.45 with remaining \$515,285.00 The delay in the approval of the IGSA with UNM have delayed the proper billing of the contract, which explains the small expenditure in the total contract.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 for \$108,793.57; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve invoice 2024-07 from UNM Law School for \$3,500; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Councilor Polaco – aye
The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve a contract for Territorial Land Surveying for \$40,000;
Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

None.

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

None.

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

The latest issue of the *El Grito del las Mercedes* newsletter is in the meeting packet.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for December Council Meeting

The December 2024 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on December 13, 2024 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

Councilor Polaco – aye
The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:25pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
December 13, 2024 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. –975 5477 6418

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Bella Mollard (Carson NF); Lesley Elser (BLM); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Kendra Lucero Matteucci (San Antonio de las Huertas LG); Peggy Durán (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Jason Quintana (DFA); Elizabeth Cervantes.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 22, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Lesley Elser provided an update for the BLM, including the 2 year segregation of lands in the Pecos Watershed. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-initiates-two-year-protection-pecos-river-watershed-mining-claims>. The BLM hopes to issued the decision record for the approved EA for the RMP for the Rio Grande del Norte in January, as well as the ROD for Rio Puerco RMP.

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

Bella Mollard (Carson National Forest) reported that the USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management are announcing a public comment period regarding a joint application to the Secretary of the Interior that seeks to administratively withdraw approximately 163,920.99 acres of National Forest System Lands and 1,327.16 acres of public lands in the Upper Pecos Watershed near Pecos, New Mexico from location and entry under the United States mining laws; and leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The purpose of the administrative withdrawal is to protect and improve the health of the watershed, preserve traditional and cultural uses and benefit the local economy, and address significant ecological, and environmental issues in the watershed from the potential impacts that may arise from the exploration and development of federally owned minerals. A Notice of Withdrawal Application will publish in the Federal Register on Friday December 13, 2024. Publication of the notice initiates a two-year segregation period of the lands requested for withdrawal and a 90-day public comment period.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero (SLO) reported that the State Land Office is developing a proactive plan for the Bearcat Project with Dee Tarr and that the Villanueva Project will start again in January.

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

Federal

The Traditional Use Bill is likely dead as the Congress will adjourn without action. Representative Stansbury is trying to be ranking member of House Natural Resources Committee. Eric Chávez (Office of Sen. Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján is working on the continuing resolution, supplemental disaster funding, and the National Defense Authorization Act. The Senator also reintroduced the End Threat of Default Act, which would to repeal national debt ceiling.

State

Bill numbers have not yet been assigned to prefiled legislation. Once they have been assigned the Council will discuss endorsement.

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

Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) introduced Nicole Silva, the new coordinator for the Treaty Division, who came over from DFA, where she managed legislative funding. Ms. Silva replaces Ricardo Dow y Anaya, who is retiring at the end of month. The Division attended the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant monthly meeting where they presented on the 2004 GAO Report and the NMAG's response and reported that they received a letter from Grant regarding the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case. Mr. Romero also discussed the scholarship question that was posed to the Division and the memo that his office issued regarding the issue. He stated that the anti-donation anti-donation law is clear and this prohibits land grants and other political subdivisions from granting scholarships. He also reported that the Treaty Division attended the San Antonio de las Huertas protest board hearing and stated that the NMDOJ will offer a land grant and acequias training to district attorneys and law enforcement possible in February but likely after the end of the legislative session.

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

Federal

Mr. Archuleta reported that he attended the hearing regarding taxation of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant and Sandoval County argued that in regard to taxation, the political subdivision bill is unconstitutional. He clarified that the amount of taxes paid by the Grant is insignificant and that the minute impact would be offset by equalization. The FY 2026 budget includes natural resource assistance through the position of an environmental planner. Water resources is important and the Council could consider contractual work with persons like Elizabeth Cervantes, who was a retired water administrator with the Office of the State Engineer. Land grant water declarations were denied in the past. Enrique Romero (NMDJ – Treaty Division) clarified that this was the case for streams under adjudication as there is a rule that they cannot accept declarations during adjudication. Councilor Polaco asked for clarification on consent orders and final decrees in water adjudications, which Mr. Romero provided.

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

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day will take place on February 3, 2025 at the New Mexico State Capitol. Councilor Polaco made a motion that NMLGC sponsor the 2025 Treaty Day; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). \$3,301.52 has been expended in travel and \$144,952.62 under the IGSA.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approval Estimate 13960 of \$136.00 from the State Printing Office for business cards, with leeway in the event of a price change; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #2 for \$36,159.05, including \$28,161.88 in project personnel, \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,026.51 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 for \$36,159.05; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Padilla – aye
- Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye
Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented New Mexico Legal Aid LA pay request 2 for \$19,425.00 for work with the Cristóbal de la Serna, Tierra Amarilla, Juan Bautista Baldes, Tajique, Manzano, and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 from New Mexico Legal Aid for \$19,425.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the contract with Territorial Surveying is in place and the Council will continue to prioritize those land grants that are in litigation, which currently includes the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant and Arroyo Hondo de Arriba Land Grant. The Manzano also needs a survey for land for their land purchase from the Archdiocese.

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

None.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Jason Quintana (DFA Rural Ombudsman) shared handouts for the New Mexico Match Fund and discussed the new Infrastructure Planning and Development Division.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

None.

22. Date and Location for January Council Meeting

The January 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on January 17, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Padilla – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:43pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
January 17, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 924 5926 0456

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

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

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure - none

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Lisa Rivera Morrison (BLM); Enrique Romero (NM DOJ); Lisa Brown (NM DOJ); Bella Mollard (USFS/Carson NF); Camila Romero (State Land Office); Brian Martínez (Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG); Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG).

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2024 Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 13, 2024 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Lisa Rivera Morrison from the Bureau of Land Management reported that BLM has completed Rio Grande del Norte Plan, the Rio Puerco Plan, and one other plan have been adopted. She also sent information on funding opportunities for fuels management reduction. www.grants.gov. These

were e-mailed to Arturo and Jacobo. Lisa Rigby is the point of contact for the funding. BLM is still working on the patent request. Lastly, Taos Field Office is also working on land disposals for cemeteries.

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

Bella Mollard reported that the Santa Fe National Forest is working on the Upper Pecos Watershed withdrawal. There will be a public meeting with BLM February 26, regarding proposed withdrawal of upper Pecos Watershed. The Carson NF is celebrating Aldo Leopold by opening up his house near Tres Piedras for overnight stays to the general public. Look at recreation.gov to see how to book. They are also doing scoping for Questa Trail between Questa and Red River. These will be more accessible than most of trails on the Carson, they will be completely open trails. She is continuing to work on MOA to move forward with Council and NM Acequia Commission. Councilor Rodriguez reported that the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant got to visit historic original settlement at the Cañón de Chama with 3 representative of the Santa Fe National Forest, including the Deputy Supervisor. She was thankful for the meeting and opportunity to advance the land grant's future use of the property.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camila Romero from the State Land Office reported that the fuelwood area in Tres Piedras is still open, and that there is plenty of piñon and juniper fuelwood available. The Villanueva project is on hold, waiting for contractor to finish another job. Once the contractor available they will set up a meeting with the land grant to discuss fuelwood pickup and distribution. Finally, she reported that the Bearcat Project is just waiting for Dee Tarr with Claunch Pinto SWCD to figure out who the contractor is going to be to complete the project. Once the contractor is in place SLO will have another meeting onsite with the land grants.

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

Federal

No new updates

State

Arturo Archuleta went over the existing bills concerning land grants for endorsement by the council.

HB 21 - to amend the Land Grant-Merced Assistance fund to increase the requirement for the first distribution tier to \$100,000 and make the fund non-reverting. The bill is sponsored by Rep. McQueen and endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee. Councilor Polaco made the motion to endorse HB 21, seconded by Council Padilla. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote,

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

HB 24 - to amend the Community Governance Attorney Program to increase the number of eligible contracting agencies to house program participants and remove the state-match limitations. The Bill is sponsored by Rep. Miguel García and endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee.

Councilor Polaco motioned to endorse the bill as pre-filed, seconded by Councilor Padilla.

Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

HB-24 recommended amendments to pre-filed bill endorsed by the Community Governance Attorney Commission from their meeting held on January 10, 2025. Arturo Archuleta explained the proposed changes. Councilor Padilla moved to endorse the bill; Councilor Polaco seconded.

Chairman Sanchez called the roll for the vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

HB-25 – Sponsored by Rep. Miguel Garcia and endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee to create a Land Grant-Merced Infrastructure Fund, through an annual set aside of Capital Outlay funding. Arturo Archuleta explained that the Acequia leadership from the Acequia Commission and Acequia Association has approached the Land Grant to get support for adding Acequias to the legislation. The fund amount would need to be doubled and the money proportional split 50/50 between the land grants and acequias. Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to sponsor the bill as introduced; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented on being cautious about adding acequias this late before the session starts.

Councilor Rodríguez then motioned to endorse the proposed amendment to include acequias in the bill, this was 2nded by Councilor Polaco. Chairman Sánchez called roll for the vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Arturo Archuleta explained that those are the only bills that have a pre-filed number assigned to them. Councilor Rodríguez indicated that the Senate pre-filed bills are also available online. The Council then reviewed the Senate pre-filed bills and the bills endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee.

The first additional bill discussed was the Land Grant exemption from the Sub-Division Act. This bill was endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee but has not yet been filed. Councilor Polaco made the motion to endorse, Seconded by Council Padilla. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote.

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

The motion was passed.

Next the Council discussed the bill to recognize the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political sub-division of the State. The bill has been pre-filed by Senator Leo Jaramillo and was endorsed by the Land Grant Interim Committee. Councilor Padilla made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote.

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

Mr. Archuleta then mentioned the bill to create a Solar Access Fund. The fund would provide grants for certain entities to do solar projects for community purposes. The bill advocates reached out to Mr. Archuleta at the request of Rep. McQueen and included land grants as eligible entities. Arturo Archuleta relayed to the bill advocates that land grants would definitely take advantage of the fund for their community centers and community water systems. The bill is being pre-filed by incoming House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Szczepanski. Councilor Polaco motioned to endorse the bill, seconded by Councilor Padilla. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote.

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

The motion was passed.

Last, Mr. Archuleta mentioned a bill that was pre-filed by Senator Woods that would require Land Grant Mercedes, Acequias, County Commissions and NM Legislature approval of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish land acquisitions. Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to endorse the legislation, seconded by Councilor Polaco. Chairman Sanchez called roll for the vote.

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

The motion was passed.

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

Updates on projects from Assistance Attorney General Lisa Brown. She reported that Nicole Silva with the Treaty Division is sending out media updates and will be putting together a legislative tracker. DOJ is also monitoring and tracking pending litigation and rule-making that might affect land grants and acequias. They will be coordinating quarterly trainings land grants and acequias

starting in the Spring. The DOJ's memo regarding academic scholarships to heirs by land grants has not received any inquiries yet. They are actively following San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant taxation valuation protest and will also be looking at conservation easements for land grants and acequias, to determine if those will be useful tools for land grants.

Enrique Romero, Director of the DOJ Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division also mentioned they are looking into historic preservation for land grants and acequias and looking to determine how historic preservation affects planning and zoning. They will also be getting another Honor's Attorney and are looking into entering into representation agreements with individual land grants and acequias that have a public interest element. One example is with Cristobal de la Serna.

Mr. Archuleta mentioned DOJ assisting with access to Game and Fish properties to land grant communities for traditional uses.

Councilor Rodríguez asked about *U.S. v. Sandoval* litigation status and Enrique Romero mentioned that they would be sending out letter to the affected land grants in the coming weeks.

Councilor Polaco asked about the DOJ's work on the Tameling case, and Enrique Romero stated they would be having discussions with Council staff about that in the future. Mr. Romero also mentioned that DOJ has reached out to State Engineer regarding water adjudications in Tierra Amarilla regions to determine the status.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Arturo Archuleta went over the Budget update report the following expenditures to date:

\$28,650 in Legal Services Contract; \$3,781.16 in Council in-state travel; \$185,921.65 in the UNM Intergovernmental Services Agreement.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #3 for \$40,969.03, including \$28,148.91 in project personnel, \$521.29 in personnel in-state travel; \$3,500 to the UNM Clinical Law Program; \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,828.17 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #3 for \$40,969.03; Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported the departure of one staff attorney and the Community Governance attorney from Legal Aid.

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

Arturo Archuleta presented the first pay request under the new contract for surveyor services for work done on easement in Arroyo Hondo de Arriba. The total for the pay request # 01172025 being \$3,895.59 for 27 hours of work.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve pay request #01172025 for surveying services; 2nded by Councilor Polaco. Chairman Sánchez called the roll for the vote.

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta mentioned that the Institute is in discussions with Malcolm Ebright on additional purchases from his collection. Mr. Archuleta also mentioned that a new student hire will be coming on board in a few weeks.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Archuleta reminded that Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day at State Legislature will be on February 3 and that the keynote speaker will be Moises Morales. Leonard Martinez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) reported on their meeting with the U.S Forest Service regarding the irrigation project on their former common lands and that the Land Grant would like to lease the water and eventually lease the 1,500 acres to be able to do more improvements.

22. Date and Location for February Council Meeting

The February 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on February 21, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:31am MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
February 21, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 975 8997 8259

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call – 10:01 am

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure –

Santa Fe – January 28, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Steve Polaco and I attended the hearing for HB 21 and HB 24 on January 28, 2025, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss Council business or collectively discuss public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.

Santa Fe – February 2, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Steve Polaco and I attended the 2025 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day celebration on February 2, 2025, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

Santa Fe – February 18, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Steve Polaco and I attended the hearing for HB 330 on February 18, 2025, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss Council business or collectively discuss public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Krystelle Anaya (LGSP); Camila Romero (NM State Land Office); Mark Meyers (NM State Land Office); Jason Quintana (DFA); Lisa Brown (NM DOJ – Treaty Division); Megan Veach (NM DOJ – Treaty Division); Enrique Romero (NM DOJ – Treaty Division); Krystelle Anaya (LGSP); Belinda Mollard (Carson NF); Brian Martínez (Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG); Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS); Peggy Durán (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); José Mondragón (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Lisa Rivera Morrison (BLM); Aurora Valdez (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján).

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2025 Meeting

Councilor Monica Rodriguez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 17, 2025 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

-

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

Bella Mollard (Carson NF) reported that the Santa Fe National Forest and Bureau of Land Management postponed the meeting regarding the Upper Pecos mineral withdrawal. The Carson National Forest postponed release of the draft EA for Taos Canyon. Both of these actions were in compliance with recent executive orders. Ms. Mollard stated that any questions will be directed to superiors and she will forward them and bring back their responses. Regarding terminations, it has been estimated 5% of USFS (~4,000 to 5,000) staff has been terminated thus far. Fire management remains a priority. Councilor Polaco asked about the effect of layoffs on FEMA; Ms. Mollard responded that she does not have any information on FEMA at this time. Jason Quintana (NM DFA) asked about SAMs renewal solicitations. Ms. Mollard and Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS) responded that SAMs renewals are free and these solicitations either offer an unnecessary service or could be a scam.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update –

Camila Romero (NM SLO) reported that the State Land Office will start mobilizing the Villanueva fuelwood project. The contractor wants hauling to wait until all cutting has happened. The San Miguel del Bado Land Grant needs to decide if they will haul the wood themselves or use a contractor. Ms. Romero is working with Dee Tarr from the Claunch Pinto SWCD to continue the Bearcat project and they will work with a vendor to haul the wood off of the project site to a secure location given the past concerns of theft and security of wood. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC) commented that the Council might be able to help fund transport of wood from the Villanueva project as it has natural resource monies available. Ms. Romero reported that Commissioner Stephanie García Richard is also looking for resources. An estimated 40 cords will be yielded, which cost \$15 per cord for a total of \$600 for the project.

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

Federal

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that the Congresswoman held press conference yesterday with farmers, acequias, and others affected by the federal funding pause. She is encouraging anyone having difficulties accessing their federal funding to let her know. Congresswoman Leger Fernández is following Senator Ben R. Luján's lead on the traditional use bill. Mr. Archuleta added that the Council sent Mr. Pacheco's request for information to land grants. Aurora Valdez (Office of Senator Heinrich) reported that there is lot going on right now as Senators Heinrich and Luján and other Democratic leaders are ensuring that Congress is acting faithfully, lawless acts are prosecuted and to stop the breakdown of checks and balances in this country. More than 10,000 federal workers have been terminated, including veterans, whose care is threatened, including urgent mental health care. There are reports of suicides and the Social Security information breach by Elon Musk demonstrates that the law has not been followed. There remains a lot of uncertainty as Medicare/Medicaid is threatened. Eric Chávez (Office of Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Luján's office is receiving letters from agencies and he urges the public to let them know how the federal cuts are effecting their communities so they can take these messages back to Washington.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that House Bill 21, which raises the caps on the land grant-merced assistance fund, is still in the House, which is wrapping up the budget bill (House Bill 2) and is working on the capital outlay bill. House Bill 24, the bill to amend the community governance attorney program, is on the House calendar. Senate Bill 47 passed the Senate and is now on the House side. HB 330, the land grant and acequia infrastructure bill, made it through its first committee.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that the USFS public meeting regarding the Upper Pecos watershed withdrawal planned for February 26 has been postponed. She asked that people email her questions and she will try to get responses.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDOJ) reported that Enrique Romero has planned a meeting with the 'Sandoval 7' land grants to discuss options for action on the *U.S. v. Sandoval* case. The NMDOJ is still revising their OMA guidance (IPRA guidance has been released) and they are planning quarterly trainings for leadership regarding IPRA. Regarding questions about the Rio Chama adjudication, unfortunately a decree in 2018 was issued so that window for making any new claims has closed. Mr. Archuleta reported that he is talking to individual to do some research and will need approval of scope of work to do the first phase analysis this fiscal year. The work would include looking at all active land grants to see which land grants have declared water rights. Councilor Polaco added that the final decree was issued on October 23, 2018 and that he and the Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla were unaware and he would like to know why that happened (i.e., why notice was not given). They have not had meetings with anybody to tell them or answer their questions, need to be update, how and when the decree was made so that they can at least speak up about it. Mr. Archuleta and Ms. Brown discussed if there was a due process violation if no notice was given. Regarding land grant scholarships and anti-donation clause concerns, land grants may petition to amend the land grant statutes to allow the set aside of a percentage of their monies for scholarships. Councilor Padilla added that a bill reforming the anti-donation clause was killed. Mr. Archuleta added that David Benavides did some analysis on the Sandoval case and wanted to

share that analysis. Councilor Rodríguez added that the NM Acequia Association is prioritizing funding to assist with outreach to children and trainings on water rights. Mr. Archuleta added that trainings on fundamental rights for land grants and acequias, their operation of community centers, 1st amendment rights, and so on would be important as land grants should be familiar with the rights of the general public to help them steer clear of unintentional violations.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that NMAA’s Vidal Gonzales has been working on comments regarding the statewide water plan. Mr. Gonzales reported that regional councils are to work on regional water restoration projects under the proposed plan. He is working with council staff on comments (*in packet*) to ensure that representatives of the NM Acequia Association or local community water associations, including acequias, are included in water planning. Land grants were not included in this draft and Mr. Archuleta asked Mr. Gonzales for clarification on the process and if any rules created are legally binding. He asked if this ties into the public access component of it and whether adopting rules will happen again in the process. Enrique Romero (NMDNJ) recommend the NMLGC spend sometime reviewing this proposed rules to differentiate between guidelines and actual rule promulgation.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Archuleta presented the budget update and Council members discussed the trip to Washington DC, including dates and attendees. More discussion will be held at the March meeting.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #4 for \$74,727.65, including \$56,120.70 in project personnel, \$286.09 in personnel in-state travel; \$3,500.00 to the UNM Clinical Law Program; \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$12,454.61 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #4 for \$74,727.65; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented the Pay Request #3 from NM Legal Aid for the period of December 2nd to 25th, 2024 for a total of \$4,725.00.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve NMLA Pay Request #3 for \$4,725.00; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

- Councilor Polaco – aye
- Councilor Rodríguez – aye
- Councilor Padilla – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye
The motion was passed.

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

Invoice #02212025 from Territorial Land Surveying was presenter for 20 hours of work and costs totaling \$4,039.88. Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve this invoice; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta stated that he would like to do a closed executive meeting with UNM HR and Council members to discuss council employee’s performance evaluations.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

None.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

None.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements –

Jason Quintana (DFA) stated that a DFA Capacity Building Session will be held on 04/12/25. This course was put together to help entities attend to get off of the state auditor lists and the training is meant for people that have never been through OSA requirements, capital planning and policy in compliance for an annual audit. People should try to bring your own laptop device and at the end will be LGBMS Training on budgets. Sessions will be going through the COG districts, the COGS will coordinate, and hope to include DOJ on Saturdays so they can have that person as a contact and direct help toward that DOJ representative.

22. Date and Location for March Council Meeting

The March 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on March 27, 2025 (Thursday) in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:37pm MST.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
March 27, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 930 1716 9979

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Roll Call – 10:02 am

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure –

Santa Fe – March 7, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez, and I attended a hearing for HB 330 on March 7, 2025 at the New Mexico State Legislature, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss Council business or collectively discuss public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.

Santa Fe – March 15, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez, and I attended a hearing for HB 330 on March 15, 2025 at the New Mexico State Legislature, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss business or public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.”

Santa Fe – March 18, 2025

“Andrea Padilla, Monica Rodríguez, and I attended a hearing for HB 330 on March 18, 2025 at the New Mexico State Legislature, which created an inadvertent quorum. However, we did not discuss Council business or collectively discuss public policy during the event and make this disclosure in the interest of transparency.

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Mark Meyers (NM State Land Office); Megan Veach (NM DOJ – Treaty Division); Bella Mollard (USFS – NNM Forests); Kris Graham Chávez (NRCS); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján); Peggy Duran (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Brian Martinez (Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG); Mike Howsden (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Lesley Elser (BLM); Jacob Trujillo (Office of Cong. M. Stansbury); Rita Padilla Gutiérrez.

4. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes; Councilor Monica Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2025 Meeting

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 21, 2025 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Lesley Elser (BLM) reported that the BLM has updated the fuelwood permits page (info in chat), which clarifies offices that sell permits and fuelwood areas available. Sales begin May 1 and run through December. Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC) asked if the BLM has experienced layoffs; Ms. Elser stated she would get back to Mr. Archuleta.

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

Bella Mollard (USFS), responding to questions posed in the February meeting, reiterated that requests for a fee for SAMs numbers are a scam. Approximately 2,200 probational employees and those considered “non-essential” were laid off from the USFS and they are in process of bringing many of them back, at least those that didn’t find other employment. The agency is going into a reduction in force and plans were submitted to DOGE last week. There has been and will be a continued effect of staffing at visitor centers and offices and the agency is prioritizing visitor services and public access and the Carson and Santa Fe National Forest staff are rotating to ensure coverage. No operational firefighters and law enforcement were laid off. The Carson National Forest has announced that the public meetings relating to the Taos Canyon draft EA have been postponed as they need to be adjusted to reflect the new executive orders. The final decision on Taos Ski Valley proposed improvements is expected this week. Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP/LMI) asked if the final decision outlines the amount of water the Taos Ski Valley can impound for snow making operations and if it prohibited the use of additives that slow snow melt. Ms. Mollard responded that she was not sure and reported that seasonal closures will be in effect. Councilor Polaco asked if those holding grazing permits are notified of closures. Ms. Mollard responded that they are informed. Councilor Rodríguez asked if the Taos Ski Valley EA allowed for expansion and if local communities were consulted; Ms. Mollard responded that the footprint remains the same but more uses are allowed under the special use permit.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Mark Meyers (NM SLO) reported that the two land grant projects (Villanueva and Bearcat) are on track. The Villanueva project, thinning piñón juniper, has started and they will perform an inspection soon. The Bearcat project has not started yet as they are working with the local SWCD to find a contractor and funding. Mr. Archuleta will schedule meeting with the San Miguel del Bado LG for the middle of April to assess their need of support for fuelwood removal.

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

Federal

A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that they are starting conversations on the traditional use bill and are circulating bill text with the Council and the Pueblos soon. He asked for land grant communities to let the office know if you have had issues with accessing federal funds or if they were effected by layoffs. The Congresswoman is holding townhalls in Santa Fe. Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that they are also working on the traditional use bill, circulating text with the Council and pueblos. Senator Luján voted no on the continuing resolution, which he characterized as a “GOP power grab” and underfunded critical services. The Senator was in New Mexico and discussed social security, Medicare, Medicaid and effects of federal cuts with 80 seniors and attended a routable at Roadrunner Foodbank in Albuquerque, discussing his efforts to support New Mexicans in the Farm Bill. He also visited El Centro Family health in Española and participated in a roundtable on impacts of cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. He was one of 31 senators that demanded the reversal of USDA cuts to purchase programs. Finally, he pointed out that the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office’s debt and deficit report estimated a \$4.6 trillion increase in national debt (214% of GDP) by 2040 under the Trump tax plan.

Jacob Trujillo (Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury) reported that Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury visited with east mountain land grants (Chililí, Tajique, Manzano, Torreón and San Antonio de las Huertas) on March 20th. It was a great visit with good action items discussed and land grants shared their concerns with the Congresswoman. She would like to visit the San Antonio de las Huertas and Tomé Land Grants during the April work period. Mr. Trujillo reported (to Mr. Pacheco and Mr. Chávez) that the Congresswoman has some the ideas on a federal definition to be more inclusive of land grants. He added that the CDS application is open to non-profits and units of government for FY 2026. For those that won CDS funding in 2025 to return that approved CDS request, which was pushed because of the continuing resolution. Mr. Archuleta thanked Congresswoman Stansbury for efforts trying to pass HB 330.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported on a partially successful 60-day session. House Bill 21– Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund Changes, (sponsored by Rep. Matthew McQueen), which sought to amend the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund, *died on the Senate Floor*. House Bill 24 – Community Governance Attorneys Changes (sponsored by Rep. Miguel P. García), *passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. Passed last day of the session*. House Bill 128 – NMFA Local Solar Access Fund – Sponsored by Floor Majority Leader Reena Szczepanski and Rep. Roybal Caballero – *passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature*. Land grants are eligible for the \$10 million appropriated and the bills proponents are interested in land grants applying. House Bill 330 - Land Grant Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act (sponsored by Speaker Javier Martinez, Rep. Miguel P. García; Sen. Leo Jaramillo) – *died in the Senate Finance Committee*. Good language and mechanics were worked out and a stronger bill will be ready next year as a result of the work. Senate Bill 374 - *Land Grant Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Sen. Pete Campos, and Sen. Bobby Gonzales), the companion bill, *died in the Senate Finance Committee*. Senate Bill 47 - An Act to recognize the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico (sponsored by Sen. Leo Jaramillo and Rep. Susan Herrera), *passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature*. SB 114 – Game Commission land acquisitions, was tabled in the Senate Conservation Committee.

Capital outlay received by land grants is in the meeting packet. 12 land grants received \$1,830,000; \$7,580,000 was requested by 15 land grants but not awarded. The Cristóbal de la Serna, San Joaquín del Río de Chama, San Antonio de las Huertas and Tierra Amarilla Land Grants reauthorized \$319,401.37 in funds. Land grants have proved able to spend their funding, as only four land grant communities were getting their funding reauthorized. Council members thanked staff for their hard work and Chairman Sánchez congratulated the Santa Cruz Land Grant and offered the assistance of the staff whenever needed. Brian Martínez (Santa Cruz de la Cañada LG) thanked the Council and staff for its support. Rita Padilla Gutiérrez expressed her displeasure at the amount the Town of Tomé received in capital outlay.

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

Meghan Veach (NMDNJ Treaty Division) shared information that Lisa Brown compiled information regarding the Rio Chama adjudication, including the consent order signed by Councilor Polaco for the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant. Some sections of the adjudication have been finalized and others have a partial final decree. There have been amended responses and deadlines. She reported that the Treaty Division met with the Lower Gallinas and Los Vigiles Land Grants and Council staff regarding FEMA settlements. Regarding scholarships, land grants should contact NMDNJ and they will address the situation case by case. The Division is still working on OMA and IPRA guides for land grants and acequias. They currently have 3-4 representation agreements with acequias and land grants. They hope to get an attorney in the future through the Community Governance Attorney Act. The Division attended the Taos Valley Acequia Association meeting and Socorro conference on water. Councilor Polaco and Mr. Archuleta asked for more information and the Rio Chama decree. In packet is included a 2018 House Joint Memorial passed by Rep. Matthew McQueen asking the NMAG to work with stakeholders (Taos County, NM TRD) to understand what happened with lineas; one meeting convened and nothing came of it.

Councilor Polaco made a motion asking the NMDNJ to examine the House Joint Memorial related to Cristóbal de la Serna LG; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update (in packet). \$240,000 is remaining in IGSA; \$347,538.90 spent. The Council will likely do a BAR at its April meeting to discuss a natural resource contract, funding assistance to San Miguel del Bado, planning work, and more survey work. The Council discussed travel to Washington DC to visit the delegation and visit federal offices. And identified the last two weeks of May.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #5 for \$36,070.20, including \$28,055.68 in project personnel, \$32.16 in personnel in-state travel; \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,011.70 in F&A.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve Pay Request #5 for \$36,070.20; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented the scope of work for the Council’s sponsorship of Uncivilized Outdoorsman’s youth fly fishing camps, which includes four engagements and four spots at each camp. Cost breaks down to \$300 per youth (8-18), or \$5,000 total (\$1,250 with GRT for each camp). In subsequent years the plan is to the camps in the summer with land grants that have water resources and access, such as Tierra Amarilla, Manzano, Anton Chico, and San Miguel del Bado.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the scope of work from Uncivilized Outdoorsman for \$5,000.00; Councilor Rodríguez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta presented the Pay Request #4 from NM Legal Aid for the period of Jan 1 to Feb 20, 2025 (57.7 hours) for a total of \$8,655.00.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion to approve NMLA Pay Request #4 for \$8,655.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Polaco – aye

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Invoice PO214961 from Territorial Land Surveying was presented for 83 hours of work and costs totaling \$12,418.88. Councilor MR made a motion to approve this invoice; Councilor SP seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that the LMI is finalizing the purchase of Malcolm Ebright’s land grant materials. The honorarium for Moises Morales for his remarks at Treaty Day has been processed. Javier Sanchez will be defending his dissertation, which centers the history of the lower Estancia Valley, in early April.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

Mr. Baca reported that the following has been submitted to the Council and will be included in the New Mexico Community Land Grant Registry.

- Current board membership of the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant.
-

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Council staff will serve as election observers for the Anton Chico Land Grant election on April 7.

20. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Polaco reported that he plans to approach Northern New Mexico College President Hector Balderas about the College’s property near Tierra Amarilla, but underatands that his decisions regarding the property need to go through their Board of Regents.

21. Miscellaneous Announcements –

ICIPs due June 13. DFA is holding a training on April 12, 2025 in Albuquerque. The Consejo meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 5.

22. Date and Location for April Council Meeting

The April 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on April 11, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 am MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
April 11, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. – 977 2820 3291

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

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

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

2. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Greta Archuleta (NMLGC); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Jacobo Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Krystelle Anaya (LGSP); Lisa Brown (NM DOJ – Treaty Division); Bella Mollard (USFS – NNM Forests); A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Johnathan Black (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján); Mark Zientek (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández); Jacky Alvarado (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján); Mike Howsden (Cristóbal de la Serna LG); Crystal Romero (Office of Senator Martin Heinrich); Lisa Morrison (BLM); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant); José Mondragón (Cristóbal de la Serna LG).

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Sánchez asked that the agenda be changed, moving items 7 and 10 after item 4. Councilor Monica Rodríguez made a motion to approve the adjusted agenda; Councilor Andrea Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2025 Meeting

Councilor Steve Polaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 27, 2025 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Johnathan Black (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján) reported that Senator Ben R. Luján reintroduced the traditional use bill in the Senate (S. 1363), where it was referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He added that Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández reintroduced the House version (H.R. 2785), which was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A.J. Pacheco (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) reported that Congresswoman introduced the traditional use bill and is seeking endorsement on the cemetery conveyance bill and is coordinating a discussion of the Small Tracts Act with the U.S. Forest Service. Mark Zientek (Office of Cong. Teresa Leger Fernández) added that the cemetery bill amends the Small Tracts Act to return cemeteries to land grants at no cost and that access and maintenance is key. Interested communities would still need to apply and transfers would not be automatic. The bill would also change the Small Tracts Act to allow the USFS to provide land back to small communities at a cost equivalent to the land's value.

Mr. Archuleta asked the purposes for including NAGPRA; Mr. Zientek responded that tribes are not yet eligible and this this would add tribes for cemeteries and burial grounds, with Indian tribes ability to self determine a cemetery in line with their burial practices, death rites, cultural practices, etc. Mr. Pacheco added that the Congresswoman is collecting stories of effects of funding cuts (see <https://fernandez.house.gov/crisis>) and that CPF funding applications are now open. Councilor Rodríguez thanked Senator Luján for his support of the acequia infrastructure fund, which allowed acequia access to funds available to other farmers, especially in the event of flooding. Mr. Black responded that the Acequia Act does not have any other major updates, only that Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) is a cosponsor and that they are looking for traction on the legislation during Farm Bill discussions, which are expected later this year.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion that the Council endorse the Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's cemetery bill, as presented; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion that the Council endorse both traditional use bills, Senate Bill 1363 (introduced by Senator Ben R. Luján) and House Resolution 2785 (introduced by Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández); Councilor Padilla seconded the motion

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Crystal Romero reported that Senator Heinrich is collecting stories on the effect of federal firings and funding freezes. During his work period he has highlighted the reintroduction of Pecos Watershed Protection Act. She added that they are still accepting CDS applications, which can be found on their website, Heinrich.senate.gov.

State

Mr. Archuleta reported that Governor Michelle Luján Grisham signed HB 24, the Solar Access Fund bill, and Senate Bill 47, making the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant a political subdivision of the State.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Presentation by Vidal Gonzales, Uncivilized Outdoorsman Fly Fishing Camp

Vidal Gonzales (The Uncivilized Outdoorsman, LLC) presented on the Youth Flyfishing Camps, which take native and Hispano youth to culturally significant waters, teaching the local significance, including ethnobotany. Lunch is provided for participating families, as well as gifts and prizes. There will be two camps, A and B, for returning students (Camp A - June 7, 21 and July 19, Camp B - June 8 and 22). There will be 13 students per camp and four spots will be reserved for land grant youth for each camp. Because of funding from the Outdoor Equity Fund, general participants must come from Santa Fe, Taos, Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties. Applications are open and close May 20th.

Councilor Polaco asked about locations; Mr. Gonzales responded that they are exploring private property opportunity on the Rio Brazos, or preferably on Rio Chama for June 7 or 8. Councilor Polaco and Mr. Archuleta offered assistance recruiting elders from Tierra Amarilla, who will be paid a stipend for their participation. Mr. Gonzales inquired with the Carson NF regarding the use of Canjilón Lakes on June 21 and 22; Bella Mollard (USFS) offered to get in touch with the Canjilón RD District Ranger on Mr. Gonzales' behalf.

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

Bella Mollard (USFS) reported that the Santa Fe NF is continuing work on the Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project, a 10-15 year project to reduce wildfire risk through timber sales and mechanical thinning. The objection process opened April 7. The Carson NF is working on the Questa to Red River trail project, a 15 mile unpaved trail with bridges and parking. The Taos Canyon Project draft EA will be released soon as they are assuring compliance with recent executive orders. The Taos Ski Valley project was signed by Carson Forest Supervisor James Durán and applies to the present special use permit area. Questa Ranger District supervisor Amy Simms is available for questions. The Sipapu Ski Area is replacing lift 3 with electrical work and modernizing snowmaking. They are initiating coordination with land grants, acequias and tribes. The Carson NF also had its first wildfire, the Sandoval Fire, which is 2-3 acres near Petaca.

Mr. Archuleta asked about the Taos Ski Valley approval, if the process was over or if there was any opportunities for input or for appeal. Ms. Mollard stated that Amy Simms is available for discussion and any other objections need to be a lawsuit. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that the Encino Vista Project is on the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant agenda and wants to review it with Council staff. He spoke about the project with Santa Fe NF deputy supervisor Jeff Marcel, who is leaving in June. The Grant is also pursuing the Cañón de Chama Project, but it is hard to get resources or tech support without a concrete lease of water and land. The Grant seeks a 30-year lease via a Special Use Permit to complete the project and invest in infrastructure. The Grants wants support from the Council and also reached out to NMDOJ to negotiate lease for land and water. They received \$100,000 in capital outlay from Senator Leo Jaramillo, which they plan to invest in a comp plan for the Cañón de Chama project.

Jacobo Baca (NMLGC) asked if the Sipapu Ski Area work is related to their planned expansion; Ms. Mollard responded that it is not. She added that the Echo Canyon updates are almost complete.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

In the meeting packet is an e-mail from Camila Romero, reporting that the Villanueva project is ongoing and wants to meet with the San Miguel del Bado Grant to see if they are in need of assistance. Dee Tarr is still working on the PO and contractors for the Bearcat Project.

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

Lisa Morrison (BLM) reported that there are more fuelwood areas opening up around the Taos BLM Field Office. She added that the BLM is working on collecting the patents requested by the Council and commented that Mr. Gonzales can consider BLM lands near the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River for his youth fly fishing camps.

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

Lisa Brown (NMDOJ Treaty Division) reported that the Treaty Division has a new fellow. The division is developing a "Water law 101," which will become a part of its quarterly trainings. Regarding the Rio Chama adjudication, in speaking with John Utton, the Rio Brazos section is not completed. She added that they are hoping to have a workshop in Taos at the end of May regarding conservation easements for land grants and acequias. Councilor Rodríguez asked about the benefits and the loss of rights with conservation easements. The Division will host a meeting regarding FEMA settlements with the Los Vigiles and Lower Gallinas Land Grants on April 22 with participation from OSA and DFA. Mr. Polaco asked if the Division has heard anything regarding the spigot issue and Mr. Archuleta explained the situation, where the Game Commission agreed that the community would retain access to a spring that was piped into a spigot. When companies began abusing the spigot and selling water, the Game Commission closed it, abrogating communal rights to communal waters. Councilor Polaco added that other springs were not charted on the maps, leaving confusion to use and claims. Councilor Padilla had questions regarding land grants rights as political subdivisions.

Mr. Archuleta reported that New Mexico Legal Aid is working with the Council and the Treaty Division to support the Cristóbal de la Serna Land Grant in litigation. The Grant's claim of immunity under chapter 42-11-1 was asserted, but rejected by the courts. Judge at district court stated earlier this week that it does not apply to land grants since they can be sued in adverse possession prior to 2007, therefore they are not protected. Enrique Romero (NMDOJ Treaty Division) added that the Treaty Division will likely offer an amicus brief in their request for interrogatory appeal and will assist with the actual appeal. The amicus brief will also be filed by NMLGC, which may be stronger, as it will likely hold more weight given its long history of expertise regarding land grants nor the reputation with the courts that the NMLGC does.

Councilor Rodríguez made a motion that the Council with the NMDOJ file an amicus brief for interrogatory appeal and an amicus brief for appeal; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

- Councilor Rodríguez – aye
- Councilor Padilla - aye
- Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye
The motion was passed.

Mr. Romero added that the Treaty Division will host a meeting with the Sandoval 7 land grants on Thursday May 1, 2025.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Council FY 2025 Budget

Mr. Archuleta provided a budget update. The Council will travel to Washington in late May and has meetings scheduled with Congresswoman Stansbury on May 20th and Congresswoman Leger Fernández on May 20th and requests for meetings with Senators Luján and Heinrich. Costs will be around \$3,000 per person for the 4-day trip. He presented Budget Adjustment Request, adding \$700 to personnel in state travel, removing \$7,000 from law school externs, adding \$13,000 to the surveyor contract (to allow for research on 1940 assessment survey originals on the Cristóbal de la Serna LG), removing \$5,000 from community and education contracts, removing \$5,000 from natural resource project development contracts and adding \$3,300 to law clinic fee waivers.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the adjustments discussed above; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Mr. Archuleta presented an IGSA BAR, removing \$68,200 from consultants (63V0) and \$7,000 from participant stipends and adding \$700 to in state travel and \$74,500 to other professional services (69Z0).

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #6 for \$61,278.98 including \$30,273.55 in project personnel, \$2,050.90 in personnel in-state travel; \$16,458.76 in surveyor contract, \$308.20 in copier and printer maintenance, \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$10,213.17 in F&A.

Councilor AP made a motion to approve Pay Request #6 for \$61,278.98; Councilor MR seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

See NMDOJ update above.

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

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Invoice 04112025 for \$3,291.75 for work in Manzano; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve an assistance request from the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – abstain

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Council staff assisted the Anton Chico Land Grant on April 7 and will help the grant canvas on April 13.

19. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Padilla reported that she attended the 2025 ABE NM Conference’s ALGE preconference with Anissa Baca and commented that there are not enough land grant related lesson plans, with most existing ALGE lesson plans focusing on acequias. Tim Hagaman (NM EDD) stated that he would like to see a recreation project from the Council. He reported that Rob Black was confirmed

as secretary of the Economic Development Department and Isaac Romero will be his deputy. He has reached out to communities to create business parks, including identifying occupants like small call centers as there is a need for electrical and information technology infrastructure. Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG) commented that they used the New Mexico Surplus Agency to obtain a grader, container, water pump, toolbox, and pioneer kits for their YCC. Councilor Polaco stated that he had not heard back from New Mexico Game & Fish on the Laguna del Campo.

20. Miscellaneous Announcements

DFA is holding an ICIP training on April 16 and ICIPs for land grants and other special districts are due June 13, 2025.

21. Date and Location for May Council Meeting

The May 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on May 30, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:34pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date

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

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

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

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure

None.

3. Introduction of Guests

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

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Federal

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

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

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

State

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Land Grant Merced Institute Update

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

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

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

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

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

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

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

20. Public Comments – discussion only

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

21. Miscellaneous Announcements

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

22. Date and Location for June Council Meeting

The June 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on June 20, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

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

Approved:

Chair

Date

New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC)
June 20, 2025 – 10:00am
UNM Continuing Education
South Building – Room 207
1634 University Blvd. NE - Albuquerque
Zoom Meeting I.D. - 996 4118 6365

**Final Meeting Minutes
Regular Council Meeting**

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

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

2. Council Potential Quorum Disclosure

None.

3. Introduction of Guests

Juan Sánchez (NMLGC); Steve Polaco (NMLGC); Monica Rodríguez (NMLGC); Andrea Padilla (NMLGC); Arturo Archuleta (NMLGC/LGSP); Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LGSP); Tokey Boswell (BLM – Deputy State Director) Richard Valdez; Ashley Beyer (Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich); Eric Chávez (Office of Senator Ben R. Luján); Bella Mollard (Carson NF); Amanda Luján; Camila Romero (State Land Office); Lisa Brown (NMDOJ); Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying); Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado LG); Julia Nelson (NM State University Graduate student); Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama LG).

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 29, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 29, 2025 Regular Council meeting; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Tokey Boswell (BLM) reported that Lisa Rivera Morrison retired from the BLM and now works with the New Mexico Legislative Council Service. The Carlsbad RMP will be released in the fall, with changes in oil and gas, solar and potash, grazing, habitat and endangered species protections. Funding has also been released for updated revisions of the Farmington RMP and Tent Rocks management plan. Maureen Joe is the contact for Farmington and Sabrina Flores for the Tent Rocks plan. The reopening of Tent Rock has been very successful and co-management with Cochiti Pueblo is going well. Mr. Archuleta commented that he spoke with Lisa Morrison and that she offered her gratitude and will miss the NMLGC. She continued working on the patent request but received no response from their records personnel. Councilor Martínez commented that they needed to postpone the meeting with the BLM that Lisa helped set up and Louis Gallegos (San Miguel del Bado) added that they would be meeting with Taos Field Office director Eric Valencia soon.

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

Bella Mollard reported that Anthony Madrid is now the Forest Supervisor for the Santa Fe National Forest. Ms. Mollard has also reached out to the Coyote Ranger District and asked that they look at areas outside of the Indio Fire burn scar that may be available for fuelwood projects. She also shared that the public comment period on Taos Canyon Restoration Project is open.

Julia Nelson, an NMSU graduate student, gave a presentation in which she talked about her research regarding collaborative forest management, and wood banks created through the Wood for Life Program. The program is a collaborative initiative that collects wood for communities that use firewood for heating and cooking.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Land Office Update

Camilla Romero reported that the Villanueva fuelwood project is complete and wood is ready to be hauled out. Arturo Archuleta stated the Council would be able to help fund a portion of the project.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve the purchase of permits and removal of wood for the Villanueva Project with a potential expenditure of up to \$6,900; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Eric Chavez (Sen. Ben Ray Luján) explained what could come with passing the Big Beautiful Bill. Sen. Luján worked on the HCBS relief act which would help Americans that rely services such as Home Services. He also joined other democrats in demanding that President Trump remove military forces in LA. Public Lands proposal is straight from the Representatives' side of the reconciliation bill.

Ashley Beyer (Sen. Henrich) mentioned the public land sale language in the Big Beautiful Bill. While the land sales were supposed to be for affordable housing, she said the language does not explain what type of housing is required. She stated that the it does not protect lands with grazing rights. If this bill passes, the USFS and BLM is required to sell 2-3 million acres of land. Mr. Archuleta analyzed the bill and presented his findings to the Council.

Lisa Brown (DOJ) stated the Treaty Division analyzed the bill and had two major concerns with it. The first is that the bill did not mention valid existing rights, such as water rights. The bill also mentions the Secretary of the DOI “may” consider local governments upon the sales, not shall. Valid existing rights – does this apply to water rights (rights for land grants and acequias). Chairman Juan Sanchez asked the Congressional Delegation’s staff to please keep Council staff in mind when recommending changes to the bill. Mr. Chavez requested feedback from the Council in writing so the delegation can consider how to move forward.

State

Mr. Archuleta presented the Land Grant Committee hearing schedule. The next meeting will be in the Las Vegas on July 14-15. Other hearings are as follows.

July 14-15 – Taos / Hermits Peak

August 14-15 – Tierra Amarilla

Sept 8-9 – Manzano

October 7 – Santa Fe

It is a priority of the NMLGC to have legislation endorsed during this 2025 interim season.

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

Ms. Brown stated that the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant’s tax exempt status had a favorable decision, however, was been appealed. They are going to work with the land grant on moving forward.

Ms. Brown has also stated that they have received a deed from the Dept. of Game and Fish for the Laguna del Campo property. They are working with Legal Aid to review the deed.

Ms. Brown stated that the Treaty Division has also been working an appeal for the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant. She asked if the Council would like the Treaty Division to submit an amicus brief on behalf of the Council.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to allow the Treaty Division the option to submit an amicus brief for the Juan Bautista Baldes Land Grant; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to allow the Treaty Division to research and allow the Council to be involved in the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant's tax protest appeal; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

None.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2026 Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund Certifications and Approval Process

Council staff presented the seven certifications to be used in the FY 2026 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund distribution process (in packet). These are the same seven certification forms used last year and there is no need to adopt additional forms. NMDNJ suggested that the forms be passed via resolution. NMLGC staff can create a resolution template (sample resolution) for all seven certifications.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve all certifications forms, requesting that staff create a resolution template to send to land grants with the forms; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

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

Mr. Archuleta reported that in FY 2025, 100% of the legal service contract has been expended, \$1,800 remains in out of state travel, \$32,372 remains in staff salary and fringe, \$29,353.90 remains in the surveyor contract (though bills are pending). Some reversion in the Quickbooks support is likely to happen. The community and economic development contract never materialized, nor did the natural resource contract. The youth fly fishing camps were funded at \$5,000.00. Trial costs will help clear law clinic waiver budget. \$440,452.11 expended of \$541,099.98 contract to date.

FY 2026

No updates.

FY 2027

The budget request for FY 2027 was submitted to DFA a few weeks ago. The Council also wants to submit to the Legislative Finance Council its FY 2026 budget and FY 2027 request and request to present at an LFC hearing.

14. Discussion and Possible Action UNM FY 2025 Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve New Mexico Corrections Industries invoice 61345 for \$75.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve The Uncivilized Outdoorsman Invoice #1-NMLGC-2025 for \$2,500.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve CB4U invoice 7115 for \$161.44; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Mr. Archuleta presented Pay Request #8 for \$41,800.51, including \$28,055.65 in project personnel, \$1,715.70 in in state travel; \$2,526.72 in out of state travel, \$565.03 in quickbooks support \$1,970.66 in facility rental, and \$6,966.75 in F&A.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve Pay Request #8 for \$41,800.51 Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Rodríguez – aye

Councilor Padilla - aye

Councilor Polaco – aye

Chairman Sánchez – aye

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve the FY 2026 Intergovernmental Service Agreement with UNM; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Services 2025 & 2026 Contract Update & Requests

Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid Pay Request #5 for \$17,970 for 119.8 hours of work; Councilor Padilla seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Councilor Padilla made a motion to approve New Mexico Legal Aid as the legal services contractor, and to approve the FY 2026 legal service professional service contract and scope of work for \$60,000.00; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

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

Chris Chávez (Territorial Land Surveying) made a presentation regarding recent surveying work. Councilor Polaco made a motion to approve payment for Territorial Land Surveying LLC invoice 06202025 for \$6,784.43; Chair JS seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

17. Discussion and Possible Action Land Grant Merced Institute Update

The latest issue of *El Grito de las Mercedes* went out in early June. The LGMI also received word that famed land grant attorney and historian Malcolm Ebright passed away.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Land Grant Registry Update

None.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Correspondence

None.

20. Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Assignments

Mr. Archuleta reported that the Torreón Land Grant will need assistance conducting its next election as the current board is not functioning and there is distrust in the community with opposition to current leadership, making a path forward hard to find. Councilor Padilla made a motion that Council staff assist the Torreón Land Grant with their election and reorganization; Councilor Polaco seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

21. Public Comments – discussion only

Councilor Polaco reported that the Mercedes Unidas Center needs a new well. Councilor Martínez commented that they should go through CES to get a well drilling company. Councilor Rodríguez commented that HED held a comment period for changes to the Community Governance Attorney Commission, which passed the legislature in March. No comments were made and the commission (which she sits on) will meet on June 26, 2025 from 9 am-11am. Mr. Archuleta reported that he and Mr. Baca attended a DFA IPDD convening on June 9th of organizations that provide technical support for local public bodies.

22. Miscellaneous Announcements

Anissa Baca (NMLGC/LMI) reported that all ICIPs are finished and met the June 13th deadline. CPMS updates are due at the end of month. Mr. Archuleta commented that the DFA is transitioning to a new system that will replace the current ICIP and CPMS where land grants can complete draw down requests on capital outlay funding and other functions all on one site. The issue is that all entities have an access code with only two authenticated users per entity (land grant) and DFA will restrict people with access. This means that NMLGC staff will have a hard time assisting land grants if we don't have access to the land grant's user interface.

23. Date and Location for July Council Meeting

The July 2025 New Mexico Land Grant Council meeting will be held on July 11, 2025 in Albuquerque at UNM Continuing Education at 10:00 am.

23. Adjournment

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

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:26pm MDT.

Approved:

Chair

Date