

**MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

**November 18, 2024
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Land Grant Committee was called to order by Senator Leo Jaramillo, chair, on November 18, 2024 at 10:12 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Chair
Rep. Kristina Ortez, Vice Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon*
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Absent

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Rep. Cristina Parajón
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Sen. Linda M. López
Rep. Rod Montoya
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Harry Garcia
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives or the president pro tempore of the senate as a voting member for this meeting only.

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, LCS
Nicole Waguespack, Researcher, LCS

Minutes Approval

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, November 18

Welcome and Introductions (10:12 a.m.)

Senator Jaramillo welcomed everyone to the meeting, and members of the committee introduced themselves.

The Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF): A Potential Model for a Land Grant Infrastructure Fund (10:20 a.m.)

Mark Thompson, pueblo representative, TIF Board, and vice president, Property Management and Development, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, provided an overview of the TIF. He discussed the application process to receive funds and the structure of the TIF Board and Review Committee and highlighted the guidelines and sample application materials available on the Indian Affairs Department website. Representative Miguel P. García discussed how the TIF structure could provide a model for establishing a land grant infrastructure fund. Noting that currently available funding structures are not well suited for land grant infrastructure projects and that most land grants have no established revenue streams, Representative Miguel P. García advocated for the development of a land grant infrastructure fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=11/18/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Land Grant Council (LGC): Expansion of Land Grant Services (11:11 a.m.)

Arturo Archuleta, program manager, LGC/Land Grant Studies Program, University of New Mexico, presented a comprehensive overview of what the LGC currently does and the LGC's plans to expand services in the future. Mr. Archuleta reviewed the LGC's role in providing legal assistance, land survey services and research. The LGC would like to expand community and economic development support, develop youth programming focused on building knowledge and future leaders and expand research and land survey services. Mr. Archuleta conveyed a request for additional funding in 2025 to provide for two additional full-time employees. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=11/18/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (12:04 p.m.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without objection, the committee approved the minutes of the October 3-4, 2024 meeting.

Acequia Commission and New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA): 2025 Legislative Priorities (1:14 p.m.)

Mary Mascarenas, chair, Acequia Commission; Paula Garcia, executive director, NMAA; Robert Apodaca, technical consultant, Acequia Commission; and Judy Torres, vice chair, Acequia Commission, discussed the structure and duties of the NMAA and the Acequia Commission. Reviewing NMAA advocacy efforts, programs and services, the panelists discussed the collaboration between the Acequia Commission and the NMAA and emphasized the need for additional funds for the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund and the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund. Legislative priorities were presented, including a revision of the Community Governance Attorney Act and disaster recovery concerns. The panelists emphasized the need for expanded interagency collaboration in disaster recovery efforts for acequias. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=11/18/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI): Rural Fire Initiative (2:32 p.m.)

Melissa Robertson, chief, Property and Casualty Bureau, OSI, reviewed current drivers of home insurance cost increases and basic home preparedness and protection from wildfire. Ms. Robertson presented a summary of the New Mexico Property Insurance Program, highlighting its current limitations as a "last resort" insurance option. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=11/18/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Proposed Legislation (3:02 p.m.)

Mr. Edwards presented five bills for possible committee endorsement: a bill to amend Section 49-1-2 NMSA 1978 to include the Santa Cruz de la Canada Land Grant; a bill relating to the Community Governance Attorney Act; a bill to amend the New Mexico Subdivision Act to exclude division of designated land grants-mercedes; a bill to amend the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund; and a bill to create a land grant infrastructure trust fund. All five pieces of proposed legislation received a motion to support, and with no opposition, all five bills were endorsed by the committee. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=11/18/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (3:24 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.