

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

**October 3-4, 2024
Placitas Community Library
452 New Mexico Highway 165
Placitas**

The fourth meeting of the Land Grant Committee was called to order by Senator Leo Jaramillo, chair, on October 3, 2024 at 10:12 a.m. at the Placitas Community Library in Placitas.

Present

Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Chair
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Susan K. Herrera (10/3)
Rep. Stefani Lord (10/3)
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino (10/3)
Rep. Cristina Parajón

Absent

Rep. Kristina Ortez, Vice Chair
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Sen. David M. Gallegos (10/3)
Sen. Linda M. López (10/3)
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (10/3)

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Harry Garcia
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Rod Montoya
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, LCS
Andrea Martinez, Intern, LCS

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.

Thursday, October 3

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

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

Welcome to the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced (10:22 a.m.)

Kendra Lucero-Matteucci, president, Board of Trustees, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced, introduced Augustine Lucero, treasurer, Board of Trustees, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced, and Roxi Montoya, secretary, Board of Trustees, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced. Mr. Lucero described the establishment of San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced and what the land grant-merced looks like today. Ms. Lucero-Matteucci said that there are new challenges within the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced, such as understanding policy and opportunities for the land grant-merced and the preservation of the land grant-merced. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/3/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Community Governance Attorney Program (11:34 a.m.)

Adrian Oglesby, director, Utton Transboundary Resources Center, University of New Mexico (UNM), introduced Peter Kovnat, general counsel, Higher Education Department, and they stated that the New Mexico legislature created a program to help increase the number of participating attorneys in New Mexico who would help with legal guidance regarding acequias, land grant-mercedes and colonias. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/3/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (1:19 p.m.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without objection, the committee approved the minutes of the August 19-20, 2024 meeting.

Letter Approval (1:20 p.m.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without objection, the committee approved that a letter be drafted and sent to the Higher Education Department requesting that the department include in its budget for Fiscal Year 2026 \$224,000 to fully fund the Community

Governance Attorney Program at its authorized level of two law students and four program attorneys per year.

Acequia Program Status Update (1:20 p.m.)

Jonathan Martinez, chief, Acequia Program, Interstate Stream Commission, Office of the State Engineer, said that during the 2019 legislative session, Senate Bill 438 was passed and signed into law, creating the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund. During the 2023 legislative session, Senate Bill 176 was amended and passed to allow for funding for disaster response recovery and hazardous mitigation, removal of the requirement for any local cost share for the acequia and community ditches and the use of the funds to match the cost-share requirements of state and federal funding programs for acequias and community ditches. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/3/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Dona Ana Bend Colony Grant — History and Aspirations (2:34 p.m.)

Israel Chavez, president, Dona Ana Village Association, said that the Dona Ana Bend Colony Grant was established by the Mexican Government in 1839. He underscored the importance of allocating funds for research aimed at reinstating the Dona Ana Bend Colony Grant. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/3/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

General Update on Community Land Grants (3:09 p.m.)

Arturo Archuleta, program manager, Land Grant Council/Land Grant Studies Program, UNM, said that the Land Grant-Merced Institute is a recognized category III research center. The institute currently houses the Land Grant Council and the Land Grant Studies Program. Mr. Archuleta outlined the work of the council and the Land Grant Studies Program and made policy recommendations. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/3/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (4:27 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4

Tour of San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced (9:15 a.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-Merced.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.