

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

**August 19-20, 2024
New Mexico Highlands University
Student Union Ballroom
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

The third meeting of the Land Grant Committee was called to order by Senator Leo Jaramillo, chair, on August 19, 2024 at 10:14 a.m. at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas.

Present

Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon*
Rep. Miguel P. García
Sen. Linda M. López (8/19)*
Rep. Stefani Lord (8/19)
Sen. Antonio Maestas (8/19)
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (8/19)*

Absent

Rep. Kristina Ortez, Vice Chair
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Rep. Cristina Parajón
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Sen. David M. Gallegos

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.)

*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

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, August 19

Welcome and Introductions (10:14 a.m.)

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

Welcome and Status Report (10:22 a.m.)

Neil Woolf, Ed.D., president, NMHU, provided an overview of future plans for the university. Focused on being responsive to community needs, academics and community engagement, President Woolf highlighted the value of regional and state partnerships to develop the New Mexico workforce. With the establishment of new academic degree programs, including master of science in nursing-family nurse practitioner, doctor of education and doctor of social work; a zero-net carbon initiative by 2050; and partnerships with local county and city officials to develop more housing for NMHU students and faculty, NMHU plans to create a "culture of opportunity" for New Mexico students.

Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division (11:05 a.m.)

Enrique Romero, director, Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division, State Department of Justice (NMDOJ), and Billy Jimenez, deputy attorney general, NMDOJ, discussed the current status and tasks performed by the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division. Recognizing the need to build capacity, the division reported two recent hires, and the panelists discussed the division's efforts to develop training programs to provide assistance to the Acequia Commission and Land Grant Council to monitor old litigation and disputes and to maintain the division's efforts addressing public concerns. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=8/19/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

San Miguel del Bado Land Grant-Merced Status Update (1:17 p.m.)

Claresse Romero, president, San Miguel del Bado Land Grant-Merced, and Louis Gallegos, secretary, San Miguel del Bado Land Grant-Merced, provided a brief historic overview of the land grant-merced, noting the significance of the Comanche and Kiowa presence and the importance of the Santa Fe Trail. Future plans for the land grant-merced include historic preservation of a building that was part of the original settlement to serve as a history museum

suitable for hosting lectures and artists, efforts to hire an official genealogist, the erection of more signs and trail markers within the land grant-merced and the completion of a land survey for boundary disputes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=8/19/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Approval of Minutes (2:18 p.m.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without objection, the committee approved the minutes of the May 10, 2024 and July 25-26, 2024 meetings.

The Las Vegas Land Grant Status Update (2:19 p.m.)

Edward Sena, board member, The Las Vegas Land Grant, provided an update on the current initiatives of the land grant. Mr. Sena discussed King Stadium, the reestablishment of a 501(c)(3) foundation, Article 49 NMSA 1978 designation, mitigation of an old refuse site and invasive tree removal. The Norman L. King Memorial Stadium was established in 1935-36 and is a restoration project the land grant wants to pursue, as the stadium is currently overgrown and experiencing water damage. In addition, the land grant seeks to replace and renovate an old Disabled American Veterans building and its parking lot, ideally to be used as a crisis center for veterans and a location for land grant material storage and community meetings. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=8/19/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Los Vigiles Land Grant-Merced Status Update (3:05 p.m.)

Eddie Quintana, president, Los Vigiles Land Grant-Merced, and Joseph Padilla, secretary, Los Vigiles Land Grant-Merced, thanked the committee for previous legislative assistance. Mr. Quintana and Mr. Padilla discussed the land grant-merced's current efforts to thin forested lands, especially around access roads, and presented an outline of their 10-year plan for the land grant-merced. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=8/19/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced Status Update (3:36 p.m.)

Antonio "Tony" Benavidez, president, Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced; Margaret Lucero, treasurer, Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced; and Bobby Padilla, collector, Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced, provided a brief historical overview of the land grant-merced. Looking to the future, the panelists emphasized ongoing efforts to reenergize the land grant-merced board and inspire youth within the community to become familiar with the history and future of the land grant-merced. The presentation also addressed the need for continuing road construction and maintenance, tree clearing and the need for a professional land survey to be completed on one section of the land grant-merced.

Public Comment (4:09 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

Tour of King Stadium (The Las Vegas Land Grant) and Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced (9:22 a.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured King Stadium located in The Las Vegas Land Grant and the Lower Gallinas Land Grant-Merced.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.