

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

**August 22-23, 2023  
Peñasco Community Center  
14136 New Mexico Highway 75  
Peñasco**

The third meeting of the Land Grant Committee was called to order by Representative Kristina Ortiz, chair, on August 22, 2023 at 10:21 a.m at the Peñasco Community Center in Peñasco.

**Present**

Rep. Kristina Ortiz, Chair  
Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Vice Chair (8/22)  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera (8/22)  
Rep. Stefani Lord (8/22)  
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya  
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (8/22)

**Absent**

Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley  
Rep. Miguel P. García  
Sen. Antonio Maestas  
Rep. Matthew McQueen  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

**Advisory Members**

Sen. David M. Gallegos (8/22)  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez (8/22)  
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

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

**Staff**

Cecilia Martinez, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Mark Edwards, LCS  
Paul Estok, 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](http://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.

## **Tuesday, August 22**

### **Welcome and Introductions (10:21 a.m.)**

Representative Ortiz welcomed members of the committee and the public. Committee members introduced themselves.

### **Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced (10:35 a.m.)**

Alex Lopez, president, Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced, presented on the history of the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced and future priorities for the land grant. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LGC%20082223%20Item%201%20Las%20Trampas%20Updates.pdf>.

### **La Merced de Santa Barbara (11:13 a.m.)**

Bonifacio Vasquez, president, Santa Barbara Board of Trustees, La Merced de Santa Barbara, presented the history, as well as the contemporary status, of La Merced de Santa Barbara. Mr. Vasquez addressed current issues and programs of the land grant. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LGC%20082223%20Item%204%20Santa%20Barbara%20Presentation.pdf>.

### **Land Grant Council Update (1:09 p.m.)**

Arturo Archuleta, program manager, Land Grant Council/Land Grant Studies Program, University of New Mexico, discussed the proposed creation of a land grant-merced common land acquisition revolving fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=8/22/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

### **Watershed and Fire Prevention (2:33 p.m.)**

J.R. Logan, program manager, Taos County Forest and Watershed Health, provided an overview of the fire prevention status in northern New Mexico and an update on the forest mayordomo program in Taos County. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LGC%20082223%20Item%203%20Fire%20Prevention%20Programs.pdf>.

**Water Topics (3:29 p.m.)**

Paula Garcia, executive director, New Mexico Acequia Association, discussed watershed recovery and legal challenges of acequias.

**Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Merced (4:34 p.m.)**

Jose Mondragon, secretary, Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Merced, provided an update on the status and challenges facing the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Merced. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LGC%20082223%20Item%206%20Cristobal%20de%20la%20Serna%20Land%20Grant.pdf>.

**Public Comment (4:49 p.m.)**

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

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:04 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 23****Tour of the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced**

Members of the committee toured the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced.

**Tour of La Merced de Santa Barbara**

Members of the committee toured La Merced de Santa Barbara.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.