

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

**October 20-21, 2022
Chilili Land Grant-Merced Gymnasium Building
9868 NM-337
Chilili**

The fourth meeting of the Land Grant Committee for the 2022 interim was called to order by Senator Leo Jaramillo, chair, on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 10:21 a.m. at the Chilili Land Grant-Merced (LGM) gymnasium building.

Present

Sen. Leo Jaramillo, Chair
Rep. Susan K. Herrera, Vice Chair
Rep. Rachel A. Black (10/20)
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia
Rep. Christine Trujillo

Absent

Rep. Linda Garcia Benavides
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Harry Garcia
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Guest Legislator

Rep. Stefani Lord

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS
Anthony Montoya, Staff Attorney, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Minutes Approval

The committee did not review the minutes for this meeting, and they have not been officially approved by the committee.

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 20

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

Because a quorum was not present, Senator Jaramillo called the committee to order as a special subcommittee and asked members, staff and attendees to introduce themselves.

Chilili LGM Status Update (10:35 a.m.)

Juan Sanchez, president, Chilili LGM, welcomed the committee to Chilili and provided a history of the LGM. Mr. Sanchez discussed historical struggles that the land grant has overcome and recent successes of the community.

Town of Tajiique LGM (11:10 a.m.)

Augustine Montoya, member, Town of Tajiique LGM, provided a brief update on the LGM, including a drainage project to prevent and address flooding and a grant to acquire a riding lawnmower to maintain communal lands. Additionally, equipment was acquired through the Department of Transportation, and currently, the Tajiique LGM is working to upgrade the community kitchen facilities.

Town of Tome LGM (11:30 a.m.)

Upon a request from the committee to come forward from the audience, Andrea Padilla, president, Town of Tome LGM, discussed the history of the Town of Tome LGM and recent activities, including the purchase and refurbishment of the historic jail and adjacent casita. Ms. Padilla provided a gift and expression of gratitude to Representative Garcia on behalf of the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo.

La Merced del Manzano LGM (11:40 a.m.)

Jason Quintana, president, La Merced del Manzano LGM, provided an update on the LGM, including capital projects for the community building. Additionally, Mr. Quintana discussed recent plans to acquire financing for heavy equipment from the Department of Transportation. Mr. Quintana also discussed issues involving traditional resource use and firewood gathering and discussions between the LGM and local and federal agencies that manage those resources.

Mercedes Unidas Center (Formerly Known as the United States Forest Service Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center) Update (1:27 p.m.)

Leonard T. Martínez, president, San Joaquin del Rio de Chama LGM, discussed the land boundaries of the Chama LGM. Steve Polaco, president, LGM de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla, explained that the LGM de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla, the Chama LGM and the Juan Bautista Baldez LGM have joined together to purchase the Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center. Mr. Polaco explained that there have been recent issues, including vandalism, theft and needing renovations on the property. He explained the plans to address these needs. Mr. Martínez and Mr. Polaco discussed future plans for the property. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LGC%20102022%20Item%205%20Piedra%20Lumbre%20Visitor%20Center.pdf>.

Disaster Recovery and Acequias: An Overview of Challenges and Resource Needs (2:15 p.m.)

David F. García, Ph.D., coordinator, Acequia Education and Outreach, New Mexico Acequia Association, discussed post-fire remediation projects completed by acequias, including preventing post-fire flooding, correcting canals, repairing diversion points and headgates and addressing erosion and the flow of debris to farmlands. Dr. García explained that the New Mexico Acequia Association has assisted more than 50 acequias in seeking state aid and applying for federal assistance and that acequias are facing challenges in obtaining funding. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/20/2022&ItemNumber=8>.

Highlands Acequia and Land Grant Education Project Status Update (2:52 p.m.)

Adrian Sandoval, director, Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations, New Mexico Highlands University; Jacobo D. Baca, Ph.D., research historian, Land Grant Studies Program, University of New Mexico (UNM); and Dr. García provided the committee with the mission statement of the Acequia and Land Grant Education Project, including deepening knowledge of history, language and culture. Dr. Baca stated that experiential education is key to the program and opens up students to in-depth experiences with local communities and discussed the planning and background information that has gone into developing the program. Dr. García provided an overview of the importance of including and addressing community values in the proposed curriculum. Dr. Sandoval then guided the committee through an overview of proposed lesson plans and curriculum. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LGC&Date=10/20/2022&ItemNumber=7>.

Community Governance Attorney Program Status Update (3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Edwards provided the committee with a brief history of the passage of the Community Governance Attorney Act and the program created by that act, noting that this is the first year since passage that law students are taking part in the program. Elisabeth Gutierrez, student, Community Governance Attorney Program, UNM School of Law, and Victoria Lovato, student, Community Governance Attorney Program, UNM School of Law, spoke about their backgrounds and interest in participating in the program, including what they wished to accomplish for land grant and acequia communities.

Public Comment (3:55 p.m.)

Ms. Padilla discussed issues facing her community. One issue in particular is local communities and governmental entities not recognizing LGMs as political subdivisions. Senator Jaramillo suggested that a request be made to the Office of the Attorney General for a legal memo to be drafted explaining that LGMs are to be treated as political subdivisions.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:06 p.m.

Friday, October 21

Tour of Chilili LGM (9:00 a.m.)

Committee members toured numerous sites within the Chilili LGM, including the Rodeo Club, areas affected by the Dog Head Fire and areas responsible for supplying water to the LGM.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.