

Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant Regular Monthly Meeting

March 13, 2024

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting Information | Santa Cruz De La Can \(sclandgrant.wixsite.com\)](#)

Location: Del Norte Boys and Girls Club, #89 La Puebla Road, La Puebla, NM
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/W4r3qBi2Gr5FMjbT8>

Join Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81325431638?pwd=eGZGS2RmNDgyUIFrN0VMU2JGb0hIQT09>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Meeting to Order.
- II. Roll Call of Officers – Quorum.
- III. Approval of Agenda.
 - a. Proof of Public Notification.
- IV. Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes.
- V. Treasurer’s Report.
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - a. Heirship: Discussion on by-law.
 - b. By-law: Report on committee by-law editorial improvements - Draft review.
- VII. New Business
 - a. Corp of Engineers Projects near/on Santa Cruz Gant Land.
 - b. April Annual Meeting planning.
 - i. Date/Time: Sunday April 7, 2024 @ 1:00 – 3:00 P.M...
 - ii. Agenda Topics/Presentations/Reports.
 - iii. Food Menu.
 - iv. Location.
 - v. Public Notice: March 15 deadline for newspaper and bilingual public postings.
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Ohkay Owingue Pueblo Land Transfer discussion.
 - b. Propose committee in-person meetings schedules.
 - c. Tasks to report from February meeting:
 - 1. Action Item: Bernadette Gallegos to establish a bank account.
 - 2. Action Item: Christine to schedule meeting with Senator Leo Jaramillo, Representative Andrea Romero, Joseph Sánchez, and Representative Susan Herrera.
- IX. Public/Heir Comment [Limited to 3 Minutes].

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- X. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **April 10, 2024, at the Boys and Girls Club in La Puebla. 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**
- XI. Adjourn.

Minutes

- I. 6:19 Call to Meeting to Order.
 - a. Don bustos
- II. 6:20 Roll Call of Officers – Quorum.
 - a. Officers Present: Don Bustos, Christine Bustos, Brian Martínez, Joseluis Muñis, Bernadette Gallegos (absent-excused)
 - b. Zoom© Video Conferencing: Arturo Archuleta of the NMLGC, Dr. Jacobo Baca of the NMLGC. Trinity Archuleta, Louis Paul Trujillo, Felicia Archuleta, Richard Váldez, Miguel A. Tórrez.
 - c. Others in Person: Heirs - Alfonso Durán, Tim Martínez.
 - d. In person guest(s): Senator Leo Jaramillo, Chair of the Senate Land Grant Committee
- III. 6:22 Approval of Agenda.
 - a. Proof of public notice for the monthly meeting - Postings: Fairview and Santa Cruz Post Offices; Arboleda Community Center; Rio Arriba County Administrative Offices; Chavez Community Center; via email to those on the land grant email list; Facebook©; SCLG website.
 - b. Brian Martínez, Secretary, proposed that a motion be made to amend the agenda.
 - c. Motion to amend the agenda to include a presentation by the board of trustees to Senator Leo Jaramillo and Arturo Archuleta of the NM Land Grant Council regarding 2025 legislation in support of the land grant becoming a political sub-division of the state. Motion by Joseluis Muñis and a second by Christine Bustos. Motion passed without objection.
 - i. Senator Leo Jaramillo introductory comments. Senator Leo Jaramillo stated he will be the chairman of the Land Grant Committee. Wants the SCLG to speak in front of the interim-committee and make the case for political sub-division status.
 - ii. Tim Martínez stated that various government agencies are attempting to transfer historical lands of the grant.
 - d. The presentation will be under item VII, New Business.
- IV. 6:25 Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes.

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- a. Brian Martínez, indicated that the meeting minutes were sent out via email to the board members for review on March 2, 2024. In the interest of saving meeting time and if there are no objections, Brian proposed that the minutes need not be read aloud. No objections were raised, moved to a vote.
 - b. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Christine Bustos and seconded by Joseluis Muñis. Motion carried without objection.
- V. 6:30 Treasurer's Report. Nothing to report.
 - a. Brian Martínez mentioned that seed money ought to be available for start-up patented land grants. The anti-donation statute was amended a couple of years ago and he isn't sure if rules and procedures were established to implement the new standard. Consideration should be given to start-up land grants seeking political subdivision status who must still adhere to the NM Open Meetings Act, and that requires financial resources for advertising, administration, and the like. The existing process is counterproductive as Board members should not have to be donating out-of-pocket (or via Heir donations) for these statutorily required activities. He said he would like the current situation reviewed by the NMLGC for rule/statutory amendment.
- VI. 6:35 Committee Reports:
 - a. Heirship: Discussion on by-law.
 - b. By-law: Report on committee by-law editorial improvements - Draft review.
 - i. Christine Bustos said that the availability of templates was helpful in putting together the new by-laws; gave credit to Jacobo Baca. Sticking points on the heirship provision, Heirs that live within the grant and those do not have equal voting rights. The bylaw committee wants to know what a "qualified voting member" is.
 - ii. Joseluis Muñis stated that we are trying to keep outside influences out of the land grant. Everyone with Hispanic roots in New Mexico can trace their genealogies' back to Santa Cruz de la Cañada. He said that Heirs who live outside and inside the boundaries of the LG require tiered voting. Of the five-member board, at least three members must live on the grant and two others could live outside the grant so that we have inclusiveness. The majority should reflect those that live or own land within the historic boundaries.
 - iii. Tim Martínez agreed and said that it is important to have "skin in the game," folks that actually own land within the grant ought to have more clout.
 - iv. Alfonso Durán agreed as well but said it's important that heirs who live outside the grant be included on the board since we currently have board

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members who live within the state and are registered voters in Santa Fe or Rio Arriba counties but reside outside the existing grant boundaries. Since we already set the precedent in that regard, we need to adhere to it permanently.

- v. Don Bustos wants a working draft approved tonight, so here is what is being proposed in a motion:
 - 1. The heir must have land and live within the land grant to qualify for the board majority.
 - 2. The heir who lives in the vicinity of the land grant but does not reside inside the land grant must have a family genealogy confirmed and can thereafter qualify for a minority board position.
 - 3. The vecinos and non-voting general membership; If you don't live with the grant, you cannot be on the board. But can participate as a volunteer and can engage in land grant activities as approved by the board or prescribed in the bylaws.
- vi. Don Bustos again made a motion that the three tiers be adopted as presented and included within the appropriate bylaw. Joseluis Muñis seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

VII. 7:00 New Business

- a. New Mexico Land Grant Council Presentation.
 - i. Arturo Archuleta of the NMLGC stated that there are 27 current land grants, the more land grants the lower the financial distribution. \$45,000 was the operational funding for each land grant this year. There are also Capital outlay dollars available that land grants are eligible to receive within the fiscal year. The NM Finance authority can assist with low interest loans so land grants can reacquire lands. There are compliance requirements for each recognized land grant to be eligible for the funding. The SCLG requires an act of the legislature next year and in support of that, a presentation in front of the interim committee is necessary to move the process forward. Once we are a recognized political subdivision, the NMLGC can offer staff assistance to contract surveyors and legal services.
 - ii. Dr. Jacobo Baca mentioned that there are quarterly reports that are required to be submitted to the NMLGC. Capital outlay requires a defensible priority list to be generated and presented to ensure a successful outcome in obtaining this funding.

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- iii. Joseluis Muñis mentioned that the SCLG submitted a 2022-2023 fiscal year annual report to the NMLGC last year despite not being required to do so given our current non-recognized status. We did so to demonstrate our willingness to adhere to statutory requirements, and we plan on doing so again this year. The document is available for public inspection on our website.
- iv. Don Bustos thanked the NMLGC for their continued guidance.
- b. Corp of Engineers Projects near/on Santa Cruz Gant Land.
 - i. Al Durán spoke about the rechanneling of the Rio Grande River. Santa Clara Pueblo does not recognize the boundaries and the Corp of Engineers never asked the land grant for permission, nor did they consult with the NMLGC to conduct the remediation work within land grant boundaries. The area is on the Fairview bridge and it's important to notify the land grant of activities within the grant. The federal government ought to recognize both pueblo and land grant sovereignty; federal agencies habitually disregard the land grants as if not important in their outreach efforts. Very important Al says, to correct this perpetual oversight.
 - ii. Don mentioned to Arturo that we need the surveyor's help to identify the actual land grants' boundaries. Leo Jaramillo again reminded the group that the land grant needs to be legislatively recognized before any of that work can be planned and executed.
- c. April Annual Meeting planning. This coordination will take place over email after the meeting in the interest of saving time.
 - i. Date/Time: Sunday April 7, 2024 @ 1:00 – 3:00 P.M...
 - ii. Agenda Topics/Presentations/Reports.
 - iii. Food Menu.
 - iv. Location.
 - v. Public Notice: March 27 deadline for newspaper and bilingual public postings.
- VIII. 6:50 Old Business [moved up the agenda]
 - a. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Ohkay Owingue Pueblo Land Transfer discussion.
 - i. Brian Martínez stated that he drafted a letter that went out for editorial review and then a final was presented to the board for hard copy signature. The tenor of the letter was not to oppose or support the land transfer. It also acknowledges that there are 300 (or so acres) that are

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being encroached on the northwest corner of the historic boundary of the land grant. He felt it was important to remind the BLM that this land transfer is precedent setting and that the land grant will be expect similar cultural considerations should we decide to reacquire communal lands that are within our historic boundaries in the future.

- ii. Don Bustos mentioned the non-adversarial tenor of the letter which should set the tone for future interactions with the BLM.
- iii. Mr. Richard Váldez, who generated the mapping that demonstrated the land swap encroachment, stated that the letter was well written and agreed that it set the right tone.
- iv. Tim Martínez stated he and others want the transaction not to go through and he submitted a letter to the BLM in that regard. He felt it was important to make sure that our boundaries be respected.
- b. Propose committee in-person meetings schedules.
 - i. Christine Bustos stated that bylaws will be available for public inspection for 30 days as required by statute prior to adopting them. They will also be available for the April 7 Annual Meeting.
- c. Tasks to report from February meeting:
 - i. Action Item: Bernadette Gallegos to establish a bank account.
 - 1. Pending.
 - ii. Action Item: Christine to schedule meeting with Senator Leo Jaramillo, Representative Andrea Romero, Joseph Sánchez, and Representative Susan Herrera.
 - 1. Brian reached out to these elected officials by email and will continue to carbon copy them on meeting announcements.
 - 2. Discussion to move the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 from 6:15- 7:15, all agreed. New time noted on agenda item X.
- IX. 7:10 Public/Heir Comment [Limited to 3 Minutes].
 - a. Tim Martínez asked Senator Jaramillo what the process is for the getting on the docket for the LG committee. Hearings for the interim committee in the house begin in July-November, the standing committee on cultural affairs will be held in January. Senator Jaramillo said he will push to hear the bill in the senate first, so that he can get it through the Senate early. He hopes that the House can act on it afterwards as priority legislation.
- X. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **April 7, 2024, at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó from 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

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- XI. 7:20 Adjourn. Motion by Don Bustos and seconded by Christine Bustos. Motion passed without objection.

APPROVED