

# **Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant Monthly Meeting**

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**May 14, 2025**

## **MINUTES**

[Meeting Information | \(sclandgrant.wixsite.com\)](https://sclandgrant.wixsite.com)

**Location:** Del Norte Boys and Girls Club, 89 La Puebla Road, La Puebla, NM.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

**Join Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81325431638?pwd=eGZGS2RmNDgyUjFrN0VMU2JGb0hIQT09>

## **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call of Officers – Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Proof of Public Notification: Santa Cruz Post Office, Santa Cruz Irrigation District Offices, Fairview Post Office, Arboleda Community Building-Chimayó, Benny Chávez Community Center-Chimayó, Rio Arriba County Administration Building-Española, Facebook®, SCLG website, and via the group email list.
- V. Approval of March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes; April 6, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes; and April 16, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. **[NOTE: The March meeting minutes were not approved as no April Regular Meeting was conducted.]**
- VI. Old Business
  - a. Formal notification (a letter) of surrounding tribal, federal, state, and local political subdivisions of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision on July 1, 2025 (SB-47 passage).
- VII. New Business.
  - a. Review and approve the submitted Declarations of Candidacy Forms for the July election of officers.
  - b. Rio Arriba County Manager Meeting Discussion regarding Office Space at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó.
- VIII. Reports of Officers and Committees
- IX. Public Comments [Limited to 3 Minutes]
- X. Announcements:
  - a. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. at the Del Norte Boys and Girls Club in La Puebla**
- XI. Adjournment.

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## **MINUTES**

- I. 6:20 - Call to Meeting to Order
  - a. Don Bustos, President
- II. 6:20 - Roll Call of Officers – Quorum
  - a. Present: Don Bustos, Christine Bustos, Brian Martínez, Camila Trujillo, and Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz (excused absent)
  - b. Others: Miguel A. Tórrez (Zoom), Tim Martínez, Richard Váldez (Zoom), and Lawrence Castellano
- III. 6:21 - Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve Christine Bustos's agenda and Camilla Trujillo's second. Motion carried without opposition.
- IV. 6:21 - Proof of Public Notification: Santa Cruz Post Office, Santa Cruz Irrigation District Offices, Fairview Post Office, Arboleda Community Building-Chimayó, Benny Chávez Community Center-Chimayó, Rio Arriba County Administration Building-Española, Facebook®, SCLG website, and via the group email list.
- V. 6:18 - Approval of March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes; April 6, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes; and April 16, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.

[**NOTE:** The March meeting minutes were not approved as no April Regular Meeting was conducted.]

  - a. Brian Martínez presented the three meeting minutes for board approval; he made a motion not to be read to save time, seconded by Camilla Trujillo. Motion carried without opposition.
  - b. Christine Bustos moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 12th, April 6th, and April 16th, which Camila Trujillo seconded. The motion carried without opposition.
- VI. 6:10 - Old Business
  - a. Formal notification (a letter) of surrounding tribal, federal, state, and local political subdivisions of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant as a political subdivision on July 1, 2025 (SB-47 passage).

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- i. Brian Martínez discussed the letter he drafted. He distributed the information to the board on (date). He explained the importance of notifying our neighboring governing entities, specifically that they know the land grant's involvement in any policy discussion. Discussion followed about who should be sent the outreach letter.
  - ii. Brian mentioned the letter should be sent to the following government entities: City of Espanola, SF County, RA County, Jemez Coop, BLM, NM Gas, NM Department of Transportation, NM Environment Department, NM Land Commissioner, and NM State Office of the Engineer. Motion to approve the outreach letter and distribution of the letter to state agencies and companies by Camilla Trujillo and a second by Christine Bustos. The motion passed without opposition. Joseluis is directed to mail these letters before mid-June, before our official start date.
    - 1. Stephanie Richard wants an appointment with the land grant per Christine.
- vii. 6:15 - New Business.
  - a. Review and approve the submitted Declarations of Candidacy Forms for the July election of officers.
    - i. Forms submitted for board approval: Don Bustos, Brian Martínez, and Christine Bustos. Brian Martínez received and stamped each approved form with the land grant seal, and the forms were duly recorded—a motion to approve the three candidacy forms by Camila Trujillo, seconded by Christine Bustos.
    - ii. Any remaining Candidacy Forms will be approved at the June meeting.
  - b. Rio Arriba County Manager Meeting Discussion regarding Office Space at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó.
    - i. The meeting will be on May 21st at 10:00 a.m.; Don and Brian will attend. Miguel said this is a critical meeting, so sending

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Don, Brian, and himself would help make a persuasive argument for Arboleda's occupancy. We need to determine the current occupancy and whether the available space is acceptable. Brian mentioned that institutional memory is going to be important. Don said that inviting Elias Coriz would be advantageous.

- ii. The discussion involved the limited space currently available at the Arboleda Community Center.

### **VIII. 6:30 - Reports of Officers and Committees**

#### **a. President – Don Bustos**

- i. “Sandoval Seven” land grants - AG litigation pursuant to the 2004 GAO Federal Report.
- ii. Update on the BLM and Representative Miguel García on the land transfer of about 300 acres of historic land grant land to Ohkay Owingue Pueblo. He wants us to present in front of the Interim Land Grant regarding not ceding our ancestral lands to the BLM.
- iii. Dennis Duran, responsible for Santa Cruz Church's cemetery acquisition, wants to meet with us about easements to the property they wish to acquire. Brian said he would add him to the June meeting agenda.

#### **b. Vice-President – Christine Bustos**

- i. Christine will set up a meeting with Stephanie Richard or invite her to the June monthly meeting.
- ii. Christine said we need to decide on our capital outlay needs before July 12th, when the requests are due.

#### **c. Treasurer – Camila Trujillo**

- i. Camila indicated that she has been preparing our financial accounting with the NMLGC; sitting in on Zoom meetings, working with Greta (NMLGC accountant) and Anissa (NMLGC capital outlay person) on April 30<sup>th</sup> to secure our EIN (to open a bank account which must be opened by June 1<sup>st</sup>, signators

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must have a surety bond) and Gross Receipts account (or CRS account); as well as setting up an account for us with Manuel Luna's office at the Office of State Auditor.

- ii. She recommends using Del Norte Credit Union in Española, if they use commercial accounts. Don stated that he would go with Camila to establish the account. Per the bylaws, the Treasurer, Chair, and Vice-Chair will be the co-signers on the account. Brian mentioned that the Secretary is not a signatory on the account as a matter of separation of powers. According to the by-laws, the only three who can be, he said, are the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. The Secretary only documents the monthly Treasurer's Report in the minutes, stamps the approved annual audit with the seal, and includes a fiscal year expenditure report in the land grant Fiscal Year Annual Report.
- iii. The RG Sun ad was published on May 1st, and Don Bustos donated to pay for it.
- iv. She spoke with Janelle Sánchez about local management budget systems. She will have created our account and trained Camila on using the system.
- v. She distributed the FY-27 land grant budget handout describing our fiscal year budget. The group worked to complete the fiscal content.
  - 1. We will receive \$70,000 from the land grant fund for our budget, which will be deposited in October. We need to consider other revenue-generating methods, such as a membership application fee. Christine said the budget can be modified later.
  - 2. The group agreed in principle to request \$200,000 in capital outlay.

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3. Christine mentioned that we need to acquire board insurance with the state of NM; Brian said he would inquire with Jacobo Baca about whom to contact.
4. The board worked collectively on completing the budget estimation worksheet.
- vi. Discussion about the board eventually hiring a Financial Manager or administrator to assist the elected Treasurer with quarterly reports to the OSA, and work with staff at the Land Grant Council, pay bills, etc. Discussion on an accountant being hired when our revenues are higher to assist with audits and reporting. Miguel said our revenue is too low to consider hiring anyone right now. Brian mentioned that the NMLGC staff is tasked with assisting us with these financial matters.
- d. Secretary – Brian Martínez
  - i. Brian distributed a 2025-2026 Activity Timeline for the duration of the calendar year that Jacobo Baca from the NMLGC and his staff drafted. It contains fiscal and administrative tasks that must be completed. This is for informational purposes and will be included in the annual report.
  - ii. Brian stated he is working on the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Annual Report. He has been compiling information for the current fiscal year for the document. He said he would send out a draft at the June meeting and that it is vital for the board to review it for missing information.
    1. He will need a financial statement from the Treasurer indicating what accounts were established and how the NMLGC assisted. He said a timetable of the completed activities and what activities remain will be easier to digest.
    2. Also, he will need the proposed heirship application plan that the newly elected board will consider.

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- e. Heirship Committee – Miguel A. Tórréz
  - i. Miguel reminded us that we were supposed to have a finance committee, so we should establish one in the long term.
  - ii. He has reviewed two new applications. He said we have about 150 heirs on a list; he will work with his student to contact everyone to determine interest.
  - iii. He drafted a document entitled “Pros and Cons of Being an SCLG Heir” to distribute to heirs and potential heirs. We receive many inquiries about “What do I gain for being a member?” It is an educational document that we can use for recruitment purposes.
- IX. 7:00 - Public Comments [Limited to 3 Minutes]
  - a. Tim Martínez —The Arboleda was built with two capital outlay distributions. He makes an argument for office space and recommends opening an account with a credit union.
  - b. Richard Váldez – BLM land transfer status on BLM website.
  - c. Lawrence Castellano – Suggested the SCID Notification of political subdivision passage.
- x. 7:05 - Announcements:
  - a. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. at the Del Norte Boys and Girls Club in La Puebla**
- XI. 7:10 - Adjournment.
  - a. Motion to adjourn by Brian Martínez and a second by Christine Bustos. Motion carried without opposition.