

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

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**June 11, 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 Minutes from the May 14, 2025, Regular Meeting.
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business.
  - a. Update on the Rio Arriba County Manager meeting about office space at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó.
  - b. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP) Resolution (Due June 13, 2025, to DFA).
  - c. Review and approve submitted Declarations of Candidacy Forms (close is June 28th at 5:00 P.M.) for the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, election of officers of the board of trustees.
  - d. Discussion on resolution to adopt the “Registration Book” as the voter roster for the Election (see bylaw excerpt below) to be adopted at the July 9<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.
    - *Section 5. Closing of Registration & Preparation of Registration Books & Voting Roster: “c. After the close of the registration and at least five (5) days before the date set for an election, the Board of Trustees shall meet to finalize and prepare the “Registration Book” to be used on the day of the election.”*
  - e. Informational letter given to voters about upcoming changes to heirship requirements, which will impact a current voter’s status in the next 2-year election cycle.
  - f. Introduction of Election Judge and clerks.
- VIII. Reports of Officers and Committees
- IX. Public Comments [Limited to 3 Minutes]
- X. Announcements:
  - a. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **July 9<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. 6:04 - Call to Meeting to Order
- II. 6:04 - Roll Call of Officers – Quorum
  - a. Present: Don Bustos, Christine Bustos, Brian Martínez, Camila Trujillo, and Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz (Zoom).
  - b. Others: Miguel A. Tórrez (Zoom-excused absent), Richard Váldez (Zoom-absent), Tim Martínez, Carla Martínez, Wilfred Martínez, Jr., and Dennis Durán.
- III. 6:05 - Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve the agenda by Christine Bustos and a second by Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz. Motion carried without objection.
- IV. 6:05 - 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. 6:06 - Approval of Minutes from the May 14, 2025, Regular Meeting.
  - a. Brian Martínez asked that the board approve the meeting minutes without them being read to save time given the lengthy agenda.
  - b. Motion to approve the May 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes by Camila Trujillo and a second by Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz. Motion carried without opposition.
- VI. Old Business
  - a. None
- VII. 6:09 - New Business.
  - a. Update on the Rio Arriba County Manager meeting about office space at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó.
    - Brian Martínez mentioned that he, Don, and Miguel met with Mr. Jeremy Maestas, the Rio Arriba County (RAC) Manager, about office space at the Arboleda. Brian said we provided a history of the land grant, and we discussed the patented lands. We also discussed a political subdivision of New Mexico, which is set to begin on July 1st, and Brian provided him with a hard copy of the signed legislation.
    - He also provided him with the Facility Plan that Richard Váldez designed as an alternative to the Arboleda Community Center usage. We informed him that we plan to act as a partner with RAC to improve the lives of our residents, also explaining that we recognize we may have minor disagreements over serious matters. We explained that we needed a “home” within the land grant to conduct official business,

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which is why we want to use the Arboleda. He agreed that the land grant appropriated funds for that purpose, but that no agreement had been reached with the previous board.

- Mr. Maestas offered without hesitation to allow us to use the facility for meetings permanently, every second Wednesday of the month, for public meetings and other gatherings. He will prepare the Memorandum of Understanding agreement and email it to Don, which he has done, and we will approve this evening. Christine read the agreement that was presented to Don for signature to the attendees. The board will act at this meeting to agree to the lease as presented.
  - Joseluis said that the agreement is acceptable as a lease, but not a long-term partnership/collaborative contract, given our financial contributions. He does not appreciate the inferior party arrangement with RAC. Don explained that Jeremy understands this situation and is willing to provide alternatives. Christine said it might be time for the LG to accept that it has no ownership rights to the facility, despite the legislative intent behind the capital outlay provided. We need to pursue alternatives.
  - A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with RAC as presented was made by Camilla Trujillo and seconded by Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz. The motion passed without opposition. Don was going to sign it and provide a copy to Brian.
- b. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP) Resolution (Due June 13, 2025, to DFA).
- Don Bustos read aloud the resolution, and Christine Bustos offered a motion to approve, seconded by Camila Trujillo. Motion carried without opposition. Discussion followed. Brian will affix the land grant seal and email it to the board.
- c. Review and approve submitted Declarations of Candidacy Forms (close is June 28th at 5:00 P.M.) for the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, election of officers of the board of trustees.
- Brian Martínez read aloud the form(s) received from Camila Trujillo and offered a motion to adopt, seconded by Christine Bustos. Motion carried without opposition.
- d. Discussion on resolution to adopt the “Registration Book” as the voter roster for the Election (see bylaw excerpt below) to be adopted at the July 9<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

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- Brian Martínez read aloud the bylaw and reminded the board that, at the July meeting, a resolution would need to be adopted to close the registration book and accept it as the official voter list. He will have the resolution prepared for the meeting.
  1. *Section 5. Closing of Registration & Preparation of Registration Books & Voting Roster: "c. After the close of the registration and at least five (5) days before the date set for an election, the Board of Trustees shall meet to finalize and prepare the "Registration Book" to be used on the day of the election."*

- e. Informational letter given to voters about upcoming changes to heirship requirements, which will impact a current voter's status in the next 2-year election cycle.

- Miguel A. Tórrez drafted a letter that will be handed to the voters at the election, informing them that they must adhere to the heirship requirements that the new board will adopt. They will impact their voter eligibility in the two-year cycle; we do not want them saying they were unaware. He read the letter aloud. Brian Martinez said the letter must be approved at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- f. Introduction of Election Judge and Clerks.

- Christine introduced the board-approved election officer, Carla Martinez, Judge. Brian mentioned that the others are Amanda Martinez, Clerk; Matthew Martinez, Clerk; and Rubel Martinez, Clerk.
- A discussion followed about the election procedure orientation they will receive. Carla will coordinate with Brian on July 18<sup>th</sup> for an orientation.

### VIII. 6:40 - Reports of Officers and Committees

- a. Chair – Don Bustos –

- Don spoke about Representative Miguel Garcia's (D-Albuquerque) letter, which he submitted this month to the U.S. Attorney, regarding the potential review of the "Sandoval 7" land grant litigants.  
<https://sourcenm.com/briefs/lawmaker-asks-u-s-attorney-to-intervene-in-new-mexico-common-lands-case/>.
- Discussion followed about preparing a land management plan that includes the historic boundaries. Richard Váldez may be willing to prepare such a document, as he has the expertise. He could also coordinate with our graduate student as part of his project. Don said

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that the NM-DOJ expects the land grant to perform some of the research and prepare the documents.

b. Vice-Chair – Christine Bustos –

- Christine suggested that we transfer the \$10,000 facility money to professional services, as they can be exorbitant. The city is hosting a meeting with the DOT regarding the Oñate bridge on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at the Mission in Española Plaza.
- Christine has been doing land research using the RAC database, and she noted that OOP is listed as the owner of tracts in El Llano. Don said it has to do with the one square league of pueblo sovereignty.

c. Treasurer – Camilla Trujillo –

- Our initial budget was submitted on May 29<sup>th</sup>; the official budget must be submitted by July 31, 2025. The Board of Insurance and Surety Bonding will be a separate line item. Greta will assist with those processes.
- We have set aside \$10,000 for facility upgrades at Arboleda. Camila said we need to rethink that for the final budget. We are under no obligation to spend the money in the facility without ownership. We also got a password for the budget system to submit the budget and quarterly reports.
- Don and Camila set up a business/association account. Don donated \$600.00 to establish it. QuickBooks has the capabilities to complete reports.
- Anissa Baca was granted access by Brian Martínez (form) to the capital outlay account so that she can adjust as necessary. We need to use the ICIP project database to document our capital improvement plan. We may be able to utilize up to \$1,000,000 in ICIP to purchase land and build a facility, among other projects, according to Camila Trujillo.
- Greta Archuleta indicated that we might receive more than \$70,000 from the Merced land grant fund. Joseluis said that navigating finances is critical because it helps avoid audit issues. He offered thanks for the personal effort Camilla has put into training and becoming aware.

d. Secretary – Brian Martínez

- Brian stated that he signed a form authorizing Anissa Baca of the NMLGC to access our Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP) database account to complete the quarterly CPMS updates for our forthcoming

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capital outlay projects (reference her email request to the board on May 29<sup>th</sup>).

- He also mentioned that on June 4<sup>th</sup>, he, Don, and Camila attended the DOJ meeting regarding the “Sandoval 7 land grants” discussions, which inadvertently created a quorum of officers. He emphasized that no policy discussions were entertained and wanted to mention the inadvertent quorum for the record.
- He indicated that he had sent a draft of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Annual Report (which is required annually by statute) and needs editorial improvements and/or additional documents by the end of the month to incorporate into the final draft. It will be presented at the July 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting for board approval.
- Lastly, he wants to meet with Joseluis, Miguel, and the election officers to orient them on meeting the requirements on July 18<sup>th</sup>. We need to coordinate a time with Carla Martínez, Election Judge.

e. Corresponding Secretary – Joseluis Ortiz y Muniz –

- Joseluis needs the declaration of candidacy forms to be on the official ballot. He mentioned that the three candidates living outside the land grant will be running against one another, as per the bylaws, which require three members to own land within the patented land. The election ballot will reflect this tiered candidate requirement.

f. Heirship Committee – Miguel A. Tórrez (excused absent).

- Discussion about the candidates paying the heirship application fee will take place when the board approves the process through an amendment to the bylaws. Joseluis says that everyone needs to pay their \$50 for the sake of uniformity.
- Brian said it also demonstrates that we vetted the candidates as outlined in the heirship section of the bylaws. The bylaws will need to be amended by the new board to include the approved heirship application process developed by the heirship committee.
- Brian urged the board to respond to Miguel’s request for editorial review of the two documents he emailed last week. One of the documents is the “Pros and Cons of Becoming a Santa Cruz Land Grant Heir”; the document will serve as an outreach and educational tool. Brian said Miguel did a superb job of capturing the essence of being an heir, but the document still needs some technical language clarity and formatting for improved presentation. The other document is a letter

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to the heirs regarding changes to voting eligibility for the 2027 election, resulting from the forthcoming procedures for updating the heirship requirements. This letter will be adopted at the meeting on July 9, 2025, and will inform current voters that they may not be eligible to vote in 2025 without an heirship application being approved.

IX. 6:56 - Public Comments [Limited to 3 Minutes]

- a. Dennis Durán of the Santa Cruz Cemetery Committee spoke about the cemetery's planned expansion. He mentioned that on a parcel of land in El Llano (that they wish to purchase), within Santa Fe County, the survey was incorrect. They resurveyed it to correct the issue, and the surveyor identified a parcel of land belonging to the SCLG that requires easement resolution. He stated that the cemetery expansion requires the matter to be resolved soon. He showed the board a map of the area that is in question. He proposes that the board give the land to the cemetery. The board explained that we need to research (the land paperwork, get it surveyed, and deeded) and determine the statutory requirements for land grants to get this work completed. Don said that it will likely be a 99-year lease, rather than a land transfer. We, the land grant, are not yet a political subdivision, Christine explained, until July 1, 2025. Don said that if the board can assist with the cemetery easement, we will. The board took no action. Joseluis stated that giving away common land may not be beneficial, but he agreed with Don on granting a long-term recurring lease. The board's consensus is that it supports the initiative. This topic is to be reviewed by the Land Planning Committee (to be established after the board of trustees election) in consultation with staff at the NMLGC.

X. 7:14- Announcements:

- a. Next Board Meeting Date/Location: **July 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. at the Arboleda Community Center in Chimayó, New Mexico.**
- b. This meeting will last two hours, rather than the usual one hour, as the agenda includes many action items.

XI. 7:16 - Adjournment.

- a. Motion to adjourn by Brian Martínez and seconded by Christine Bustos. Motion carried without opposition.