

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

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**April 6, 2025**

## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

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

**Location:** Arboleda Senior Center, Chimayó, NM.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Google Map Directions Link:**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2qXCax9BtDd5xtsa9>

**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: Rio Grande Sun Newspaper Legal Section, 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, and via the group email list.
- V. Review of April 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – Brian Martínez, Secretary
- VI. Regular Business
  - a. Recognition of Public Officials in attendance – Don Bustos, Chairman
  - b. Political Subdivision SB-47 update – Don Bustos, Chairman
  - c. Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant presentation - Miguel A. Tórrez, Heirship Committee Chair
  - d. Review of adopted by-laws by Christine Bustos, Vice-Chair
  - e. Mapping of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant - Richard Váldez, Heir
  - f. Upcoming Board of Trustees Election of Officers - Don Bustos, Chairman
- VII. Reports of Officers and Committees
  - a. Treasurer – Camila Trujillo
  - b. Heirship Committee – Miguel A. Tórrez
- VIII. Public Comments [Limited to 2 Minutes]
- IX. Announcements
  - a. Next Regular Board Meeting Date/Location: **May 14, 2025, at Del Norte Boys and Girls Club, La Puebla, New Mexico, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**
- X. Adjournment.

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## **MINUTES**

- I. 2:10 - Call to Meeting to Order
  - a. Don Bustos, Chair
- II. 2:10 - Roll Call of Officers – Quorum
  - a. Present: Don Bustos, Chair, Christine Bustos, Vice Chair; Brian Martínez, Secretary; Camila Trujillo, Treasurer; Joseluis Ortíz y Muniz, Recording Secretary; Miguel A. Tórrez, Heirship Committee Chair
  - b. Others: See sign-in sheet
  - c. Zoom:
- III. 2:12 - Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve agenda by Christine Bustos and a second by Camila Trujillo; motion carried without opposition.
- IV. 2:12 - Proof of Public Notification: Rio Grande Sun Newspaper Legal Section, 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 and via the group email list.
- V. 2:13 - Review of April 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – Brian Martínez, Secretary
  - a. Brian Martinez read the 2024 annual meeting minutes.
- VI. 2:17 - Regular Business
  - a. Recognition of Public Officials in attendance – Don Bustos, Chairman
  - b. Political Subdivision SB-47 update – Don Bustos, Chairman
    - i. Don gave an update on the passage of SB-47: Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant.
    - a. Discussed the presentation we made at the legislative interim land grant committee. Senator Jaramillo committed to introducing a bill for the land grant. Representative Susan Herrera sponsored it on the house side. Arturo Archuleta from the NMLGC championed our cause as an expert. Don and Brian were expert witnesses. Representative Garcia introduced our bill to the House for a vote. He did an eloquent job on the house floor, and Cynthia Borrego gave it an “it's about time!” response.
    - b. The bill passed both houses without opposition and is awaiting Governor Luján Grisham’s signature before becoming law. Santa Cruz would become the 28th land grant with political sub-division recognition within New Mexico if signed. This would allow us to become eligible for capital outlay appropriations and mandatory distributions from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund (§49-11-6, NMSA 1978). Brian had representatives and other stakeholders send letters to the governor to sign the bill.

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- c. Christine spoke about what it means to be a political sub-division and what beneficial community works can be accomplished. Don reiterated that we would have planning meetings to decide at the community level what needs we have. Camila said it was exciting to watch the legislative process at work and interface with other land grants. Brian also mentioned that it was a fantastic experience. Still, it was alarming to find just how many legislators do not empathize with the needs of acequias and land grants, as many do not have any in their districts.
  - d. In 2023, HB 268 amended the Land Grant General Provisions, §49-1-2, NMSA 1978, to specifically name all land Mercedes that have been operating as political subdivisions of the State. There were 27 recognized political subdivision land grants in New Mexico then. Santa Cruz was left out of the legislation because we missed our election cycles in the last decade.
- c. Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant presentation - Miguel A. Tórrez, Heirship Committee Chair
  - i. Miguel provided a PowerPoint presentation about the history of the land grant and administrative compliance that the board gave in front of the Interim-Land Grant Council last year. Genealogies that link to the 1695, 1707, and 1750 censuses make an heir eligible for an heirship application, he said. The application will be reviewed by the committee and approved by the board of trustees. Once approved, the heir will be added to the membership list managed by the Secretary.
- d. Review of adopted by-laws by Christine Bustos, Vice-Chair
  - i. Christine Bustos provided an overview of the adopted bylaws and answered questions from the attendees.
- e. Mapping of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant - Richard Váldez, Heir
  - i. Zoom conferencing was impossible for the meeting due to internet connectivity. Richard Váldez, a land grant heir from southern California with professional expertise in mapping, would have provided a PowerPoint presentation about the known land grant boundaries, and a discussion would have followed about lands that Rio Arriba County indicates are owned by the Land Grant. Brian and Miguel discussed the various historic boundary maps with the patented boundary map. Brian mentioned that the common lands were stripped away, and only private land holdings were patented. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) currently manages what used to be our historic boundary lands.
  - ii. Brian stated that the Rio Arriba County Assessor has indicated that the land grant owns tracts of land in the El Llano area, though no deeds

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recorded indicate where they are physically located. Once we become a political subdivision, we can obtain assistance from the NMLGC, which has contracted surveyors who can resurvey the land grant.

- f. Upcoming Board of Trustees Election of Officers - Don Bustos, Chairman
  - i. Don stated that due to the legislative session and our bill being introduced, the board decided to postpone the election of officers until July. Per our bylaws, our election cycle was supposed to be every two years, starting in the first week of April. We received permission from the NMLGC to delay our elections until July as we are awaiting the outcome of SB-47. Don discussed the process for declaring candidacy and the date and location of the election.

### **VII. 3:30 - Reports of Officers and Committees**

#### **a. Treasurer – Camila Trujillo –**

- i. Camila stated that we had approximately \$216 in our fund. In December, she paid the annual rental fee for the post office box with donations from Tim Martinez. In the new year, she spent money on office supplies and a legal ad in the Rio Grande Sun Newspaper. \$68.00 balance in donations to finance operations is all that remains. She discussed her efforts to set up our financial administration with Greta's assistance at the NMLGC. She will set up an EIN with Greta Archuleta, and she will soon establish a bank account to receive our annual allotment of funds from the Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund (LGMAF) administered by the NMLGC (should the Governor sign the SB-47 bill) and capital outlay distributions. And Heirship applications. QuickBooks to keep up with the land grant's accounting needs.
- ii. Don discussed financial auditing requirements and their importance.

#### **a. Secretary – Brian Martinez –**

- i. Brian Martínez read a statement about the inadvertent quorum of officers as a result of attendance at the 2025 Legislature:

*“In the interest of public transparency and adherence to the NM Open Meetings Act and to our bylaws, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, February 12<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and March 17<sup>th</sup> officers Don Bustos, Brian Martínez and Camila Trujillo car-pooled to attend the NM Legislature in support of SB-21: Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund Changes, SB-24: Community Governance Attorney Program, SB-47: Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant, HB-330 (HB-374): Land Grant Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act, creating in*

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*inadvertent quorum of land grant officers. For the record, these officers acknowledge that no official public policy was discussed during the outing. Therefore, no minutes were necessary.”*

- ii. Brian Martínez reported that we have met all the 2024-2025 fiscal year milestones we established in our 2024-2025 organizing plan. The exception is that the April Election was moved to July due to the legislative sessions.
- iii. He also discussed the letters of support to the Governor for SB-47 received from the NM Acequia Association, Representative Cynthia Borrego, and the NM Land Grant Council. He indicated that he emailed Representatives Joseph Sánchez, Andrea Romero and Senator Bobby Gonzáles. He also emailed Commissioners Justin Greene (Santa Fe) and Brandon Bustos (Rio Arriba). Although he had not heard back from them before the meeting today, he was optimistic that Governor Luján Grisham would sign the bill as it went unopposed in the legislature and that she signed similar legislation for two land grants in San Miguel County two years ago.

b. Heirship Committee – Miguel A. Tórrez –

- i. Review the membership roster, part of the last organized board, and update it to show new applicants. There are 149 total members thus far. Eighty-five percent of the list is from the old list. The list is on a spreadsheet that delineates other data collection. A 50-dollar application fee is charged and is not refundable should an application not be successfully validated or rescinded. Miguel has a comprehensive genealogical database of ancestors, making the validation effort seamless. Miguel then reviewed a flowchart demonstrating the application process.

VIII. 3:30 - Public Comments [Limited to 2 Minutes]

- a. Elias Coriz stated he was a county commissioner when the Arboleda was constructed. He noted that the land grant did not have office space because we were not a recognized political subdivision of the state. Now that this is about to change, he said he would champion our obtaining the office space with Rio Arriba County. Miguel Tórrez mentioned that the previous board had received two capital outlay disbursements totaling \$150,000, which went to constructing the Arboleda Community Center. So, the office space should have been guaranteed, given that the funds were spent. Brian mentioned that Jacobo Baca of the NMLGC sent the board an email confirming that the capital outlay was

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spent at the Arboleda. Discussion followed about setting up a meeting with Rio Arriba County officials; Brian said he is waiting on the outcome of SB-47 before he initiates contact.

IX. 3:58 - Announcements

- a. Next Regular Board Meeting Date/Location: **May 14, 2025, at Del Norte Boys and Girls Club, La Puebla, New Mexico, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

X. 4:00 - Adjournment.

- a. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Brian Martínez, seconded by Christine Bustos, carried without opposition.

APPROVED