

Lower Gallinas Land Grant (LGLG)

Meeting Information:

Date: 3/9/24 – Time: 12:00pm – Location: Las Vegas Police Station Training Room
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 12:01pm by Mr. Jonathan Jordan, LGLG President.

II. Invocation.

Invocation given by Mr. Tony Benavidez, LGLG member.

III. Roll call of officers.

Jonathan Jordan, LGLG President - Present

Avedona Lucero, LGLG Vice President - Present

Margaret Lucero, LGLG Treasurer - Present

Robert (Bobby) Padilla, LGLG Collector - Present

Phillip Benavidez, LGLG Parliamentarian - Present

a. Announce resignation of Andrew Ortega

Mr. President, Jonathan Jordan informed the membership that Mr. Andrew Ortega formally resigned his position as LGLG Secretary. Mr. Jordan informed that Mr. Ortega resigned as Secretary board member, not as a member; and iterated that Mr. Ortega is still an LGLG member. Mr. Jordan continued to inform that as a result of Mr. Ortega's resignation the LGLG board would have to fill the position from the current LGLG board members in office and the next order of business would serve to meet that task.

IV. Discussion and Action

a. Re-assign board member to fill secretary position until next election

Mr. President, Jonathan Jordan explained that New Mexico state statute rules that land grants must have, at minimum, three board members; titles required are: President, Treasurer, and Secretary. By statute a land grant can have up to five board members, but not less than three. In the event of a resignation the remaining board members are charged with appointing a replacement for the board position. The replacement is appointed to serve for the remainder of the resigned position's term. Mr. Jordan further explained that there are many changes with regard to how the LGLG must conduct business as a political subdivision, how we handle elections and replacements is one of those changes. Mr. Jordan informed that the NM Land Grant Council (NMGLC) is a wonderful source of direction and help for land grants that are learning the new laws that govern land grants and how to proceed to be in compliance. He went on to inform the membership that the current LGLG board is in regular correspondence with the NMLGC when needs arise for direction and how to properly conduct LGLG business. One such example is that Madam Vice President, Avedona Lucero arranged for a training session with the NMLGC in February to gain information on how to proceed with filling the vacant Secretary position, as well as how to proceed with upcoming elections. More on how to proceed with elections will be discussed under that agenda item later.

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After explanation was shared with regard to how the Secretary position would be filled Mr. Jordan opened up the floor to current LGLG board members to nominate or volunteer to assume the duties of the Secretary.

Motion to assume the duties of secretary until the next election made by Ms. Avedona Lucero, Vice President

Second by Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

Mr. Jordan explained that the position of Vice President vacated by Ms. Lucero in order to fill the Secretarial position until the next election did not need to be filled because the LGLG has the maximum of five Officer positions and fulfilled the statutes requirement to have a President, Treasurer and Secretary at this time.

V. Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Jordan went over the proposed agenda and entertained a motion from the board to approve the Agenda for the meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda as proposed made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Mr. Robert Padilla, Collector.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

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Comments:

Mr. Tony Benavidez made an informational comment that we are now seeking guidance by the New Mexico Land Grant Council. With that a lot has changed with regard to how the LGLG conducts business, and with anything new it is difficult to get started but it will get better. We are now in this “new thing” and we need to move forward. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are tough offices that require a lot of work. We, the LGLG, has someone that can get us going solid and he hopes that we can all work together to get along and move our organization forward.

Mr. Mark Benavidez commented that he appreciates all the work that the board is doing to get us going in this new direction.

VI. Approval of Minutes.

Mr. Jonathan Jordan, President informed that the minutes from the last meeting in October that were to be approved at this meeting were not made ready within ten days in accordance with the statute. It is primarily the Secretaries responsibility to provide drafted minutes within ten days of a meeting. The LGLG board attempted to seek council from the NMLGC on how to proceed in this regard. Mr. Jordan moved to entertain a motion to either proceed with the approval of the October 2023 meeting minutes or table approval of the minutes until the next membership meeting.

Motion to table approval of the October 2023 minutes until the next LGLG meeting was made by Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary.

Second by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Abstained

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

VII. Introduce Spouses.

Mr. Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian introduced his wife, Bridgette Benavidez

Mr. Tony Benavidez, member introduced his wife, Cathy Benavidez

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VIII. Treasurer's Report. *See Attachment A***

Mr. Jonathan Jordan, President informed that moving forward the Treasurer's report would be informational only. The only time there would be action is if the need arose for the Treasurer to request increase/changes in funds. That requires a Budget Adjustment Request (BAR). Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer informed that the LGLG is required to make quarterly reports to the state. The first and second quarterly reports have been submitted and approved.

Madame Treasurer informed that the LGLG does pay property taxes; \$136.82 in property taxes was paid on 11/28/24. Madame Treasurer proceeded to report the following information:

\$3,081.08 ending balance as of 12/31/23 in checking.

\$3,386.31 ending balance as of 1/31/24 in checking.

\$515 deposited in January 2024.

\$97,000 was received from the state and deposited in checking.

\$101,731.31 balance in the checking account as of the date of this meeting

\$15,662.05 balance in Savings at end of January.

a. Discuss and act regarding a Budget Adjustment Request (BAR)

1. Increase supplies to \$1,000.00

Motion to increase the supply budget line item to \$1,000 made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Mr. Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

2. Increase supplies (general) to \$600.00

There was discussion as to the difference between “general supplies” and “supplies” line item. Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary informed that the state procurement code separates larger equipment/supplies purchases, for example computer purchases.

Motion to increase the general supply budget line item to \$600 made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

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Second by Mr. Robert Padilla, Collector.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye
Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye
Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye
Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye
Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

3. Add travel expenses \$500.00

Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer informed that the board is having to travel more as of late to attend training and such. The money could be used to help defray those costs for the board members.

Motion to create a budget line item for travel expenses for the board members of \$500 made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Mr. Robert Padilla, Collector.

Discussion: Mr. Tony Benavidez suggested that travel to extra meetings be compensated for but not the regular LGLG meetings. Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary informed that there is money in the budget for payment/compensation for board members that has not been used yet, the board members have not been paid. However, keep in mind that compensation, if made is reportable on a form 1099 and taxable if exceeds \$600.

Motion made to amend the motion to increase from \$500 to \$1,000 for travel made by Mr. Robert Padilla, Collector

Second by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye
Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye
Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye
Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye
Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

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The Motion Passed

4. Election cost \$900.00

Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer informed that the LGLG is getting ready to have a board election and it entails a lot that will be discussed under a different agenda item. For that reason we will need more money in that line item to cover expenses of running an election.

**Motion to increase the Election budget line item from \$100 to \$900 made by
Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.**

Second by Mr. Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

5. Bonding [up to] \$4,000.00

Bonding will be from \$1,200-\$2,000

**Motion to increase the supply budget line item from \$500 to \$4,000 made by
Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.**

Second by Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

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Discussion: Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary informed that bonding provides assurance/insurance from embezzlement and is required by the state statute. Usually anyone that handles money should be bonded. When we elect different officers the bonding can roll to the next person/replacement. In addition as the LGLG holds/gets more money, we will need to be bonded for higher amounts that will cost more.

6. Increase telecommunications to \$3,000.00

Ms. Margaret Lucero informed that we purchased computers and would like to purchase a projector. We may also need to get a “hot spot” in the event we need internet availability.

Motion to increase the supply budget line item to \$2,500 to \$3,000 by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Mr. Robert Padilla, Collector

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

7. Increase postage to \$1,200.00

Ms. Margaret Lucero, rescinded the request for increasing postage, the LGLG has enough for now.

8. Increase donations to 4,500.00

Ms. Margaret Lucero informed that the LGLG has historically given funds to LGLG members that experience hardship or tragedy. In addition the LGLG is now required to give an annual donation to “El Consejo.” El Consejo is a group that works with and advocates for the needs of land grants at the legislature.

Motion to increase the supply budget line item from \$2,520 to \$4,500 made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Philip Benavidez

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Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

Motion to accept the Treasurers report made by Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Mr. Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

IX. Collector's Report.

Mr. Robert Padilla informed \$515 was collected and given to the Treasurer for deposit.

Discussion:

Mr. Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian asked if all money due for the road project has been collected. Mr. Robert Padilla informed that there is still \$318 due from members for that project.

Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary asked about the duty of keeping a list of past due members. It was confirmed that that duty currently falls under the purview of the Collectors Office. Mr. Robert Padilla does not have that information at the time of the meeting but will work to get it updated. Ms. Avedona Lucero informed that it is important that members are current on their dues. Mr. Jonathan Jordan clarified that members will need to be current on dues in order to be eligible to vote at the upcoming election. Mr. Jonathan Jordan asked that the Collector have a list of all members that are behind on dues by two years or more by the April 20, 2024 LGLG meeting.

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The LGLG board will get clarification with regard to the exact dates that the members must be current on dues in order to be eligible to vote in the next election.

Mr. Michael Armijo asked what it takes to be eligible to run for a board position. Mr. Jonathan informed that a member has to be current on dues to either run for a position or vote in an election.

Motion to take a five minute recess made by Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian.

Second by Ms. Avedona Lucero, Secretary.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

X. New Business.

a. Resolution 2024-02 Annual Board Meetings

The first resolution was read and enacted in July to adopt the proposed FY 2024 budget.

Mr. Jonathan Jordan, President projected the resolution and read through the resolution out loud.

***See Attachment B* Mr. Jonathan Jordan, President explained that the LGLG is required to adopt a resolution that informs of the regular scheduled LGLG meetings.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 by Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

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Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

b. Resolution 2024-03 Election Proclamation

Mr. Jonathan Jordan, President projected the resolution and read through the resolution out loud.

***See Attachment C*

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 by Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Robert Padilla, Collector.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed

**c. Announce elections will be held May 18th, 2024, according to current by-laws.
Jacobco Baca and Arturo Archuleta (Members of the New Mexico Land
Grant Council) will act as election officials.**

Mr. Jonathan Jordan explained that the election process would be different as required by state statute. No longer would it be whereby a member is nominated to run for office, rather it is a self nominating process that requires review for eligibility. Mr. Jordan explained that the process is tedious and has many requirements and that members of the NMLGC have agreed to help us run the election in May.

Discussion:

Mr. Tony Benavidez wanted clarification that a member runs for a position on the board, not a particular position. Mr. Jordan confirmed that it is correct members run for a position on the board. This election the LGLG will be opening up for all five board positions. After elections, the board members elected are charged with deciding who on the board will take the role of President, Secretary, and Collector as those are the three titled positions required.

Anita Blea, member asked what would happen if no members wanted to run for office. She was not sure if that meant that current board members are required to stay on board. In fact the

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current board asked that question of the NMLGC and they informed that the LGLG would have to run another election and current board members would still be in office until either new board members were elected or the current board members resigned.

Ms. Avedona Lucero iterated that by law the LGLG is only required to have three board members.

- d. Eligible voting members must be registered to vote. Registration for eligible members will close fifteen (15) days before the election (May 3, 2024) and will reopen the Monday following the election (May 20, 2024). (See Membership Registration Certificate)**

Mr. Jonathan Jordan projected the Membership Registration Certificate and read it out loud. He explained that each member that wants to vote must complete that certification by the dates provided above. The certification will be reviewed for voting eligibility in accordance with the LGLG bylaws which stipulate that a member must be in good standing, not be more than two years in arrears on dues, in order to be eligible to vote. Membership Registration Certificates were printed and available for members to complete at that time or take home with them and return at a later date.

- e. Eligible members will be required to file for candidacy. You can begin submitting your declaration of candidacy 10 days after the date the proclamation is published. The deadline to turn in Declaration of Candidacy is May 8th, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. All submissions via U.S. Postal Service shall be postmarked by May 8TH, 2024. (See Declaration of Candidacy)**

Mr. Jordan projected the Declaration for Candidacy form for the members to see and follow along on the requirements of successfully completing and submitting the form. He iterated that it required candidates to attest to not having been convicted of a crime and also required notarization.

- f. NMLGC met with NM Taxation March 1st, to discuss eliminating land grants from paying taxes. No information from that meeting has been provided.**

Mr. Jordan informed that there is some work being done to hopefully exempt land grants from having to pay property taxes on the original land deeded to them.

PROPOSED AGENDA (continued)

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g. Letter from Horacio Benavidez (bequeathing his membership to his grandson Casey Benavidez).

Mr. Jordan informed that he had received a letter from Mr. Horacio Benavidez, member informing his wish to bequeath his membership to his grandson Mr. Casey Benavidez.

Mr. Robert Padilla confirmed that Mr. Horacio Benavidez is current on his membership dues and is in good standing.

Mr. Jordan informed that as of the date of the meeting Mr. Horacio was no longer a member of the LGLG but could be on the LGLG if accompanied by a current LGLG member and that as of the date of the meeting Mr. Casey Benavidez is new member of the LGLG.

h. Donation of \$500.00 to Max Benavidez for the loss of his son.

Ms. Margaret Lucero, Treasurer informed that it has been the LGLG membership practice to donate funds to members going through hardship. She shared that Mr. Robert Benavidez, Collector informed that member Max Benavidez lost his son late last year and that a donation to him of \$500 would be appropriate. Ms. Margaret Lucero informed that the BAR would have to be completed before a donation could be made. Mr. Max Benavidez addressed the board an membership and thanked them for their kindness.

i. Jerry Aranda sent a letter renouncing his membership.

Mr. Jonathan Jordan informed that a letter from Mr. Jerry Aranda was received by Mr. Robert Padilla on 12/8/23. In the letter Mr. Aranda stated he wished to renounce his LGLG membership. Mr. Jordan read the letter from Mr. Aranda and announced that as of the date of the meeting Mr. Aranda was no longer an LGLG member and requested his name be removed from the membership list.

XI. Old Business.

a. Update from law firm regarding status of our claim

Mr. Jonathan Jordan informed that the LGLG attorney was ready to file the LGLG initial claim of loss. The work does take a lot of time. Once FEMA receives the claim they have 180 days to respond. The process will take time but is moving forward.

b. Heir Comments (limited to three (3) minutes).

Mr. Jonathan Jordan explained that moving forward there would be opportunity for members to address the membership during public comment time at the end of each meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, members must sign up before the meeting to get a three minute slot to address the membership. Comments must be courteous and respectful and will not be items that will be brought to a vote, no action will be taken on the comments made at the time they are given.

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Prior to the meeting two members signed up to address the membership. Mr. Jonathan Jordan informed that two members signed up to address the membership at this meeting: Mr. Tony Benavidez and Mr. Mark Benavidez.

Address by Mr Tony Benavidez:

Mr. Benavidez shared that he had been a member since he was fourteen years old and held many board member positions in that time. He stated that there were many changes, one being that the membership was no longer closed/limited to an arbitrary number of members. He stated that with keeping the organization going it was up to us to work together and work through the changes before us. He stated he was confident we could work together and work through the changes and that our organization could thrive.

Mr. Mark Benavidez informed that his father, Mr. Horacio Benavidez was not able to make it to the meeting and has had some health challenges; however, his father was a member for many years and served on the board as well. Mark stated he wasn't sure how the LGLG would be evolving but he is a proud member and willing to do whatever it takes to help the organization succeed. He also informed that his son Casey would do the same and that he had been to a meeting before but wasn't able to attend that day due to college course requirements.

XII Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Margaret Lucero, Treasurer.

Second by Phillip Benavidez, Collector.

Roll Call Vote:

Jonathan, Jordan, President – Aye

Margaret Lucero, Treasurer – Aye

Avedona Lucero, Secretary - Aye

Phillip Benavidez, Parliamentarian – Aye

Robert Benavidez, Collector – Aye

The Motion Passed