

Lower Gallinas Land Grant (LGLG)
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2023

Call to Order: 12:14 pm

Roll Call of officers:

President Jonathan Jordan; Present

Vice President Avedona Lucero; absent

Secretary Andrew Ortega; Present

Treasurer Margarette Lucero; Present

Collector Bobby Padilla; Present

Parliamentarian Phillip Benavidez; absent

Approval of minutes from July 22, 2023.

Ron Ortega moved to approve the minutes of July 22,2023. Motion seconded by Helen Padilla. Motion Pass to a majority vote.

Introduction of Spouse's/Guests

Vidal Anguiano

Veronica Montano

Collector's Report:

Helen Padilla moved to accept the Collectors report. Motion was seconded by Ana Trujillo. Motion Passed to a majority vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Tony Benavidez made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Ron Ortega. Motion passed to a majority vote.

New Business

New membership of Veronica Montano: New member candidate Veronica Montano, daughter of Fidel Montano, read her letter requesting membership to the Lower Gallinas Land Grant. After her letter was read a vote was taken by ballot and Veronica Montano was allowed membership following a unanimous vote. 16 for; 0 against. Congratulations and welcome Veronica.

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Ron Ortega advising on the Management Plan: Over the years there has been misunderstanding in regards to the Management Plan for the land grant and the Bylaws. Ron gave an account of what the management plan was drafted. The management plan was created as a one-time document to allow the land grant to obtain a quit claim deed from the Las Vegas Board to address a court case between the late Luis Martinez and the LGLG. This document is what was needed to establish the LGLG at the time and give the board bearing/authority in the case. Since then it has been misinterpreted as bylaws. The Management plan was a stand-alone document that mirrored the bylaws but its only purpose was to help establish the LGLG Board of Officers.

Ron further went on to make a motion that Reads as follows: I, Ron Ortega, move that the Management Plan of 1996 be recognized for what it is, a one-time document intended to update the deed of the 1997 Lower Gallinas Land grant and from this day forward by the action of the members present be recognized as nothing more than a historical reference. Second by Andrew Ortega. Motion passed by majority vote.

LGLG submission of document reports to the New Mexico Land Grant Council;

Officers gave the reports on the documents that have been turned in and submitted to the New Mexico Land Grant Council (NMLGC) in compliance of HB 268. The following documents were given to the NMLGC: a copy of current bylaws, annual budget, bonding of officers, and an annual report have been turned in and completed.

Follow up Regarding Grazing Agreement and Letter sent to Ron Ortega:

At the previous meeting Member Ron Ortega asked for a renewal of a grazing lease he had that expired this year. A committee was formed, committee members were as follow: Jonathan Jordan, Gary Jordan, Bobby Padilla, and Ron Ortega. The committee met and at the advisement of the LGLG attorney Ron was denied a renewal of his grazing lease. Ron does have the right to reapply at a future date and time.

Information on the survey done by Corey Pacheco on the LGLG:

Corey Pacheco, who is a general contractor, employed by attorney Michael Feinberg was onsite on the LGLG Property taking notes of the erosion problems. Jonathan Jordan was with Corey and gave an account of what happened.

Report of Work done by Charles Curtain: Secretary Andrew Ortega gave a report on the work being done on the land grant by Charles. Charles Curtain was hung up on boundary questions between the LGLG and the John Wright Property on the northeast border of the LGLG. Secretary Ortega instructed Charles to hold the Boundary lines as they are drawn and on file with the Courthouse Dating back to the 1950's. The report sparked a discussion to which Secretary Ortega voiced his concerns on the Lack of Substantial work that was being done by the LGLG

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attorney in regards to the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire claim. Secretary Ortega went on to explain that a year after the fires the LGLG was no closer to being able to file a claim as it was from the start and this was unacceptable and something needed to be done. Secretary Ortega noted a previous meeting, January 21, 2023 where a motion was made by Ronnie Duran for the LGLG board members to act on behalf of the LGLG membership in the Case with our Attorney Michael Feinberg. The board was given direct orders to seek full compensation on losses obtained by the fire to the LGLG. This Motion was Seconded by Charles Martinez and was passed by a majority vote. Motion was made by Ron Ortega: I, Ron Ortega, move that in the dealings with the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire the Executive Committee has full Authority and full power to address the damage that has been done and to seek full compensation and act in a timely manner without the approval of the LGLG membership. The executive committee has the power to retain and terminate legal counsel, specialists and anyone they need to in regards to seeking compensation on the LGLG Claim. Motion was Seconded by Andrew Ortega. Motion Passed to a majority vote.

Approval to Change the Bank signatures:

Bank signatures need to be updated. Due to Covid complications the bank signatures had not been updated. As a result, former President of the LGLG Ron Ortega was still listed as a signer. Margarette Lucero moved to Change the signature from Ron to Jonathan Jordan. Motion seconded by Ana Trujillo and motion passed to a majority vote.

Disbursement from the Land Grant Assistance Fund:

Secretary Ortega shared with the membership a letter he received From the Land Grant Council Merced Assistance Fund. This letter stated that the LGLG was eligible based on completion of all reports required form HB 268 to receive a disbursement of \$97,960.00. This is money that was set aside through the NM Government from Gross Receipt Taxes. The LGLG can use these funds as they see fit.

1)Due to this amount of money several issues arose. Margarette Lucero Moved to hire a CPA Certified Public Accountant to review financial records for the LGLG. Seconded by Ana Trujillo. Motion passed by majority vote.

2) Margarette Lucero Treasurer asked the membership what they would like done with the money that way there were specific instructions on what to do with this money. Ana Trujillo made a motion to look into high interest savings accounts and high interest CDs. Then 2/3 of the money was to go into the better deal and the remaining funds were to go into the existing savings account. Seconded by Helen Padilla. Motion passed by majority vote.

Financial help to members who have suffered a loss of family:

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Historically the LGLG has always tried to help its members in dealing with hardships. The LGLG has been known to donate money to individual members to help with medical or funeral expenses. Bobby Padilla made a motion to donate \$500.00 to two members who'd suffered an immediate loss. Members Arturo Padilla and Secretary Andrew Ortega. Motion was seconded by Helen Padilla. Motion Passed by a majority vote.

Meeting Dates for 2024:

Helen Padilla made a motion to set the meeting dates for January, April, July, And October for the 3rd Saturday of the month. Motion was seconded by Ana Trujillo. Motion Passed by majority vote.

Motion to Adjourn:

Estevan Montano Made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Roberta Montano. Motion Passed by a majority vote.