

**2017 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

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**Work Plan**

The Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on June 5, 2017. The committee proposes to focus on the following topics.

**A. Strengthening Governance Capacity**

1. Examination of land grant board elections and authorities, such as:
  - (a) how to structure interim authorities if elections are challenged;
  - (b) the potential for election assistance from the Land Grant Council or Office of the Attorney General; and
  - (c) the potential for staggering the terms of office for board members.
2. Examination of the authorities of the Office of the Attorney General's Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division.
3. Review of plat map issues regarding the division of common land at Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Merced and other land grants.

4. Continue oversight of efforts to build strong internal financial structures within small governmental bodies, including land grants-mercedes and acequia associations.
5. Analysis of land-use planning, contracting and other governance capacities needed by land grants-mercedes and acequia associations.
6. Training opportunities and needs for land grant-merced board members.
7. The potential for a water resources ombudsman for land grants-mercedes.
8. The potential eligibility for state and federal hardship auctions and other assistance.

**B. State and Federal Land Access: Traditional and Cultural Uses**

1. Continue a dialogue with the Department of Game and Fish regarding traditional uses within wildlife management areas, stocking lakes and the department's "cultural use" proposal.
2. Receive an update on the revision process for the forest management plans for the Cibola, Santa Fe and Carson national forests. In particular, engage the United States Forest Service regarding the inclusion of forest-dependent communities, such as land grants-mercedes, in the development of the revised forest plans.
3. Receive updates from the United States Bureau of Land Management regarding cultural and traditional uses on public lands.
4. Receive updates from various state and federal land management agencies on potential land transfers to land grants and on resolution of boundary disputes.

**C. Economic Development**

Examine the threshold requirements to access various governmental and nonprofit funding programs and for private venture business opportunities. The goal would be to identify key capacity obstacles within land grants-mercedes that can be addressed. Specific programs and business opportunities to be reviewed include:

1. various programs offered by the Economic Development Department, including the potential to develop Local Economic Development Act projects;
2. United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant programs;

3. private nonprofit grant programs and the potential for nonprofit/public partnerships to build capacity;
4. development of location and vendor relationships with the film industry, including the possibility for regional liaison offices to work with land grants, tribes and counties;
5. opportunities for local entrepreneur training and development at land grants;
6. review of gross receipts tax issues and the best legal frameworks for land grant- or acequia-fostered businesses; and
7. continued examination of the business potential of a transfer of the United States Forest Service visitor center and museum in Abiquiu.

**D. Reports from Individual Land Grants-Mercedes and Associated Entities**

1. Hear reports from various land grants-mercedes.
2. Review the Land Grant Council's programs and updates from the Land Grant Consejo and the University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program.
3. Hear reports from the Acequia Commission and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

**Land Grant Committee  
2017 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 26	Santa Fe
July 12-13	Arroyo Hondo Arriba
August 29-30	San Miguel del Bado
October 30-31	Tomé
November 20	Santa Fe