

**2023 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

Members

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Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Work Plan

The Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 1, 2023. As time permits, the committee will review the following topics:

A. Land acquisitions, fire recovery services and transfers, including:

1. potential options for appraisals that do not foreclose opportunities for acquisitions for small parcels due to market timing;
2. financing options for acquisitions;
3. issues concerning land transfers from, and management agreements with, state agencies;
4. state and federal services for post-fire recovery for land grants, particularly for land grants recently designated by the legislature; and
5. state and federal land stewardship and leñero programs offered by state and federal land management agencies that are open to land grant and acequia communities;

B. Water issues for land grants and acequias, including:

1. payback or compensation options for emergency use of water in excess of allotments;

2. the implications of the recent attorney general opinion regarding due process for water transfers;
3. the different impacts on small agricultural communities between transfers of surface water and ground water rights;
4. an evaluation of whether the Property Tax Code could include an accommodation for land grant common lands similar to the agricultural lands exemption; and
5. updates on the Acequia Bureau recently created administratively within the Interstate Stream Commission;

C. Strengthening governance capacity, including:

1. a review of the status of the Community Governance Attorney Program, continuing legal education and other programs being developed at the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law for land grants-mercedes and acequia associations, including an examination of client governance needs versus potential curriculum development;
2. an examination of the processes being developed to implement distributions from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund enacted during the 2022 legislative session, including any training sessions or other programs developed by the Land Grant Council to place land grants in a position to receive those funds;
3. a review of New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) management consultation and intervention caseload for acequias, particularly with regard to caseload increases due to wild fire recovery or response efforts; and
4. a review of status reports from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the Office of the Attorney General;

D. Potential for economic, youth and other development programs at land grants, including:

1. a status update on the multi-land grant development of the former Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center near Abiquiu;
2. status updates on business development projects at various land grants;

3. a report from land grants and the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion about the need for broadband services and the state's programs to help build out broadband networks in land grants; and
4. an examination of whether services at the Land Grant Council should be restructured or expanded to meet the current challenges facing land grants; and

E. Reports from individual land grants-mercedes and associated entities, including:

1. reports from various land grants-mercedes;
2. reports from the Land Grant Council and updates from the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and the UNM Land Grant Studies Program; and
3. reports from the Acequia Commission and the NMAA.

**Land Grant Committee
2023 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 9	Santa Fe
July 12-13	Las Vegas
August 22-23	Penasco
October 23-24	Carnuel
November 9	Santa Fe