

**2020 PROPOSED
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 July 7, 2020. As time permits, the committee proposes to review the following topics.

A. Strengthening Governance Capacity at Land Grants-Mercedes and Acequia Associations

- (1) the potential need to revise the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division statute to reflect case demand;
- (2) potential updates to statutes governing elections for the boards of land grants-mercedes;
- (3) the potential for a recurring funding stream for land grants-mercedes;
- (4) the parameters of authorizing land grants-mercedes to establish positions analogous to park rangers to prevent vandalism and the theft of resources;
- (5) the programs at the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law being developed for land grants-mercedes, acequia associations and colonias in response to Senate Bill 244 (2019), including:
 - a) an examination of client governance needs versus potential curriculum development; and

- b) continuing legal education courses and internship programs;
- (6) coordinated capital outlay funding for priority expenditures;
- (7) development of a training program for land grant-merced board members in areas of governmental finance, contracting, land use planning and economic development;
- (8) status reports from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the Office of the Attorney General, including an update on the pending litigation for the Amador Flores property;
- (9) water transfers affecting acequia and land grant communities; and
- (10) reports from land grant partitions.

B. Land and Water Issues

- (1) examination of challenges deriving from the common waters of and the relationships that have evolved among land grants-mercedes and local acequia commissions and mutual domestic associations;
- (2) continued examination of the land divisions at the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant and the potential to rationalize those divisions into useful properties;
- (3) continued dialogue with the Department of Game and Fish regarding traditional and cultural uses within wildlife management areas and stocking lakes;
- (4) the potential of joint stewardship agreements with state and federal land management agencies and the potential for the transfer of some properties within the historic boundaries of land grants;
- (5) an update on the revision process for United States Forest Service management plans;
- (6) updates from the federal Bureau of Land Management regarding cultural and traditional uses on public lands;
- (7) an update on the transfer of the Laguna del Campo stock pond to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant-Merced and its management plan for the facility;
- (8) the costs and benefits of creating a natural resources officer position within the Land Grant Council to assist land grant boards in developing and implementing natural resource management policies;

- (9) an update on the development of youth-conservation-type programs for land grants-mercedes and potential collaboration with state and federal agencies regarding these programs; and
- (10) the challenges posed by drought and water management during pending adjudications or settlements.

C. Economic Development

- (1) updates on the purchase and development plans for the Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center project near Abiquiu;
- (2) presentations on building, or rebuilding, farm-based economies at land grants-mercedes and acequias, including:
 - a) the potential for hemp production and marketing and associated licensing requirements;
 - b) how to leverage the current New Mexico Acequia Association's classroom and apprenticeship programs; and
 - c) what United States Department of Agriculture contracts for minority farmers may mean for farm production at land grants-mercedes and acequias;
- (3) status updates on business development projects at various land grants-mercedes; and
- (4) updates on farmer training projects and food security planning for more locally grown food.

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

- (1) reports from various land grants-mercedes;
- (2) a review of the Land Grant Council's programs, including a discussion of the most beneficial long-term administrative home for the council;
- (3) updates from the Land Grant Consejo and the UNM Land Grant Studies Program; and
- (4) reports from the Acequia Commission and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

**Land Grant Committee
2020 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location*</u>
August 13	Video Conference
October 14	Video Conference
November 23	Video Conference

*The State Capitol will be closed to the public, but meetings will be webcast. Committee members will attend via a video conference platform. The link to the webcast is available through the legislature's website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>.