

**2024 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

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Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Work Plan

The Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on March 25, 2024. The committee will focus on the following topics as time permits:

A. Water, land, fire prevention and post-fire recovery issues, including:

1. issues concerning governance of land grant-merced common waters and the implications of the attorney general opinion regarding due process for water transfers and the impacts of ground and surface water transfers on small agricultural communities;
2. a status update from the administratively created Acequia Bureau within the Interstate Stream Commission;
3. the status of post-fire recovery efforts at land grants and acequias; and
4. the potential to build land grant-merced input into federal and state land management agency fire prevention planning;

B. Land acquisition and management issues, including:

1. financing options for the acquisition of historical lands at land grants;
2. the parameters and ramifications of the Bernalillo County property tax case regarding land grants-mercedes;

3. issues concerning land transfers from, and management agreements with, state agencies;
4. state and federal land stewardship and firewood leñero programs offered by state and federal land management agencies that are open to land grant and acequia communities;
5. a reexamination of House Bill 188 (2023) and the potential New Mexico Finance Authority revolving loan fund for land acquisitions;
6. a status report on the transfer of the Laguna del Campo fish pond to the Land Grant-Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla;
7. a report from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance regarding a new rural insurance program; and
8. a status report regarding the Mercedes Unidas Center (formerly known as the Piedra Lumbre Visitors Center);

C. Governance capacity at land grants-mercedes and acequias, including:

1. a status update from the Higher Education Department and the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law regarding the Community Governance Attorney Program and continuing legal education and other programs being developed regarding land grant-merced and acequia law;
2. administration and adequacy of the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund and the challenges that various land grants-mercedes have encountered to remain in compliance;
3. status reports from the Acequia Commission and the New Mexico Acequia Association;
4. a status report from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the Office of the Attorney General;
5. an examination of various land grants that are seeking to move into the requirements and authorities of Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978;
6. a status update on capital outlay and a report on the capital outlay process;
7. an examination of potential updates to Chapter 49, Articles 1 and 4 NMSA 1978; and
8. a report on pending federal land grant legislation; and

D. Reports from individual land grants-mercedes and other related entities, including:

1. reports from various land grants-mercedes; and
2. reports from the Land Grant Council and updates from the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and the UNM Land Grant Studies Program, including:
 - a. a status update on the Land Grant Council's efforts on land grant-merced property surveys; and
 - b. the development of land grant youth programs.

**Land Grant Committee
2024 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 10	Santa Fe
July 25-26	Espanola
August 19-20	Las Vegas
October 3-4	Placitas
November 18	Santa Fe