

**MINUTES
of the
SECOND MEETING
of the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

**July 28-29, 2011
Ferran Gym
Abiquiu**

The second meeting of the interim Land Grant Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on July 28, 2011 by Representative Miguel P. Garcia, chair, in the Ferran Gym in Abiquiu.

Present

Rep. Miguel P. Garcia, Chair
Sen. Richard C. Martinez, Vice Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
Rep. Paul C. Bandy
Rep. Eleanor Chavez
Rep. Jimmie C. Hall
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Sen. Sander Rue
Sen. Bernadette M. Sanchez

Absent

Sen. Rod Adair

Advisory Members

Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. Joni Marie Gutierrez
Rep. Jim Hall
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom (7/29)
Sen. David Ulibarri
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

Sen. Kent L. Cravens
Rep. Ben Lujan

Guest Legislator

Sen. Timothy M. Keller (7/28)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Peter Kovnat, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Douglas Carver, Staff Attorney, LCS
Abenicio Baldonado, Intern, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts are in the meeting file.

Thursday, July 28

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Representative Garcia extended a welcome to the committee, staff and members of the public who were present, and he thanked the Abiquiu and San Joaquin del Rio Chama land grants for hosting the committee and providing food and other refreshments. He then gave a brief introduction to land grant history and surveyed some of the committee's past accomplishments, particularly the return of 32 acres to the Abiquiu Land Grant. Representative Garcia asked all committee members and staff to introduce themselves. He then invited members of the audience to introduce themselves as well.

Welcoming Remarks and History: Abiquiu Land Grant

Gilbert Ferran of the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and president of the Merced Del Pueblo Abiquiu board, Leonard Martinez, president of the San Joaquin del Rio Chama Land Grant board, and Moises A. Morales, Jr., Rio Arriba County clerk, welcomed committee members to the community and thanked them for coming. Mr. Ferran introduced the Abiquiu Land Grant board members who were present and gave an overview of the centuries-old history of the land grant, including its connection with Native American, particularly Hopi, culture and the community's long association with Georgia O'Keeffe. Mr. Martinez introduced his board members and thanked the committee for its attention to land grant issues. Mr. Morales discussed the lands lost by the Abiquiu Land Grant over time, particularly those lost to the United States Forest Service. He provided various letters and other documents for the committee's review.

Private Property Claims to Land Grant Patents: Clouded Titles, Case Histories and Consequences

The Honorable Darren Cordova, mayor of Taos, Elden Torres, president of the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant board, Francisco "El Comanche" Gonzales from the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant and Edward J. Roibal, executive director of the New Mexico Land Title Association, gave a presentation on this issue for the committee. Mayor Cordova opened his remarks by noting that he is an heir to the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant. He stated that the dispute with the land grant has placed a cloud on the title of 9,000 properties, which means that a majority of the community can no longer get title insurance, which further means that they cannot, for example, sell or refinance their homes. He stated that he met with the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant board and hopes for a recession of the deeds to remove the cloud over the titles. It was determined that only a judge could declare the deeds null and void, so the town filed suit against the land grant. The town consented to a declaratory judgment, which a judge signed the day before this meeting. Mayor Cordova stressed the importance of communication and the need for disputes to be resolved through proper channels, even while acknowledging past injustices. He

also noted that a similar dispute with the Arroyo Hondo Land Grant is affecting 5,000 homes.

Mr. Roibal noted that the role of title insurance is limited; it focuses only on the real estate transaction when a property is sold, bought or mortgaged. When buying land, he said, it is critical that the buyer know that the seller owns the land and that there are no liens. Title insurers gather their information from public records. Certain items preclude an underwriter from taking a risk on insuring a property if, for example, there is a deed or a redeclaration of a patent or renunciation of title. With the situation in Taos, because of the recording of instruments of record in the Cristobal de la Serna and Arroyo Hondo land grants, 99 percent of the time, title insurance will not underwrite the properties, and a judicial remedy is necessary.

Mr. Torres clarified that the members of the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant are not trying to remove anyone from their property. The land grant's principal concern is that there are lands that have traditionally been common lands for the land grant that are beginning to be developed. The land grant wants to keep that property from any more construction or development, and it wants to protect the watershed. Mr. Torres pointed out that part of the problem is with the *lineas*, many of which are too small or ill-proportioned to be of use, such as ones that are 15 feet wide and five miles long. The land grant would like to be able to get property back so that it can stop people from dumping trash and put the land to use for the community.

Mr. Gonzales discussed the history of the strained relations between the Town of Taos and the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant.

The chair granted John Kejr, president of the Taos County Association of Realtors (TCAR), permission to address the committee. Mr. Kejr said that he would like to offer an olive branch to the land grant community and would like to work with land grants and with the committee to address mutual areas of concern, particularly so that property rights of owners of record are protected. He also thanked Mayor Cordova for his work on these issues, and he asked the committee to help find ways to discourage the tactic of clouding titles as a way to settle land ownership issues.

Members of the committee expressed concern for the people who are on the land grant's land and what would be done with them. Members of the committee were also concerned that a solution crafted to address the situation with the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant could have unanticipated consequences with other land grants in the state. Mr. Torres stated that it would not seem fair to remove people from the land, but his principal concern is to stop other people from moving onto or developing land that is unoccupied. He would like to see future transactions benefit the entire community, not just individual members. He said he feels that if the legislature were involved in a solution, people would listen. He stressed the importance of dialogue with groups like the TCAR to craft a solution.

Members of the committee had questions regarding the map of the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant that was displayed by the land grant's board. Mr. Torres indicated that roughly two-

thirds of the 22,000 acres under dispute either have homes or are being used for agricultural land. Mr. Torres also explained that the larger a family is, the more *lineas* it owns, and as a consequence, some families are better able to use their *lineas*. On the other hand, some people have *lineas* that are effectively useless, although they pay taxes on that land.

Members of the committee also asked whether House Bill 653, passed in the last legislative session but vetoed by Governor Martinez, would have taken care of these issues. Mayor Cordova indicated that the bill was repetitive of current law and not strong enough. Mr. Roibal interjected that the bill as originally introduced would have provided for a judicial remedy with accelerated proceedings, but he concurred with Mayor Cordova that the bill vetoed by the governor would have brought no additional relief. Members of the committee noted that some land grant communities think that the approach in House Bill 653 is not the right one to use and that it would be advisable when crafting such a bill in the future to assess its impact on all land grant communities. Given the situation between the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant and the Town of Taos, however, if an agreement cannot be reached with the town, the land grant board and the TCAR, there might be a need for further legislation in this area.

Members of the committee also asked about the issue of double-taxing. Mr. Gonzales stated that there are occasions when up to three different families are being taxed for the same piece of property. Members of the committee suggested that the New Mexico Association of Counties and its assessors' and treasurers' affiliates need to look into this issue and that legislation might be required. There was some discussion over whether the lands in question are private lands and of the possibility of doing surveys on the *lineas* or certified title abstracts to ensure that title belongs to the board of trustees of the land grant. Mayor Cordova stressed the need for surveying to ensure that the land is properly assessed. Mr. Torres added that the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant board does not have any properties deeded over to it, though members of the board hold properties as individuals. Thus, the land grant itself is not paying taxes. He noted that the board is working on a CD about where the property came from and what is being done with it, with the idea that if land is not being used by heirs, it should be turned over to the board.

Members of the committee also asked whether it is worthwhile to try to push through Senate Bill 153 in the next legislative session. Mr. Gonzales indicated that this would be a good first step. Members of the committee also noted that if the revenue picture improves, it might be possible to set up a defense fund similar to those for water rights.

There was some discussion between the panel and the committee regarding whether the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant is a private land grant or a community land grant. Members of the committee suggested that, before any legislation is submitted regarding a survey of the land grant, a letter could be sent to the Department of Finance and Administration to clarify what the status of the land grant is and whether it is eligible to receive money.

Members of the committee pointed out that there is a distinction between a real estate broker and a real estate agent and that a broker facilitates transactions, putting together a

(usually) willing buyer and seller. It is important to bring both brokers and real estate agents to the table, but it is also important to keep in mind that they are merely facilitators.

Request that the New Mexico Federal Delegation Give Political Subdivision Status to Non-Patent Land Grants

The Honorable Esther Garcia, mayor of Questa, and Arturo Archuleta, advisor to the land grant studies program at the University of New Mexico, gave a presentation to the panel on this issue. Mr. Archuleta related that in conversations he held recently with staff members of New Mexico's federal delegation about the Rio Colorado Land Grant, the delegation indicated that it could take up the status of non-patented land grants if the grants in question are first made political subdivisions under state law.

Mayor Garcia asked the committee to consider the Questa Land Grant (the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Land Grant) a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico. She said that the federal delegation needs the state to act before action can be taken at the federal level. She noted that legislation to effect this change has been given a "do pass" and that the land grant has the necessary survey, but Questa was bypassed, possibly because of a delay in getting paperwork to Española. She also noted that the watersheds in the common lands of the land grant are surrounded by wilderness areas, so she would like the land grant to have a seat at the table when looking at managing land grant lands that are under federal management. Mayor Garcia added that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued back to the land grant the patent for the church belonging to the land grant, which indicates that the BLM recognizes that the land grant existed.

Members of the committee noted that everything necessary has been done by the land grant; Congress simply has to sign off on it. They analogized the situation this way: "We have the child, we just don't have the birth certificate.". Responding to a question, Mayor Garcia stated specifically that it was someone in U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman's office who had said that the state should first grant political subdivision status to the land grant.

Mr. Archuleta first read a joint letter from U.S. Senator Bingaman and Senator Tom Udall and read a second letter from Representative Martin T. Heinrich. Both letters expressed support for state action to grant political subdivision status to land grants that meet the necessary criteria.

Mr. Archuleta noted that the Rio Colorado Land Grant is not patented, and its lands are United States Forest Service lands. He affirmed the importance of the land grant being at the table. He further stated that there is precedent, pointing the committee to the case of the Chaperito Land Grant. The land grant's claims were rejected by the court of private land claims. The community went to the legislature, and the legislature created the land grant by statute. Members of the committee discussed whether the Questa Land Grant could be treated in a manner similar to the Tecolote Land Grant or whether it would be possible to craft a generic process.

In response to questions from members of the committee regarding some of the historical information in the letter from Senator Bingaman and Senator Udall, Mr. Archuleta elaborated on the history of how land grants were confirmed after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo through the surveyor general for New Mexico and the court of private land claims. He also stated that it is hard to tell who might oppose the granting of political subdivision status until legislation is introduced.

In response to further questions from members of the committee regarding other land grants requiring legislation, Mr. Archuleta noted that while there are 14 other land grants that were either not confirmed or were rejected, those 14 no longer exist or they have not organized. The Rio Colorado Land Grant is the only one that has done everything required and registered with the secretary of state. While there might be some potential for these other land grants to organize, most of them probably would not do so. There was discussion between committee members and Mr. Archuleta regarding whether, when faced with similar situations in the future, it would be better to grant political subdivision status through individual pieces of legislation, craft a generic piece of legislation setting out the process or amend Chapter 49 NMSA 1978, which states that a land grant must be a patented grant.

Motion 1

Representative Rodella moved that a letter be drafted to the governor placing the granting of political subdivision status to the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Land Grant on the call of the next legislative session and that the LCS draft the appropriate legislation. The motion was seconded by Senator Ortiz y Pino and passed, with all voting members present voting in favor.

There was some further discussion between committee members and Mr. Archuleta regarding whether this would be the first non-patented land grant to be made a political subdivision and whether the granting of political subdivision status in this case might not create tiers among land grants. Mr. Archuleta said this would be the first non-patented land grant to receive political subdivision status, but the situation is not dissimilar to the Tecolote Land Grant, which is patented as a private land grant. Mr. Archuleta added that tiers among land grants exist already.

The chair allowed Dr. Manuel García y Griego to address the committee on the intersection between federal and state jurisdiction. Dr. García y Griego noted that the only reason there is federal involvement is to separate private land from land that is not owned, as those lands would revert to the public domain. Action to grant political subdivision status would not affect federal interests at this time — those would only come into play if, at a later stage, the Rio Colorado Land Grant were to lay claim to lands that are currently federal lands. If the land grant is a political subdivision, that would strengthen its hand in negotiations with federal agencies.

Motion 2

Representative Rodella moved for a letter to be drafted to New Mexico's congressional delegation, asking it to move forward with confirming the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Land

Grant, regardless of whether the delegation believes that the legislation will pass, and asking that the representatives of the congressional delegation who are present at the Land Grant Committee meeting bring the conversation on this issue to the attention of their congressional members. The motion was seconded by Senator Martinez, and it pass with all voting members present voting in favor.

Motion 3

Senator Martinez moved that the minutes of the first meeting of the land grant committee be approved. The motion was seconded by Senator Sanchez, and it passed, with all voting members present voting in favor.

Welcoming Remarks and History: Cañones Land Grant

Hijinia Gallegos, president of the Juan Bautista Valdez Land Grant board, welcomed the committee to the area and said that she is looking forward to its visit to the land grant the following day. She introduced members of the land grant board who were in attendance, including some younger members of the land grant who were at the meeting to give a presentation on the history and customs of the land grant. The land grant board presented a welcoming letter to the committee that summarized its presentation.

Report on the Status of Tierra Amarilla Land Grant's Mineral Rights and Wind River Energy's Milagro Project

Dennis Wells, president of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board, Jack Steinhauser, president of Wind River Energy Corporation, Belarmino Archuleta, a member of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board, and Jake Arnold, public affairs director of the Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Office, gave a presentation to the committee on this matter. The chair indicated that the committee would hear from all of the panel members and then give the panel a chance to field questions.

Mr. Wells read from a memorandum giving some historical background, discussing the agreement with Wind River Energy and criticizing the *Rio Grande Sun's* coverage of the matter. Mr. Wells said that the board received \$233,000 and that it was meeting with a prominent attorney for further advice, after which it plans to call a meeting of all land grant heirs and then proceed according to the laws of New Mexico.

Mr. Steinhauser gave a PowerPoint presentation to the committee that provided background information on Wind River Energy and the Tierra Amarilla oil shale exploration "milagro project". The presentation also gave an overview of the steps that Wind River Energy took to clear the title cloud over lands in the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, including details of the opinion letter of Santa Fe title attorney James Bruce that outlined the legality of the waiver agreement signed with the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board.

Mr. Belarmino Archuleta gave an overview of the history of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, including details of his personal connection to the land grant. He expressed concern that the waiver was never brought in front of the commissioners. He stated that the community has

been kept in the dark and has a right to know what is going on.

Mr. Arnold told the committee that the Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Office became involved in this matter when it heard last May that there might have been a problem with the purchase of mineral rights in the county. Mr. Arnold detailed his research into this matter, including interviews with Mr. Steinhauser and research at the Secretary of State's Office. He noted that both sets of bylaws filed with the Secretary of State's Office have a greater number of board members than called for in statute. He also discussed the actions of a different oil company, Approach Oil, in Rio Arriba County, which seem to raise questions similar to those with Wind River Energy.

The chair requested that Mario Martinez, the secretary-treasurer of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board, make a presentation to the committee. Mr. Martinez stated that the board has done everything required by the Secretary of State's Office. He also stressed that the land grant is a community land grant, never a private land grant. He discussed the history of previous attempts to organize the land grant heirs and addressed the "hysteria" that greeted the news of the waiver.

The chair noted that the committee had come to Rio Arriba County so that it might take testimony from all concerned with this issue. He also provided some background to the history of the land grant's loss of land, particularly Thomas Catron's plan to acquire property that belonged to land grants.

Members of the committee inquired of Mr. Wells and Mr. Martinez how many meetings they had held to discuss the waiver; where those meetings had been held; where they had been advertised; and whether they had complied with the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Wells detailed what they had done to advertise the meetings. Members of the committee asked if the agreement had been filed with Rio Arriba County or with the Public Regulation Commission. Mr. Wells indicated that any required filing would be handled by their attorney. Members of the committee wanted to know whether a check had been issued. Mr. Steinhauser responded that one had been issued to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant board of trustees and was deposited. The committee inquired further whether the \$233,000 was going to be distributed to the land grant heirs. Mr. Martinez discussed the various membership drives that the land grant's board had conducted over the years. When asked what the board intends to do with the \$233,000, Mr. Martinez responded that it would be spent for administrative purposes, particularly on legal expenses. Members of the committee expressed concern that the money does not seem intended for the heirs and that the waiver had been pursued and sold without consultation with the heirs.

The discussion with the members of the panel led to some confusion as to whether the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant is in fact a private land grant or a community land grant. Mr. Arturo Archuleta and Dr. García y Griego were asked to address the committee again to clarify the issue. Mr. Arturo Archuleta noted that he has not examined the patent, but historically, the land grant has been considered a private grant, though that status has always been challenged. Professor David Correia of the University of New Mexico, who is researching a book on the

Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, was allowed to address the committee. He noted that the status of the land grant has never been directly addressed in various court cases that have been brought in quiet title actions. The courts have always referred to the land grant as a private land grant, but the question has never been directly before a court, and it is still in dispute.

Members of the committee questioned Mr. Steinhauser regarding the purchase of the waiver. He explained how Wind River Energy generally examines title ownership and the assurances the company had received from attorneys regarding the propriety of this sale.

Members of the committee asked further questions of Mr. Wells regarding whether, as Tierra Amarilla holds itself out as a community land grant, it had complied with all of the statutory requirements. Mr. Wells indicated that it currently is operating as an independent association and not under Chapter 49 NMSA 1978, and that this is one reason the land grant needs legal advice, which it is going to obtain after August 10. Mr. Archuleta explained that it seems to be the land grant's intent to act as a community land grant and that he has offered assistance, but he is not sure that the land grant has complied with all of the elements of the law. When asked about the heirs to the land grant, Mr. Martinez said that heirs have to register with the board, and he indicated that there are about 70 registered heirs. When asked to clarify what legal issues the board needs to pursue, Mr. Wells stated that it needs someone to ask the United States Congress to reexamine past decisions and erroneous conclusions it made about the land grant.

Members of the committee asked the land grant board what was in the bylaws regarding mineral rights. Mr. Martinez stated that the bylaws say that all actions must be taken to benefit the heirs. When asked how many heirs voted on the waiver of rights, Mr. Martinez stated that there was a unanimous vote of 20 heirs. Members of the committee expressed discomfort that so few heirs had voted on this issue. Members of the committee then asked Mr. Steinhauser whether there is a way for the land grant to back out of the waiver. Mr. Steinhauser stated that there is no way to withdraw the waiver.

When asked about the process in the bylaws to change trustees, Mr. Martinez stated that there are a lot of processes, including voting and having to be an heir. When asked about the term that members of the board serve, Mr. Martinez stated that setting term limits is a future plan; that at present, the land grant has a perpetual board until such time as it gets land back and has a substantial membership. Members of the committee questioned whether there is any basis for the land grant board as constituted to sell a waiver and questioned whether the waiver of mineral rights is worth only \$233,000 when one would think it would be valued much higher. Members of the committee had further questions along these lines. They asked Mr. Wells and Mr. Martinez why they had not pursued royalties as well. Mr. Wells and Mr. Martinez did not have a clear answer to this question, and they indicated that this was part of the reason an attorney is needed.

Members of the committee also asked Mr. Steinhauser questions about the waiver versus mineral rights. Mr. Steinhauser indicated that mineral ownership is researched by title analysts.

He also stated, when asked, that he would not release the names of those who own the mineral rights because that is proprietary information.

Members of the committee asked Mr. Wells and Mr. Steinhauser about the filing of the waiver agreement with state officials. Mr. Wells indicated that nothing has been filed and that the issue of filing is something else he wants to raise with an attorney. Mr. Steinhauser noted that Wind River Energy has not filed anything and that the company is in the process of accumulating land positions and would choose a time in the future to record and file.

Members of the committee asked Mr. Wells and Mr. Martinez about when board elections had been held. Neither Mr. Wells nor Mr. Martinez could give precise information about the dates or conduct of elections to the board.

Members of the committee questioned Mr. Steinhauser about hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). Mr. Steinhauser gave an overview of the process and said that the negative reputation the process has is unwarranted. He also noted that there are already some 57,000 wells in the San Juan Basin, including some 11,000 in Rio Arriba County, and that most of these are fracked.

Members of the committee pressed Mr. Wells and Mr. Martinez further on the election and constitution of the land grant board, on the list of heirs and on required filings with the Secretary of State's Office. There was particular concern over the land grant board having too many members, on missing filings and on conflicting numbers of heirs in what has been submitted to the secretary of state and the board's testimony. Members of the committee expressed concern over what appears to them to be a lack of compliance by the board, and they wondered about nepotism among the board members, given that some of the board members are siblings. Mr. Martinez told the committee that anything that was wrong can be corrected. Mr. Arnold added some specific details from his files. Members of the committee also asked Mr. Steinhauser if any of these issues have been noted by the attorneys that Wind River Energy hired. Mr. Steinhauser replied that Wind River Energy's due diligence has focused on the legitimacy of the agreement itself.

The chair closed the discussion by stating that it is evident that there are important issues raised, and he encouraged the land grant board to reach out to available resources, such as the Land Grant Consejo or to other land grants, such as Cebolleta, that had confronted similar issues. He expressed hope that the various parties could get together to resolve their differences.

Camposanto and the Return of Common Lands in the San Joaquin del Rio Chama Land Grant

Leonard Martinez, president of the San Joaquin del Rio Chama Land Grant board, gave the committee a brief overview of the history of the land grant, detailed the land grant's compliance with statutory requirements and presented a series of maps and satellite photographs that show where the camposanto is located and how access to the camposanto is restricted. He

noted that members of the land grant's board met with New Mexico's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., last year, and the delegation asked the land grant to go before the Land Grant Committee to get a letter of support for the return of the camposanto.

Motion 4

Representative Jimmie C. Hall moved that a letter be drafted to New Mexico's congressional delegation asking for the camposanto to be removed from its wilderness designation. The motion was seconded by Senator Martinez, and it passed, with all voting members present voting in favor.

Members of the committee asked for further clarification of which roads lead to the camposanto, and they noted that there seems to be a conflict between what is required by the United States Forest Service and the blocked access to the camposanto.

Background Materials on Land Grants

Dr. García y Griego was asked to go over background materials on land grants that he had provided to the committee. These materials had been requested by the committee at its previous meeting.

Information for Tours of Abiquiu and Cañones (Juan Bautista Valdez) Land Grants

Mr. Kovnat went over the plans for a dinner that evening for the legislators, and Mr. Ferran went over the details of the following day's tour of the Abiquiu Land Grant and the Juan Bautista Valdez Land Grant.

Public Comment

Virgil Sedillo of the Abiquiu Land Grant, whose family settled along the Chama River in 1734, had three points to make: (1) he would like to see more support for the land grant's cultural centers; (2) he would like the committee to look at acreage minimums and tax rates; and (3) he encouraged the committee to look at the status of who owns mineral rights in land grants. Members of the committee were particularly interested in the concerns expressed by Mr. Sedillo regarding the acreage requirements and taxation. The committee agreed to examine the issue further. Members of the committee also suggested further examination of the issue of mineral rights, suggesting that a memorial to the appropriate federal entities asking the federal government to relinquish mineral rights back to the land grants might be in order.

Carmen Quintana recommended a book to read, expressed dismay that Santa Fe County is the only county in New Mexico with a county surveyor; called for working with schools to help clean up the acequias and to teach the young about acequias; called on the legislature to give land grants first choice when properties in land grants are in foreclosure proceedings; and questioned whether land grants are considered enterprise zones.

James Carpenter of the Concerned Citizens Observation Group suggested that the committee examine the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and look at corporate activity in land grants in light of the UCC.

Catherine Montañó commented that drilling is not clean and expressed her concerns about contaminated water and radiation in the air from the Los Alamos fires.

The committee recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 29

The committee reconvened at 8:00 a.m. for a tour of the Georgia O'Keeffe house and a *morada* in Abiquiu, arranged by Mr. Ferran. Afterwards, the committee, hosted by Ms. Gallegos, visited by van various places in the Cañones Land Grant, learning about illegal trash dumping, a conflict over the camposanto and problems with, and ideas for, economic development in the land grant. The committee also visited the Cañones Land Grant's historic church. The committee then was shown the 32 acres returned to the Abiquiu Land Grant on the Rio Chama, and it learned about the land grant's plan to turn the riverfront area into a park with nature trails and wildlife observation platforms. The committee ended its tour of the land grants with a visit to Abiquiu's historic church. The committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.