

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING IN 2009
of the
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Room 309, State Capitol
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the interim Land Grant Committee (LGC) was called to order by Representative Miguel P. Garcia, chair, on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at 10:10 a.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Miguel P. Garcia, Chair
Sen. Richard C. Martinez, Vice Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Andrew J. Barreras
Rep. Eleanor Chavez
Rep. Thomas A. Garcia
Rep. Jimmie C. Hall
Rep. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Sen. Sander Rue
Sen. Bernadette M. Sanchez

Absent

Rep. Paul C. Bandy

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. Dianna J. Duran
Rep. Brian F. Egolf, Jr.
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

Staff

Jon Boller
Tamar Stieber

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Copies of all handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Miguel Garcia extended a welcome to all LGC members and staff and to the audience, which included visitors from land grants in Mora, Atrisco, Santa Fe and other areas in the state. Representative Garcia said he, too, is an heir to a land grant that was taken away from the heirs. Noting that the LGC is not created by statute, he listed some of the committee's accomplishments during the last interim, including brokering the return of 36 acres back to the Abiquiú land grant from the Department of Game and Fish and the Department of Transportation.

Representative Garcia thanked Speaker of the House Ben Lujan for keeping the committee alive, saying that without Speaker Lujan, the committee would have dissolved years ago.

Interim Committee Protocols

Paula Tackett, director, Legislative Council Service (LCS), briefed the committee on interim protocols, including quorums, voting, resignations, blocking provision, sound system, seating, chairing, calendar and conflicts, per diem and mileage, preferred method of contact and conferences.

Acknowledging Ms. Tackett's reminder that only voting members can vote, Representative Miguel Garcia urged advisory members to express themselves freely during discussions. Ms. Tackett said that she, too, encourages advisory members to participate actively.

Report on 2009 Legislative Session

Jon Boller, LCS staff attorney, summarized the fate of LGC-endorsed bills in the 2009 legislative session:

- Passed
 - land grant election procedures (House Bill 458, Chapter 131);
 - a tiered audit system (Senate Bill 336, Chapter 283);
 - the Land Grant Support Act (House Bill 85, Chapter 94), which creates a state Land Grant Council that will act as a liaison between land grants and local, state and federal governments; and
 - adding into the Congressional Record the state attorney general's response to the U.S. General Accounting Office's report on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and requesting that Congress address land grant claims (Senate Joint Memorial 5).
- Failed
 - consulting land grants in the land use planning process of state agencies when state land lies within traditional boundaries of a land grant (House Bill 39);
 - making land grants eligible for tax credits for conservation and preservation easements (Senate Bill 32);
 - allowing for liability coverage for land grants to be purchased through the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department (Senate Bill

- 59); and
- requesting that Tierra Amarilla land heirs be granted traditional-use rights to land within the boundaries of the original grant (House Joint Memorial 15).

Work Plan and Itinerary

The committee voted unanimously to approve the following work plan and itinerary for the interim:

- Work Plan Topics
 - implementing the Land Grant Support Act, including the appointment of members to the newly created Land Grant Council and the relationship of the attorney general's Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division to the council;
 - converting land grants governed by their own statutes to political subdivision status as per Chapter 49, Article 1 NMSA 1978;
 - classifying agricultural, commercial and other types of land within land grants for property tax purposes;
 - considering a proposal by the Land Grant *Consejo* for dealing with boundary disputes between land grants and federal agencies, including restoring traditional-use rights on federal properties that formerly were common lands;
 - designating certain land grant holdings as "traditional cultural properties";
 - hearing updates on a land grant abstract project by the State Records Center and Archives and the state historian's interactive web site project;
 - following up on the Land Grant Studies Program at the University of New Mexico; and
 - discussing Cristobal de La Serna and Atrisco land grant issues.

- Itinerary
 - July 30-31: Ranchos de Taos, Cristobal de la Serna;
 - Sept. 3-4: La Joya, Tomé;
 - October 29-30: San Antonio de Las Huertas (Placitas); and
 - November 25: Santa Fe.

The committee agreed to request from the New Mexico Legislative Council an out-of-town meeting in October and a Santa Fe meeting in November.

Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 12:35 p.m.