**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, December 12, 2024

Present: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar

Purpose of the Meeting: to discuss a request from the Las Trampas Water Association to help remove the old wood heater, purchase the necessary hardware for the new heater and install the hardware and wood heater at the Escuelita and to discuss firewood processing and distribution.

Meeting called to order by Alex Lopez at 10:02 a.m. Five Board members present constitutes a Full Quorum.

Key Actions: Reviewed posted agenda. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the Draft November 14, 2024, minutes. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, that the minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report: Current Checking Balance: $319,619.81; Last month’s balance was $319,519.81. The difference reflects a deposit of $100 membership dues.

Last Month’s balance of $319,519.81 + $100 = $319,619.81 current balance.

Current Savings Balance: $140.32; Last month’s balance was $140.29. Difference reflects interest.

Visa Card Balance: $0.00.

**Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby that the Treasurer’s Report be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussed the email received by Arnold from Priscilla Lopez, President of the Las Trampas Water Association (MDWCA), requesting help from the Las Trampas Land Grant to remove the old wood heater in the Escuelita and replace it with a safer, more efficient wood stove. The MDWCA would purchase the new wood heater and asked that the Land Grant remove the old heater, purchase new stove pipe necessary and install the stove pipe and heater.

After much discussion, the board felt that the current old wood stove is of good quality, has a blower and is well suited for the Escuelita. It was agreed that it needs an ash pan and the chimney needs to be checked and upgraded if necessary to ensure it meets safety standards. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Ruby that Arnold request that the MDWCA not replace the old wood stove and the Las Trampas Land Grant will hire and pay for a certified wood stove installer to inspect the old wood stove and chimney and to replace/maintain as necessary to ensure it meets safety standards. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sam presented 4 membership applications to the board for approval. These are from Michael Lawrence Armijo, Louella Aguilar Gurule, Edward Lee Aguilar and Benjamin A. Aguilar. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Ruby to approve these 4 applications. Motion passed unanimously.**

Board of Trustees updates on agreed 2024 Action Plan items:

1. Gravel the Plaza Area – Alex: Arnold stated that the request for reauthorization from the State regarding excess allocation for the Wood Splitter has been approved. Alex can now proceed in getting pricing for fill material and a contractor to level the material on the Plaza area.
2. Entering Las Trampas Land Grant signs on Highway 76 – Pat: DOT stated that the sign to place in Rodarte at entrance to Llano de San Juan has been ordered and will be shipped to the Penasco maintenance staff for installation sometime this winter or Spring.
3. Land Grant sign for the Plaza Area – Alex: Alex continues to communicate with the Historical Society regarding wording for the sign.
4. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold: Arnold has not yet had a chance to process logs. He plans to transport the processor to and from his home to the Las Trampas site daily and process logs a few days until he can determine the rate of processing. Alex stated that he would help Arnold. Arnold would like to complete the processing before Spring. Decision by the board is tabled until the next meeting.
5. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Alex: No change. No land available. Arnold has been meeting with the Forest Service regarding the possibility of a Special Use Permit for the Davi Fresquez site on the Upper Ojito road.
6. Managing and Coordinating Legislative requests for tours and meetings – Ruby: No requests.
7. Sharing knowledge of Land Grant corners and boundary lines on-the-ground with Land Grant Board and members – Arnold: Arnold will schedule a date for Board Members to view corners on the ground but will likely be next year.
8. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester’s Office--Pat. Pat stated that he obtained a Forest Service Road map from the Carson National Forest which shows all FS roads and he will use those road numbers to update the map for the next revision.
9. Development of a Website – Pat: Pat shared an email from Morgan requesting that the board approve spending an additional $4.00 per month to Brownrice for the info@lastrampaslandgrant.org email address.  She would communicate with Brownrice to have them set it up.  This will provide an email address noted on the website for members to communicate with the Land Grant. The Secretary would be responsible for monitoring the email in-box and responding to emails. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam that we approve Morgan’s request. Motion passed by unanimously by the 4 remaining board members since Arnold had to leave before the meeting ended.**

**Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam that meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary