**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, April 10, 2025

Present: Board: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar; Members: Ben Aguilar, Louise Lucero and Sophia Maestas.

Purpose of the Meeting: for an update from Arnold on the firewood processing and distribution and to approve applications for membership.

Meeting called to order by Alex Lopez at 9:56 a.m. Four Board members present constitutes a Quorum.

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

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes for the March 13, 2025 Monthly Meeting. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Ruby, to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes as corrected by Pat. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes for the March 24, 2025 Special Meeting. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, to approve the March 24, 2025 Special Meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously**.

Treasurer’s Report: Presented by Arnold in Sam’s absence.

Current Checking Balance: $301,736.21; Last month’s balance was $319,878.59; the difference of $18,142.38 reflects $20,000.00 paid to the contractor for the fill material in the parking lot and a check for $237.38 paid on the Visa Credit Card plus a deposit of $2,095.00 from membership fees and firewood sales ($20,000 + $237.38 = $20,237.38 - $2,095.00 = $18,142.38). Per a breakdown from Sam, the $237.38 paid on the Visa includes $55.68 for printing of liability waivers for the wood distribution project; $51.85 to Tractor Supply for grease and lube for the wood processor; Diesel from Picuris Travel Center for $41.25, $43.84 and $44.76 for the wood processing project.

Current Savings Balance: $332.10; Last month’s balance was $332.03. The difference of $0.07 reflects the addition of dividends from the credit union; Visa Card Balance: $0.00.

**Motion by Pat, seconded by Arnold, that the Treasurer’s Report be approved pending clarification from Sam regarding the breakdown of the $237.38 payment to Visa Card. Pat will consult with Sam and include the breakdown in the Draft Minutes. Motion passed unanimously**.

Arnold presented a handout with an update of firewood processing and distribution. Total costs at this point are $6,061.36 which include contract work by Michael Dominguez of $5,445 for loading the logs onto the wood processor with his tractor with forklifts. Other costs were for diesel, gas, bar oil, grease and lubricant, printing of waiver liability form and O-ring kit. Additional costs are planned for oil change and filters for the wood processor engine, hydraulic fluid and new O-ring(s).

To date, 52 members in Good Standing have picked up a free cord of wood. 13 members in Good Standing did not pick up their wood. 48 community members have been scheduled to pick up a cord of wood at $100 per cord (7 have been no-shows after being scheduled). 127 community members have signed up to buy a cord of wood using the on-line form.

Arnold plans to sell the rest of the wood in order to ensure we meet expenses and projected expenses except for 1 free cord of wood to a Taos resident per Forest Service District Ranger special request. He has 2 individuals that have expressed interest in taking the burnt logs for free. We need to get rid of these burnt logs in order to clean up the site.

Since we are out of firewood, any new members will no longer get a free cord of wood. We expect to get more logs from the Forest Service in the next few weeks which will be processed at a different location. The Board will decide how much to charge members in Good Standing vs unpaid members and community members. It is the Board’s sensing that a free cord of wood will no longer be offered in order to ensure that processing expenses are met.

Reviewed 19 new member applications which were recommended by Sam for approval. These include an application from Louella Lopez Rodriguez, Gary Bruce Ortega, Policarpio P. Romero, David L. Cruz Sr., Ernestina R. Cruz, David L. Cruz Jr., Larry D. Lopez, Ramona L. Gonzales, Raymond A. Pacheco, Lilian G. Romero, David L. Sanchez, Libbie Pacheco, Florence Janet Vigil, Jeremiah Frank Martinez, Raymond Christopher Lopez, Matthew Raymond Armijo, Terecita E. Gonzales, Savannah Pilar Rodriguez and Kimberly A. Lopez. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Arnold, to approve these 19 applications for membership. Motion passed unanimously**.

Board of Trustees updates on agreed Action Plan items: Alex stated that the placement of fill material in the parking lot has been completed.

1. Land Grant History sign for the Plaza Area – Alex: project still in progress.
2. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold: see update above.
3. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Alex: No change.
4. Managing and Coordinating Legislative requests for tours and meetings – Ruby: No requests.
5. 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 when time allows.
6. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester’s Office--Pat. The next version of the map should be ready soon.
7. Updates for Website – Pat: Arnold will prepare a statement on firwood availability for posting.
8. Capital outlay request for a Skid Steer to be shared by Acequia de Chamisal and the Land Grant –Arnold: Did not get approved by the Legislature.
9. Carson National Forest Plan – Pat: Has not had time to begin review yet.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary