**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, May 8, 2025

Present: Board Members: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar; Members: Ben Aguilar, Virgil Vigil, Wilfredo Aguilar, Kimberly Herrera and Benny Vigil.

Purpose of the Meeting: to discuss FY 2026 interim budget; discuss proposal to purchase a skid steer; discuss Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP); update on the firewood processing and distribution; decide on new piles of logs---prioritize sales to whom, price per cord, etc.; approve any new Las Trampas Land Grant Members; and create the annual meeting agenda.

Meeting called to order by Alex Lopez at 10:00 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 and discussed the draft minutes of our April 10, 2025 meeting. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, to approved the minutes with a minor correction. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report:

Current Checking Balance: $319,144.17; Last month’s balance was $301,736.21; the difference of $17,407.96 reflects a deposit of $25,735 ($20,000.00 reimbursed from the State for our payment to the contractor for the fill material in the parking lot, $840 Member dues and $4895 from wood sales). Total payments made were $8,327.04 ($64.89 to Pat Aguilar for purchase of file folders, $277.60 to the VISA Card ($15.00 for diesel, $45.91 diesel, $42.03 purchase of O-rings from BUR Surplus Center, $45.42 diesel, $42.40 diesel, $51.38 diesel and $35.46 for diesel), $5,455 paid to Michael Domingues for loading logs on wood processor, $2,539.55 paid to the Las Trampas MDWCA for installation of the wood stove in the Escuelita).

$25,735 deposits minus $8,327.04 expenditures = $17,407.96.

Current Savings Balance: $332.17; Last month’s balance was $332.10. 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**.

Reviewed and discussed FY 2026 Interim Budget handouts provided by Arnold. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to approve the Interim Budget as agreed to during discussions. Motion passed unanimously**.

Discussed the characteristics/requirements for a skid steer that would meet our needs (65 hp, 3800 lbs max). Arnold suggested that we already have $45,000 programmed in our Interim Budget and by adding wood receipts, we should have the amount required for a new skid steer. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to revise the Interim Budget to include $45,000 for a skid steer plus wood receipts to meet the cost. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussed the pros and cons of submitting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. Decided that we would continue with a request for $70,000. Reviewed Resolution No. 2026-1, A Resolution Adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that we approve Resolution No. 2026-1. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold and Alex presented an update on firewood distribution. Alex stated that he has two individuals that have expressed interest in taking the burnt logs as logs at no cost. He estimates there are about 10 loads of split wood left on the Las Trampas site. Arnold provided Alex with a list of individuals that have requested 1 cord for $100. Alex will use this list to remove the last of the wood on the Las Trampas site.

Arnold stated that about 35 loads of logs have been delivered to the Ojito site (Arnold’s property) for the next round of firewood processing. This will equal about 200 cords of split wood. There may be an additional 35 loads of logs available. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, that we sell split wood in this next round at $100 for Members in Good Standing, $200 for members not in Good Standing and for non-members; vigitas less than 8 inches in diameter to be sold at $10.00 per each and vigitas larger than 8 inches in diameter to be sold by the cord for $200 with a limit of one cord per person. Motion passed unanimously.**  Once Arnold is ready to distribute the new material, Pat will place a notice of its availability on our website.

Reviewed 20 applications for membership. These include applications from Loretta Ann Pacheco, Miguel M. Montoya, Lori Lopez Hammond, Betty C. Montoya, Anna M. Montoya, Tranquilino Lopez Jr., Joyce Sadie Mondragon Cordova, Maria Sadie Lopez Mondragon, Monique Learnadetta Augustina Cordova, Eliza P. Romero, Leanora Ruby Vasquez, Denise Bernie Pacheco, David Lawrence Alarid, Loretta Lopez Herron, Angelica Maria Pacheco, Monica Marie Armijo, Brenda P. Lopez, Tina Lopez Aragon, Alicia Lopez Suazo and Spring Iris Roybal. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Arnold, to approve these 20 applications. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold presented a draft annual meeting agenda for board review and input. Pat mentioned that he had some suggestions for by-law revisions. Arnold requested that they be sent to him ASAP so that he can meet the deadline for posting the agenda.

Board of Trustees updates on agreed Action Plan items:

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 has been completed. It is posted on the website.
7. Updates for Website – Pat: none provided.
8. Rancho de Davi Fresquez – Arnold: Will meet with Camino Real District Ranger.
9. Carson National Forest Plan – Pat: Has not had time to begin review yet.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary