**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, June 12, 2025

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

Purpose of the Meeting: to update on the purchase of a Skid Steer; update on ICIP; review Trump Proposals, update on firewood processing and distribution; further discussion on new piles of logs, prioritize sales to whom, price per cord, etc.; and approve new land grant members.

Meeting called to order by Alex Lopez at 10:00 a.m. Five Board members present constitutes a Full Quorum.

Key Actions: Reviewed the posted agenda. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, that the posted agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes of our May 8, 2025 meeting. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, that the draft minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report:

Current Checking Balance: $320,849.17; Last month’s balance was $319,144.17; the difference of $1,705.00 reflects a deposit of $1,705.00 ($4.80 member dues plus $1,225.00 from wood sales). There were no expenses.

Current Savings Balance: $332.24; Last month’s balance was $332.17. 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, to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold stated that the Skid Steer approved for purchase during our last meeting is scheduled to be delivered next Thursday, June 19, at his place. Total purchase price was $46,600 for the Skid Steer, $4,400 for the Graper plus $600 for delivery for a total of $51,600. Arnold presented a requisition to Alex for signature which was signed by Alex.

Arnold stated that the ICIP has been submitted to request funding for a Skid Steer since it wasn’t approved for funding last year. Since we already purchased a Skid Steer, if approved, we would have 2 options: Sell the Skid Steer we bought with our own funds and purchase another with Capital Improvement funds, and, second option is to request a change of our ICIP request from a skid steer to a dump truck with the funds approved for a skid steer.

Sam presented as information a proposal by President Trump to clear-cut National Forest lands and another for selling federal land to the highest bidder. Both proposals could have an effect on the Las Trampas Land Grant Common lands.

Alex stated that he has been able to distribute almost all the wood from the Las Trampas site. He expects to give away the material remaining, including the burnt logs in order to clean the site soon.

Discussion on the new piles of logs in Lower Ojito resulted in leaving the sell price as previously approved at $100 for Members in Good Standing and $200 for others. Arnold stated that chain sharpening for the wood processor by an outside source is costly. After some discussion, the board agreed that Arnold should purchase a chain sharpening tool so he can sharpen as needed.

Sam presented 6 new applications for membership and recommended approval for all 6. The applicants are Maxine D. Medina, Albert U. Lucero, Valene F. Gonzales, Faith G. Garcia, David Medina and Adam Tomas Montoya. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby, that the 6 applications be approved for membership. Motion passed** **unanimously.**

Alex presented that the Las Trampas Harvest Festival was proposing to charge $10 per booth for this year’s festival. He suggested that he send a letter stating that the Land Grant should not approve their use of our Parking lot for the Festival unless they drop the $10 per booth fee. Ruby stated that the Festival doesn’t need additional money since their primary money-maker has always been the raffle. Pat suggested that the Land Grant should not be involved in the details of how the Festival is run and that we should limit ourselves to approving of the Land Grant owned site for the festival and request a Waiver of Liability from the Festival for use of our parking lot. After much discussion, Alex put the question to a roll-call vote. Sam voted to sending a letter asking the Harvest Festival to request approval to use our site, request a waiver of liability and not mention the $10 fee. Pat voted for the same as Sam. Arnold voted to request approval to use our site, submit a waiver of liability and to run the Festival as it has been run historically (without mention of the $10 fee they proposed to charge). Alex concluded that the result is a 3-2 vote in favor of him sending a letter but Arnold’s clarification of his vote resulted in approval of Alex sending a letter representing the Land Grant which askes for the Festival to request use of our site, submit a waiver of liability and state that the Festival must follow tradition of making money only through the raffle without mention of the $10 fee they plan to charge.

Arnold stated that QuickBooks requested payment of $1,100. Payment will be made by credit card instead of autopay option.

Sam asked if the Treasurer was bonded. Arnold stated that he has not received an invoice for payment but he received an email from Jacobo Baca stating that we applied so we must assume that the Treasurer is bonded.

Nothing new on updates.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary