**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, September 11, 2025

Present: Board: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar; Members: None.

Purpose of the Meeting: to approve Resolution No. 2026-2 Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund FY 2026 Year and 2025-2026; formally approve the hiring of Jodi Gallegos as firewood processing worker; approve payment for hours worked to date by the two firewood processing workers, approve the flyer on the Las Trampas Land Grant firewood sale; approve the questionnaire on the Las Trampas Land Grant firewood sale and approve any new Las Trampas 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 Pat, seconded by Sam, that the posted agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes of our August 12, 2025 meeting. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Arnold, that the draft minutes of our August 12 meeting be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report:

Current Checking Balance: $265,387.35; Last month’s balance was $267,273.63; the difference of $1,886.28 reflects a deposit of $240.00 member dues; Total expenses were $2,126.28 ($1,000.00 to NM Finance Dept for General Liability; $384.29.00 to Copy Queen for printing of Land Grant maps, $146.41 for internet (website), $144.10 to Tractor Supply for wood processing oil/grease and $451.48 to Amazon for the wood processor’s chain sharpener).

Current Savings Balance: $332.45; Last month’s balance was $332.38. The difference of $0.07 reflects the addition of dividends from the credit union;

Visa Card Balance: $0.00

Sam stated that he has moved $200,000 to a money market account in order to gain more interest but this won’t be reflected until our September statement.

**Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby, to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold presented Resolution No. 2026-2, Land Grant Merced Assistance Fund FY 2026 Year 2025-2026. After discussion, **motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, that Resolution No. 2026-2 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold recommended that we approve Jodi Gallegos, who he has trained to operate both the wood processor and the skid steer, as a contract employee . After discussion, the Board suggested that we approve Manuel Lopez as a contract worker as well (we approved Manuel at August 12 as a hire but did not specify “as a contract worker”). We reviewed their W-9s and signed Waivers of liability. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, that we hire both Jodi Gallegos and Manuel Lopez as contract workers and that the Vice President is authorized to sign their contracts. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold stated that Manuel Lopez has worked 65.75 hours at $20.00 per hour for a total of $1,315.00. Jodi Gallegos has worked 51.5 hours at $17.00 per hour for a total of $875.50. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, that we approve the two invoices for these amounts and that we pay them every two weeks, to be monitored, recorded and processed by Arnold. Motion Passed unanimously**.

Arnold presented an information flyer for our second firewood sale project. After review and suggestions from Board Members, **motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that this flyer be approved after incorporating the suggestions made. Motion passed unanimously**. Arnold stated that he would make the changes then send to Board Members for review and comment.

Arnold presented a questionnaire that individuals requesting firewood will need to complete and submit electronically. After review and suggested changes by the Board, **motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby, that the questionnaire by approved after incorporating the suggestions made. Motion passed unanimously**.

Sam presented one application for membership from Darlene Leyba Alfieri. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that Darlene Alfieri’s application be approved. Motion passed unanimously**.

Pat mentioned that the historical sign for the Land Grant which Alex has been working with the State’s Historical Society on has been placed over-and-on the church’s historical sign. Alex will follow up with his contact at the Historical Society to have them correct their error. The Land Grant’s sign was supposed to be a separate and additional sign.

Arnold stated he is scheduled to meet with an individual working for Gabriel Lopez at UNM to discuss a proposal to develop a pellet processing plant which can utilize slash from thinning projects.

Trucks Turning signs which we used during the firewood project here in Las Trampas are still up on Hwy 76. Arnold will contact DOT to have them removed.

Arnold presented a requisition for vehicle maintenance needs and had the President sign it.

Pat stated that he obtained a copy of the Special Use Application form from the Carson NF. He will work with Arnold on it and present a required resolution for approval at our October meeting.

Pat stated that he provided a copy of the Land Grant Map to Kathryn Vigil for the Ojo Sarco Community Center. He provided 3 copies to Board members (Alex & Ruby will share one) and will see if Ray Pacheco will make an old wood frame for 2 copies, one for the Chamisal Senior Center and one for the Escuelita.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary