

MEETING MINUTES

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, January 8, 2026

Present: Board Members: Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Tina Lopez Aragon and Pat Aguilar; Members: Juan P. Lopez, Priscilla Lopez; Guests: Doug North

Purpose of the Meeting: to review the budget on the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District MOA with the Las Trampas Land Grant regarding the Leñero program and adjust if needed; appointment of new Board Members; approval of a new website editing platform; approve any new Land Grant members; and updates on Board of Trustees Action Plan items.

Meeting called to order by Arnold Lopez at 10:00 a.m. Four Board members present constitutes a Quorum.

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

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes of our December 11, 2025 meeting. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Tina, that the draft minutes of our December 11, 2025 meeting be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report:

Current Checking Balance: \$113,883.00; Last month's balance was \$185,439.57. The difference of **\$71,556.57** reflects deposits of \$5,175.00 (all from wood sales); Expenses totaled \$1,098.57 (\$172.07 paid to Visa Card, \$416.50 paid to Jodi Gallegos and \$510.00 paid to Manuel Lopez for wood processing). Per decision made during our December meeting, \$75,633.00 was moved/deposited into our Money Market account) [$\$5,175.00 - \$1,098.57 - \$75,633.00 = \mathbf{\$71,556.57}$]

Money Market Account: Current balance of \$276,605.72. Last month's balance was \$200,686.27. The difference of **\$75,919.45** reflects a \$286.45 dividend/interest plus \$75,633.00 moved from checking. [$286.45 + \$75,633.00 = \mathbf{\$75,919.45}$]

Savings: Current Balance of \$332.73. This reflects a \$.07 dividend from previous balance of \$332.66

Visa Card: Current Balance, \$0.00. Besides the \$172.07 paid for the December statement, an additional \$89.09 was paid in January which will appear on the January statement. This was for diesel and oil for the wood processor.

Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed the budget presented on the draft MOA between the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District and the Las Trampas Land Grant for the Leñero program. After much discussion and input from Doug North, Mayordomo and from Priscilla Lopez, Asistente for the current Leñero program, it was

agreed that the amounts shown are adequate and agreed to. We hope to complete the 70 acres in 12 months but can request adjustments to the budget if necessary.

Reviewed a letter from Juan P. Lopez dated December 21, 2025 which states that he is interested in joining our Board. Juan addressed the Board and stated that he was involved with the Santa Barbara Land Grant Board years ago and grew up in Las Trampas, is originally from Las Trampas. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, that Juan be appointed to the Board. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed a letter from Samuel Lopez, Treasurer, stating that he will be resigning from the Board effective February 13, 2026 due to health reasons. Sam has been on the Board since 2016. Sam's resignation will result in 3 new Board Members after our President, Alex Lopez, and Ruby Lopez resigned last month.

After some discussion, it was agreed that we would wait until our February 12th meeting to re-organize and elect from among ourselves the new officers of the Land Grant. In the meantime, it was agreed that Arnold, Vice President, can sign as our President until re-organization decisions are made.

Pat stated that our Website Manager, Morgan Aguilar, requested that we consider selecting a new website editing platform because the current one is very basic and does not allow the flexibility to edit the improvements we would like on our website. The platform she would like to use is not compatible with our website host, Brownrice. It was agreed that Morgan should consider platforms that are compatible with Brownrice or recommend a new website host if she feels Brownrice compatible platforms will not meet our needs. We will place her recommendations for decision at a future Board meeting.

Sam presented the application for membership from Ralph Dominguez. Sam stated that the descendants shown qualify him for membership. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Arnold, that Ralph Domingues be approved as a member. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the Board of Trustees Action Plan items.

1. Improving the surface of the parking lot between the Church and the Escuelita. Juan agreed to take the lead on this item. He will contact Larry Lopez, our previous contractor, to obtain a quote from him to complete the surfacing. Our budgeted amount was not enough to complete the job last year.
2. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold stated that we have about 15 cords already processed and ready for pickup. In addition, we have over 400 cords that are still in logs but will be processed as demand requires. Pat agreed to send an email to members to let them know that we still have a lot of wood available.
3. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Arnold will meet with Tomas Romero and Nelson Lopez to relate that we are still interested in obtaining their parcels for our future headquarters office.
4. Sharing knowledge of Land Grant corners and boundary lines on-the-ground with Land Grant Board and members – Arnold will schedule a date for Board Members to view corners on the ground when time allows.

5. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester's Office—Pat stated that Ray Pacheco has agreed to construct posture frames and expects to have them by Christmas. Pat will follow-up with Ray on status.
6. Updates for Website – Pat stated that Morgan would like to use a better website editing platform. Morgan will look into other platforms compatible with Brownrice, our website host and also consider other website hosts if Brownrice compatible platforms don't meet our needs. No action has yet been taken on Arnold's suggestion during our November meeting that we should place a link in our website to the Forest Council's website so that we can increase locals' knowledge of who the Council is and what the Council is doing within the Land Grant.
7. Rancho de Davi Fresquez – Arnold plans to attend a meeting of the Santa Barbara Land Grant to improve understanding of our joint use of the Rancho de Davi Fresquez on January 18. The Ranger requested that we obtain written agreement from the Santa Barbara Land Grant to document that they are in favor of joint use of the site. The Forest Service also requested that Arnold again check with the Truchas Land Grant to see if they are in favor of jointly using this site as well. Arnold will contact Dana Boruch, Forest Service, on status of our Special Use Application.
8. Carson National Forest Plan – Pat stated that he is currently reviewing the Plan and has communicated with Peter Rich, Carson NF Planner, regarding development of a map showing Forest Plan Components for the Land Grant. Arnold agreed to take the lead on developing the Forest Plan map for the Land Grant.
9. Find an attorney that will serve as our Pro-Bono attorney to advise us on legal issues. – Tina will take the lead on this.
10. Capital Outlay Request – Juan mentioned that the State Legislature has scheduled the annual Land Grant Day which he will attend. Arnold stated that he got an email with the date which he will forward to Board members. The day is usually scheduled for late January or early February. The Board agreed that Juan will be our key contact with Legislators to promote approval of our Capital Outlay request.

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

Meeting ended at 12:38 p.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary