

MEETING MINUTES

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, February 16, 2026

Present: Board Members: Jose Arnaldo Lopez, Sam Lopez, Tina Lopez Aragon, Juan P. Lopez and Pat Aguilar; Members: Larry Lopez & Virgil Vigil; Guests: Kathryn Vigil

Note: Sam Lopez had submitted a letter of resignation from the Board effective February 13 in order to serve as Treasurer through our scheduled February 12 meeting. Since the February 12 meeting was changed to February 16, Sam and the Board agreed that he would not resign until February 17 in order to continue to serve as Treasurer through this meeting.

Purpose of the Meeting: to appoint a new Board of Trustees Member; to realign the Las Trampas Land Grant Board of Trustees; to approve the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District MOA with the Las Trampas Land Grant Leñero Program with corrections if needed; to approve the Leñero Service Agreement; approve the Mayordomo-Asistente Leñero Program Agreement; to hire the Leñero Program Mayordomo and Asistente; to approve the Las Trampas Land Grant Board of Trustees 2026 Election Resolution; to approve the Las Trampas Land Grant Board of Trustees 2026 Election English & Spanish Proclamations; to approve a Journal Entries Policy per the 2025 annual audit (AUP); to review and approve the Parking Lot upgrade quote; approve a new website editing platform; approve any new Land Grant members; and review and update Board of Trustees agreed Action Plan items.

Meeting called to order by Jose Arnaldo Lopez at 10:03 a.m. Five Board members present constitutes a Full Quorum.

Key Actions: Reviewed the agenda. Juan suggested that we move items 7 & 8 to follow item 21. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to approve the agenda with the suggested change to move items 7 & 8 to follow item 21. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed and discussed the draft minutes of our January 8, 2026 meeting. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Tina, that the draft minutes of our January 8, 2026 meeting be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report:

Current Checking Balance: \$113,591.16 ; Last month's balance was \$113,883.00. The difference of **-\$291.84** reflects deposits of \$965.00 (\$40.00 from new members and \$925.00 from wood sales); Expenses/withdrawals totaled \$1256.84 (\$0.17 activity fee charged by bank; \$5.00 charged by bank for a returned check in the amount of \$125.00(from a wood purchaser); \$1126.67 paid to Visa Card (\$89.09 paid in January for diesel wood processor plus \$1,037.58 paid to the auditor as final payment)).

$\$965.00 - (1126.67 + \$125.00 + \$5.00 + \$0.17) = \textbf{-\$291.84}$

Savings: Current Balance of \$534.76. Previous balance was \$332.73. The difference of \$202.03 includes \$.08 interest plus \$201.95 dividend.

Money Market Account: Current balance is \$277,014.49. Last month's balance was \$276,605.72. The difference of **\$408.77** reflects a dividend/interest.

Visa Card: Current Balance, \$0.00.

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

Reviewed the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District MOA with the Las Trampas Land Grant Leñero Program. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that the MOA be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the Leñero Service Agreement. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Juan, that the Leñero Service Agreement be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the Mayordomo-Asistente Leñero Program Agreement. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, that the Mayordomo-Asistente Leñero Program Agreement be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, that Doug North be hired as the Leñero Program Mayordomo. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Pat, seconded by Juan, that Priscilla Lopez be hired as the Leñero Program Asistente. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed the Merced de Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de Las Trampas Election Proclamation Resolution, Resolution No. 2026-5. Arnold suggested that polls should be open from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. in order to accommodate members that work that day. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that Resolution No 2026-5 be approved with the change that polls be open for voting from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the English and Spanish versions of the Merced de Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de Las Trampas 2026 Official Election Proclamation. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, that both the English version and the Spanish version of the 2026 Official Election Proclamation be approved with the change that polls be open for voting from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold presented a Journal Entries Policy which was recommended by the auditor during our annual audit. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, that the Journal Entries Policy be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the parking lot upgrade quote received from Gravel Driveway Specialists, LLC dated 02/05/26. Larry Lopez detailed the work that he is proposing to improve runoff flow from the parking lot in order to reduce erosion and maintain a flatter surface. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, that Gravel Driveway Specialists' quote for \$9,982.74 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Pat stated that our Website Manager, Morgan Aguilar, decided that she could use a website editing platform that is compatible with our Website host, Brownrice. We will not need to purchase a new editing platform. Pat presented an Invoice from University of New Mexico Press which allows us to place Chapter 12 (pp. 149-167) of the book Enchantment and Exploitation. The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexican Mountain Range, Revised and Expanded Edition by William deBuys on the Las Trampas

Land Grant website for educational purposes with a note crediting the book. The Board concurred that we should place the book's Chapter 12 on our website with a note crediting the book as required.

Sam presented the applications for membership from Jose George Maestas, Wayne Patrick Visarraga, Bert Julian Vigil and Kathryn Joyce Vigil. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Tina, that these four applications be approved for membership. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed and updated the Board of Trustees Action Plan items.

1. Improving the surface of the parking lot between the Church and the Escuelita. See minutes above. Approved quote from Larry Lopez. He plans to perform the work in late March/early April.
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. An email was sent to all members and a note has been placed on our website that wood is still available.
3. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Arnold stated that he met with Tomas Romero and that he is not interested in selling his land. He will visit with Nelson Lopez to relate that we are still interested in obtaining his parcel for our future headquarters office. Tina will contact Herbert Vigil to see if he's interested in selling his land to the Land Grant.
4. Sharing knowledge of Land Grant corners and boundary lines on-the-ground with Land Grant Board and members – Arnold will schedule a date to view corners on the ground when time allows.
5. Framing the posture size maps of the Land Grant — Pat stated that Ray Pacheco decided he could not make the posture frames. Pat took two maps and the Joel Arguello poster to Hobby Lobby in Santa Fe and had them framed. One framed map was given to the Chamisal Senior Center and the other framed map and poster were placed in the Escuelita.
6. Updates for Website – See minutes above. 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 – Dana Boruch, Forest Service, stated that we should have the Special Use Permit by June 1. A meeting is planned for February 24 with the Carson NF Forest Supervisor and the District Ranger of the Camino Real Ranger District to discuss opportunities to involve the Land Grant in forest activities and our proposed use of the Rancho de Davi Fresquez site.
8. Carson National Forest Plan – Pat stated that he has reviewed the Forest Plan. Arnold agreed to take the lead on developing the Forest Plan map for the Land Grant which we can use to show areas already thinned and future thinning proposals.
9. Find an attorney that will serve as our Pro-Bono attorney to advise us on legal issues. – Tina has developed a tentative list of possible local attorneys which she will contact.

10. Capital Outlay Request – Arnold stated that our request has not yet been acted upon during this legislative session.

Motion by Pat that we approve appointment of Kathryn Vigil to fill the At-Large position on the Board. Kathryn shared that she is willing to serve on the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

After much discussion, the officers of the Board were decided as follows: President: Juan P. Lopez; Vice President: Tina Lopez Aragon; Treasurer: Jose Arnaldo Lopez; Secretary: Pat Aguilar. Another realignment will be held after our April 6, 2026 elections. The two Board Members who will need to run for election on the April 6, 2026 election are Jose Arnaldo Lopez and Kathryn Vigil. The other 3 positions are good until elections in 2028. The Treasurer, Jose Arnaldo Lopez, will have signature authority on the Las Trampas Land Grant Nusunda Credit Union banking accounts.

The Board agreed to change our Regular Monthly Meeting day from second Thursday of each month to the second Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Escuelita in Las Trampas.

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

Meeting ended at 1:33 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Aguilar', written in a cursive style.

Pat Aguilar, Secretary