



**New Mexico Higher Education Department
Capital Projects Committee Meeting
Animas Conference Room
2044 Galisteo Street, Suite 4
Santa Fe, NM 87505**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026
9:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:32am

2. Roll Call of Committee Members

Present were Chairman Campos, Member Jorgensen arrived at 9:40am, Member Trujillo, Member Martinez, Member Billingsley, and Member Brown

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved

4. Approval of Minutes from

a. December 11, 2025, Capital Projects Committee Meeting

Approved

b. January 14, 2026, Capital Projects Committee Meeting

Approved

5. Announcements:

a. Next Capital Projects Committee Meeting will be held on April 8, 2026.

b. NMHED Technical Summit is Monday, March 23-Tuesday, March 24, 2026.



Projects to be reviewed

6. New Mexico Junior College – \$9,000,000
Real Property Acquisition of 5419 N. Lovington Hwy Hobbs NM Adjacent to NMJC

Presenters: Cathy Mitchell, Interim President, NMJC; Scotty Holloman, General Counsel/Chief Community Liaison, NMJC; Dr. Charley Carroll, VP of Operations & Special Projects, NMJC; Josh Morgan, VP for Finance, NMJC

New Mexico Junior College presented a request to acquire 23.5 acres adjacent to campus, including a former hospital and associated buildings, to secure long-term control of campus boundaries, improve safety, and support future planning. The project includes acquisition, environmental review, demolition, and site stabilization, with no intent to reuse existing structures. Discussion focused on future land use, demolition cost drivers (including abatement), lease management for existing tenants, and community partnership support, including a county-funded grant and coordination with the city on a land swap to enable regional flood control improvements.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Copy of Tax & Revenue Department concurrence letter provided to NMHED CPD

7. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology – \$7,000,000
Playas Research and Training Center (PRTC) - Infrastructure Improvements

Presenters: Carlos Romero, Assoc. VP for Research, NMIMT; Alex Garcia, Director Capital Projects, NMIMT

New Mexico Tech presented infrastructure upgrades at a remote research and training site, including replacement of a failing water system, reconstruction of primary roadways, and HVAC improvements to support research and operational demands. Discussion focused on aging infrastructure risks, fire protection deficiencies, and the need to bundle projects to reduce mobilization costs. Committee members raised questions regarding long-term funding strategy, cost recovery for maintenance, and overall return on state investment, including federal and private research activity. The institution highlighted significant and growing federal partnerships, projected research funding, and future workforce training opportunities tied to site development. Additional discussion clarified water quality monitoring, non-I&G classification, and operational sustainability.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Update Form 3 with narrative on cost saving for HVAC



8. Luna Community College – \$984,286
HVAC Upgrade Admin and GS

Presenters: Dr. Carol Linder, President, LCC; Matthew Griego, Facilities and Life Safety Director, LCC

Luna Community College presented a project to replace outdated HVAC systems across multiple buildings to improve air quality, efficiency, and reliability. Discussion focused heavily on delays in project execution, prior related HVAC approvals, and missed opportunities to bundle projects or pursue energy performance contracting. Committee members emphasized the need for improved planning, coordination, and documentation, including concerns about reporting compliance and project timelines. Institutional leadership acknowledged prior challenges and committed to improved processes moving forward.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Letter from Board of Regents to confirm the institution will not utilize energy performance contracts provided to NMHED CPD

9. Navajo Technical University – \$11,151,720.78
Revision Academic Building

Presenters: Jason Arviso, VP of Operation, NTU; Abe Bitok, Director of Support Services, NTU; Sylvia Tyler, CFO, NTU; Carlos Murrietta, Architect, NTU

The institution presented a request to complete remaining elements of an academic building project, including development of outdoor learning space, accessibility improvements, drainage and safety enhancements, and site landscaping. Discussion focused on design challenges related to water and ice accumulation at the building entrance, alignment with original project scope, and use of federal funding. The institution emphasized the importance of culturally relevant outdoor instruction and workforce-aligned programming.

Approved



10. Santa Fe Community College – \$1,460,450
Loop Road & Emergency Evacuation Route

Presenters: Nick Telles, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, SFCC; Dobby Schmidt, Director of Facilities & Operations, SFCC; Helen Doherty, Project Manager & Assistant Campus Planner, SFCC

Santa Fe Community College presented a project to rehabilitate the campus loop road, which has not undergone major repairs in approximately 40 years and is currently experiencing cracking, drainage issues, and safety concerns. The project includes cold milling and resurfacing, drainage improvements, vegetation clearing, and safety enhancements such as bike lanes and improved pedestrian crossings. Discussion focused on project scope clarity, particularly the need to better reflect drainage improvements in formal documentation, as well as cost considerations, engineering fees, and construction approach. Coordination with a nearby county road project was also noted as a factor in future traffic patterns.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Form 1 updated scope of work

11. University of New Mexico – \$4,400,000
REVISION 2: Children's Psychiatric Center - Admin HVAC Replacement

Presenters: Dr. Garnett Stokes, President, UNM; Dr. Michael Richards, Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences; Enrico Volpato, Executive Director, UNMH Facility Services, UNMH; Gregory Smith, Director, UNM Planning & Construction

UNM presented a budget increase to address unforeseen conditions discovered during construction, including deteriorated internal piping, insulation, and valves impacting system performance. Discussion focused on the need for clearer documentation of efficiency improvements and confirmation that all deficiencies have now been identified.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Form 3 updated to incorporate energy efficiency equipment



12. University of New Mexico Hospital – \$550,000
UNMH - UPC Boiler Replacement

Presenters: Dr. Garnett Stokes, President, UNM; Dr. Michael Richards, Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences; Enrico Volpato, Executive Director, UNMH Facility Services, UNMH; Gregory Smith, Director, UNM Planning & Construction

UNM Hospital presented a project to replace an aging boiler serving critical behavioral health operations with a high-efficiency system. Discussion emphasized ensuring that energy efficiency improvements are clearly documented in project materials.

Approved contingent upon the following:

- Form 3 updated to incorporate energy efficiency equipment

13. University of New Mexico Hospital – \$1,500,000
Pavilion 2nd Floor Inpatient Refresh

Presenters: Dr. Garnett Stokes, President, UNM; Dr. Michael Richards, Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences; Enrico Volpato, Executive Director, UNMH Facility Services, UNMH; Gregory Smith, Director, UNM Planning & Construction

UNM Hospital presented a project to refresh vacated inpatient units to support expanded patient care functions, including minor renovations and deferred maintenance improvements. Discussion confirmed alignment with previously identified capital priorities.

Approved

14. University of New Mexico Hospital – \$1,750,000
UH Main 1st Floor Public Corridor Refresh

Presenters: Dr. Garnett Stokes, President, UNM; Dr. Michael Richards, Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences; Enrico Volpato, Executive Director, UNMH Facility Services, UNMH; Gregory Smith, Director, UNM Planning & Construction

UNM Hospital presented a phased project to address deteriorating infrastructure in high-traffic public corridors, including fire suppression system replacement and interior finish upgrades. Discussion focused on coordination of infrastructure repairs with broader facility improvements and minimizing operational disruption.

Approved



15. New Mexico Highlands University – \$8,485,712.47
Track Facilities Renovation

Presenters: Scott Noble, Athletic Director, NMHU; Aaron Flure, AVP for Finance and Administration, NMHU; Matt Keys, Ampere Design; Trent Gareis, Ampere Principal Director of Project Delivery

The institution presented a project to replace an aging and deteriorated track and field facility, including construction of an NCAA-compliant track, field, and throwing areas, along with associated site improvements such as lighting, fencing, and accessibility upgrades. The project was framed primarily as a safety priority due to documented injuries and facility degradation, as well as an opportunity to expand athletic participation and bring programs back on campus. Funding is proposed through a university-affiliated foundation utilizing a line of credit, with no direct state funding requested.

Committee discussion raised significant concerns regarding project readiness, including lack of alignment with prior master planning, limited documentation of funding structure and repayment strategy, uncertainty around long-term operations and maintenance, and insufficient clarity on how the project supports broader institutional priorities. Additional discussion focused on coordination with local partners, sustainability of athletic program growth, and financial risk to the institution and state.

No action taken

16. Adjourn

Adjourned at 12:30pm