



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Minutes

Environmental Sustainability Board

*John Bliss, Chair; Sarah M. Terrill, Susan Barns, Erik Loechell, and James Robinson,
Members*

Thursday, August 17, 2017

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Suite 110

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The ESB chair, John Bliss, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

The following members were in attendance:

**Present: Board Chair Bliss, Member Terrill, Member Barns, Member Loechell,
Member Robinson**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elena Giorgi asked the board to review issues regarding prescription drug disposal. She feels that not many residents are aware of how to properly dispose of their medications. The police station has a bin to collect discarded prescriptions and is currently the only location in Los Alamos County. Elena would like to know if it would be possible to advertise this service and possibly expand collection to include the local pharmacies.

Don Machen brought in a ceramic food composter with a filter built into the lid and compostable bags for the ESB to review.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Barns, that the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Loechell, that the June 15, 2017 and July 20, 2017 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

[9809-17](#)

Approval of the June 15, 2017 and July 20, 2017, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: John Bliss

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes June 15, 2017](#)
[B - Draft ESB Minutes July 20, 2017](#)

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[9816-17](#) How Jemez House Thrift Store Contributes to Sustainability in a Mighty Way

Presenters: John Bliss

Mary Zemach from Jemez House Thrift Store spoke regarding their contribution to sustainability in Los Alamos County. Items covered included: outreach in Rio Arriba County, scholarships for youth, support provided to orphanage in Mexico, clothes helping kids, assistance for fire victims in Los Alamos County, recycling initiatives and thrift store donation policy. The philosophy for the Jemez House Thrift Store is "The more you give away the more you get."

[9810-17](#) Discuss and Vote for the Color of the Brush Roll-Cart

Presenters: John Bliss

Attachments: [C - Public Input on Brush Bin Color](#)

Environmental Services Division requested public input on the brush bin color at Science Fest, Los Alamos County Fair, and Facebook. The brown bin received 294 votes and the green followed closely with 247 votes. ESB members voted on their preference and brown was selected unanimously. Brown will be the official color of the brush bin.

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that the next step is to determine how many carts to order initially. The website will have a brush bin registration for residents to request a roll-cart.

[9814-17](#) Discuss Bear Issues Regarding Waste Management and Waste Containers

Presenters: John Bliss

Attachments: [D - Bear Deterrent Tips](#)
 [E - Bear Proof Roll Cart Price](#)
 [F - Bear Resistant Hardware Tutorial](#)

Member Barns presented a list of bear deterrent tips she gathered from Facebook and public events, she suggested that a flyer be developed that can be shared on social media and as a utility bill insert.

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that the bear hardware installations are ongoing; however, there have been several reports that the bears are tearing off the locks. To date, 105 bear hardware installations have been completed and another 48 are on the waiting list. The bear tuff cart grant has been awarded and the estimated cost to the customer will be \$77 per cart.

Michelle Rosette, Los Alamos County resident, offered edit suggestions to the bear deterrent tips as well as the draft wildlife ordinance.

[9820-17](#) Discuss and Revise Draft Wildlife Ordinance

Presenters: John Bliss

Attachments: [H - Draft Wildlife Ordinance](#)
[Penalties for violations of wildlife ordinance in CO](#)
[LA Plata CO proposed bear resistant trash container ordinance](#)

Cheryl Bell, Wildlife Chair for Pajarito Chapter Sierra Club urged the ESB to require residents to place carts at the curb on the day of collection, instead of the night before.

Member Robinson handed out data on bear resistant trash container ordinance and penalties for violations from Colorado. Board Chair Bliss, asked Member Robinson to make the suggested changes to the draft wildlife ordinance and bring back to the ESB for review and approval after legal has approved the language.

9815-17 ESB Member Recruitment Update

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported there were three applicants for the two vacant positions on the board. Appointment of new members will be made August 29, 2017 at the County Council meeting.

6. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report - John Bliss

Board Chair Bliss reported that the County Fair was successful and there was a lot of interest from the public on the brush bins.

B. Liaison's Reports

1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns

Member Barns reported that items discussed at the Board of Public Utilities meeting included: Otowi well #2 will be drilled in September, the Ski Club voted last week to sell to a private company which includes completing the installation of water line to the ski hill, the White Rock power outage in July was caused by fault on the LANL transmission line and PNM is going to exit its agreement with San Juan generation which will cause the plant to close in 2020.

2). Planning and Zoning Commission - James Robinson

Member Robinson reported that items discussed during the Planning and Zoning Commission included a request for a home based business.

3). Transportation Board

Don Machen reported that items discussed during the Transportation Board meeting included: ACT ski hill run will be considered although it's not in the current budget, the bicycle plan has been submitted to National Bike Association to designate Los Alamos as "bike friendly," 502 construction including the roundabout is estimated to begin in 2018, and the traffic control measures on North Road and Urban.

4). Parks and Recreation Board - Erik Loechell

Member Loechell reported that items discussed during the Parks and Recreation Board meeting included: approval of upgrades to ice rink and golf course and they are looking at upgrading or possibly reducing the number of tennis courts around Los Alamos.

5). County Council Liaison - Pete Sheehey

No report provided

C. Los Alamos Public Schools Subcommittee - Angelica Gurule

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that she has received a draft of the RAID contract agreement for the Zero Waste lunch campaign and waste oil heater.

7. STAFF REPORT**9819-17**

Discuss Schedule to Conduct Residential Recycle Audit

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that it is time to schedule the recycle audit and would like to have it done before winter. The audit will be conducted on one collection area over a two week period.

9817-17

July 2017 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [Residential Sustainability Report - July 2017](#)

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that the residential diversion rate is up from 20% in June to 24% in July. Construction is currently being done at the Transfer Station's west push wall, as a result cardboard and mixed recycling are being comingled due to space issues.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. ESB FY18 Work Plan
2. Eco Challenge in October
3. Save As You Throw
4. C & D recycling
5. Host workshop on sustainable gifts
6. Recycle Fashion show
7. Wildlife Ordinance

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Barns, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

John Bliss, ESB Chair

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Community Services Administration Office at 662-8163 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.