



# 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, James Robinson, Heidi Rogers, and Heather Ward, Members*

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Thursday, November 16, 2017

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Suite 110

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The ESB Chair, John Bliss, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Present: Board Chair Bliss, Member Barns, Member Loechell, Member Rogers and Member Ward

Absent: Vice Chair Terrill and Member Robinson

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexi David gave a brief presentation about his background and several projects he has been involved in. Mr. David recently moved here from France and is looking for opportunities to be more involved in the community. He has also volunteered to be on the Save As You Throw (SAYT) subcommittee.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Rogers asked to be added to the agenda to discuss the sustainable art/gifts workshop.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[10106-17](#)

Approval of the October 19, 2017, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: John Bliss

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes October 19, 2017](#)

A motion was made by Member Barns, seconded by Member Rogers, that the October 19, 2017 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. BOARD BUSINESS

**10109-17**      Eco Challenge Presentation of Award Winners

**Presenters:**      Susan Barns

Member Barns introduced the Eco Challenge Committee: Jody Benson, Julie Bulthuis, Cheryl Bell, Michelle Christensen and Sandra West. Jody Benson presented a poster with the environmental impact Los Alamos County had during the Eco Challenge. In Los Alamos there were 120 participants and 12 teams. The Eco Challenge Committee presented Heather Ward with the first place individual award. Second place was awarded to Megan Lee and accepted by Julie Bulthuis. Third place was awarded to Myrna Strong and accepted by Sue Barns. Team ESB won the first place award for most team points.

**10115-17**      Review and Discuss the Environmental Sustainability Plan

**Presenters:**      Philo Shelton

**Attachments:**    [D - Environmental Sustainability Plan 2017](#)

Joshua Levings presented the amended Environmental Sustainability Plan. Members were asked to review the changes and it will be put back on the agenda next month for final approval.

**10120-17**      Discuss Collection Schedule for Yard Trimmings Roll Carts

**Presenters:**      Philo Shelton

**Attachments:**    [E - Residential Recycle Audit Results](#)

The Board discussed the collection schedule for yard trimming roll carts and recycle roll carts. Based on the recycle audit data, one potential option is to collect recycle and yard trimmings bi-weekly on alternate weeks. Residents who continuously fill their recycling carts each week would be offered larger or additional recycle roll-carts to off-set the pickup schedule. It was recommended that an open forum survey be done in January with a subsequent open meeting to obtain public input prior to setting or amending any collection schedules.

**10113-17**      Overview of the National Sword: China's Scrap Ban

**Presenters:**      Philo Shelton

**Attachments:**    [Partnership Webinar Oct 2017 National Sword](#)

Tiffany Pegoda provided an overview of the Recycling Partnership Webinar, "National Sword: What Is It and How Will It Impact My Program?" The webinar offered a six-point plan on how to shield your program from national sword, a deep-dive into paper and plastics markets from industry experts, the Institute for Scrap Recycler Industries and an open discussion on impacts and actions with four different regional Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) from across the U.S.

**10110-17**      Save As You Throw Subcommittee Update

**Presenters:**      Susan Barns

Subcommittee members include: Angelica Gurule, Sarah Terrill, Heidi Rogers, Sue Barns, Sandra West and Alexi David. The first meeting was held November 1, 2017, items

covered included: looking at a variety of options to address increasing waste disposal costs (with decreasing revenues), SAYT has the advantages of providing a more equitable rate structure and giving resident more control over what they pay for waste disposal. Several approaches are being considered: annual flat rate increases, implementing a tiered rate based on disposal volumes, continue to subsidize costs, change operations/reduce services or continue to run in the red. The SAYT subcommittee is scheduled to give a brief presentation to County Council in February. The next SAYT subcommittee meeting will be Thursday December 7, 2017, 12:30 p.m. at the Eco Station.

**10112-17****Discuss Liaison Assignments**

**Presenters:** John Bliss

Member Rogers volunteered to be the liaison for the Art in Public Places Board. Member Ward volunteered to be the liaison for the Transportation Board. Member Barns and Member Loechell will continue with their current liaison assignments.

**6. REPORTS****A. Chair's Report - John Bliss**

Board Chair Bliss reported that items discussed during the County Council meeting included: Code Enforcement questions on the brush roll cart program and the free load policy. Items discussed during the BCC meeting included: the bear issue, new art being installed at the Community Center made from propane gas tanks, HVAC upgrade at library, rezoned Entrada gateway area and defining the boundaries of the historic district.

**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: Chromium contamination has not been found in our water supply, Tim Glasco, Utilities Manager, met with a representative from Sandia. Sandia is looking at the economic value of keeping batteries for the solar array, drilling began on the new water well and the quarterly report has been published. The Board Chair, Jeff Johnson, would like a copy of the waste to energy presentation given to ESB a couple years ago, Board Chair Bliss will look for his copy.

**2). Planning and Zoning Commission - James Robinson**

No report provided

**3). Transportation Board - Rebecca Chamberlin**

Don Machen reported that items discussed during the Transportation Board meeting included: NM 502 is not scheduled to start in the spring as previously reported, ADA transition plan and the tunnel proposed from south rim pass to near the co-op.

**4). Parks and Recreation Board - Erik Loechell**

Member Loechell reported that items discussed during the Parks and Recreation Board meeting included: capital improvement projects including golf course, splash pad in White Rock, ice rink facility upgrades and the multigenerational pool.

**5). County Council Liaison - Pete Sheehey**

Councilor Sheehey suggested that the sustainability plan be expanded to include new statistics for passengers per hour. Councilor Sheehey answered questions brought up during previous reports regarding: ADA improvements, the funding for the tunnel proposal and capital improvement projects, Councilor Sheehey met with the Rio Grande Water Fund which includes 60 agencies. There are over 600,000 acres of forest in Northern New Mexico or near the Rio Grande that has to be thinned. Their goal is to thin around 30,000 acres per year, over 20 years.

**C. Los Alamos Public Schools Subcommittee - Angelica Gurule**

Tiffany Pegoda reported that the Zero Waste grant has been received back from NMED and staff is working on RFQ's for a 30 second video to run at the movie theatre and zero waste promotional items. Chamisa Elementary held their annual Recycle Art and Fashion Show on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 in conjunction with America Recycles Day.

**7. STAFF REPORT****10111-17 Review and Discuss the Environmental Services FY18 Quarter 1 Financial Report**

**Presenters:** Philo Shelton

**Attachments:** [FY18 Budget Performance](#)

Philo Shelton, Public Works Director, presented the Environmental Services financial report for FY18 1st quarter (July 1 - September 30). The most recent rate increase went into effect September 1, 2017, this report only includes one month of data with the new rate structure.

**10114-17 October 2017 Residential Sustainability Report**

**Presenters:** Philo Shelton

**Attachments:** [C - Residential Sustainability Report - October 2017](#)

Philo Shelton, Public Works Director, reported that the residential diversion rate is down from 25% in September to 23% in October due to the quarterly brush collection which ended mid-October.

**8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Develop Evaluation Committee for Recycle Based Incentive RFP
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
3. Work with UNM-LA and LAPS on Community Education Programs to Support Sustainability
4. Host Sustainable Art/Gift Workshop or Display
5. Draft survey for yard trimmings and recycling collection
6. Approve Environmental Sustainability Plan

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



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John Bliss, ESB Chair

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