



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

BCC Meeting Minutes Environmental Sustainability Board

Shannon Blair, Chair; Sue Barns, Vice-Chair; Joseph Chandler; Jyl DeHaven; Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath, and Rebecca Paley-Williams, Members

Thursday, July 17, 2025

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Council Chambers
and Zoom

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience, the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656951187>

Or One tap mobile:

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5:30 p.m. Member Jyl DeHaven absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as by Member Barns second by Member Geppert-Kleinrath the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[20404-25](#) Approval of May 15, 2025, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Shannon Blair

Motion to approve the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Meeting of May 15, 2025, by Member Geppert-Kleinrath, second by Member Paley-Williams the motion passed unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[20418-25](#) Planetary Health: An Overview by Heidi Rogers

Presenters: Heidi Rogers

Heidi Rogers, an Associate Professor and Registered Nurse at the University of New Mexico presented an overview on Planetary Health. Ms. Rogers was a member of the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) Task Force as well as the Environmental Sustainability Board.

20417-25**Plastic Bag Working Group Update**

Presenters: Shannon Blair, Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath and Rebecca Paley- Williams

The Plastic Bag Working Group gave an update; Chair Blair gave a brief overview of previous efforts by the Los Alamos County Council on the single use plastic bags. Member Paley-Williams gave a brief update on plastic bags and pollution and how plastic debris pollutes the environment adding statistics on the use of single-use plastic bags in New Mexico. Member Geppert-Kleinrath reported on the environmental impacts that plastic bags have. Members reported on New Mexico plastic bag ordinances with comparisons, on New Mexico proposed statewide ban, lessons learned from speaking with sustainability counterparts from the City of Las Cruces, City of Santa Fe, and Santa Fe County. Also gave statistics as to how many plastic bags Smith's in White Rock uses. Moving forward, community engagement for residents and business, also possible recommendations from ESB.

6. REPORTS**A. Chair's Report - Shannon Blair**

Chair Blair thanked Member Geppert-Kleinrath for his service as a member on ESB, and reminded everyone to take the EV survey.

1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns/Shannon Blair

Member Barns gave an update on the May, June and July Board of Public Utilities meetings, the recently completed electrification study, and the LAC electric supply. The Foxtail Flats project is on the cusp of starting construction. A new electric coordination agreement with LANL should be in place by late August, this is the agreement that says how the County is sharing power with the Laboratory. Utilities have started the upgrade to natural gas lines in Elk Ridge, should be done in 90 days. Chair Blair reported on the presentation that Clay Moseley, Deputy Utilities Manager gave on what you should and should not be putting down your drains, also mentioned the Utilities quarterly report and suggested members read it.

2). Transportation Board - Hermann Geppert

Member Geppert-Kleinrath reported that the Transportation Board did not meet in July, however one presentation at the June meeting was on the challenges the airport is facing and how to engage with the community. Another presentation was on the Canyon Rim trail and how to connect with the Urban trail, progress is under way.

3). Parks and Recreation Board - Shannon Blair

Chair Blair did not attend the last Parks and Recreation Board meeting, reported that on the agenda was the Adopt-a-trail program proposal, and Mesa Public Library outdoor classroom presentation and discussion.

4). Health Council - Jyl DeHaven

None.

5). County Council Liaison - Ryn Herrmann

None.

6). Inclusivity Task Force - Xeph Ivankovich and KokHeong McNaughton

Inclusivity Task Force Member McNaughton reported that the task force gave a presentation to Council in June and requested the task force be extended from October 2025 to February 2026 because of more work that needs to be done. Council approved the extension.

B. Working Groups and Steering Committee

1). Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance - Sue Barns and Rebecca Paley-Williams

Member Barns reported Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance had outreach events in June at the Farmers Market, Science Fest, and Pride Fest all focused on EV surveys and on trash and recycling education. Intern Eloise helped with the sustainability newsletter, managing the Volunteer Los Alamos page, posted a Bear Fest opportunity for volunteers, and asked members to help if they are available. Abby Hayward is researching the odd/even water calendar and whether or not it is working to reduce water use. The alliance is working on welcoming sustainability packages for new residents, idea is to have information for getting new residents on the right foot in respect to recycling, energy conservation, and climate change. Planning for August 3rd at the rodeo to support National Parks. The Eco club at the high school has lost their sponsor, more to come. The green page is back in Los Alamos Daily Post, bear carts are now in White Rock because of a bear in Pajarito Acres.

2). Education and Outreach Work Group

None.

3). **Community-Wide EV Study Working Group**

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule reported that the Education and Outreach Work Group visited some sites where potential county properties could EV infrastructure. Also, EV survey is open until the end of the month.

4). **Plastic Bag Fee Research Group - Shannon Blair, Rebecca Paley-Williams, and Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath**

None.

5). **Bee City Los Alamos - Britton Donharl**

Britton Donharl from Bee City gave an update on the backyard pollinator program.

7. **STAFF REPORT**

20419-25 Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule updated on the newsletter with on Sue Barns' article, update on the County's all new electric golf carts, and subscribers to the newsletter continue to grow. EV charging infrastructure task order was approved by Council; construction will begin for 6 new level 2 charges outside the County Municipal building. Thank you to all the volunteers at Farmers Market and Science Fest, will be at Farmers Market August 14th, and will be maintaining and weeding the demo garden in White Rock. Ms. Gurule will send out a call for volunteers. Shared the sustainability report and presentation that was given to Council.

8. **PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

For the meeting of August 21st, "Rewiring America, Energy Coach", Bicycle Working Group presentation, and Extreme Heat Expert – NMSU impacts to agricultural and water resources.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

7:47 p.m.

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.