

# Baling Twine Working Group Report & Recommendations

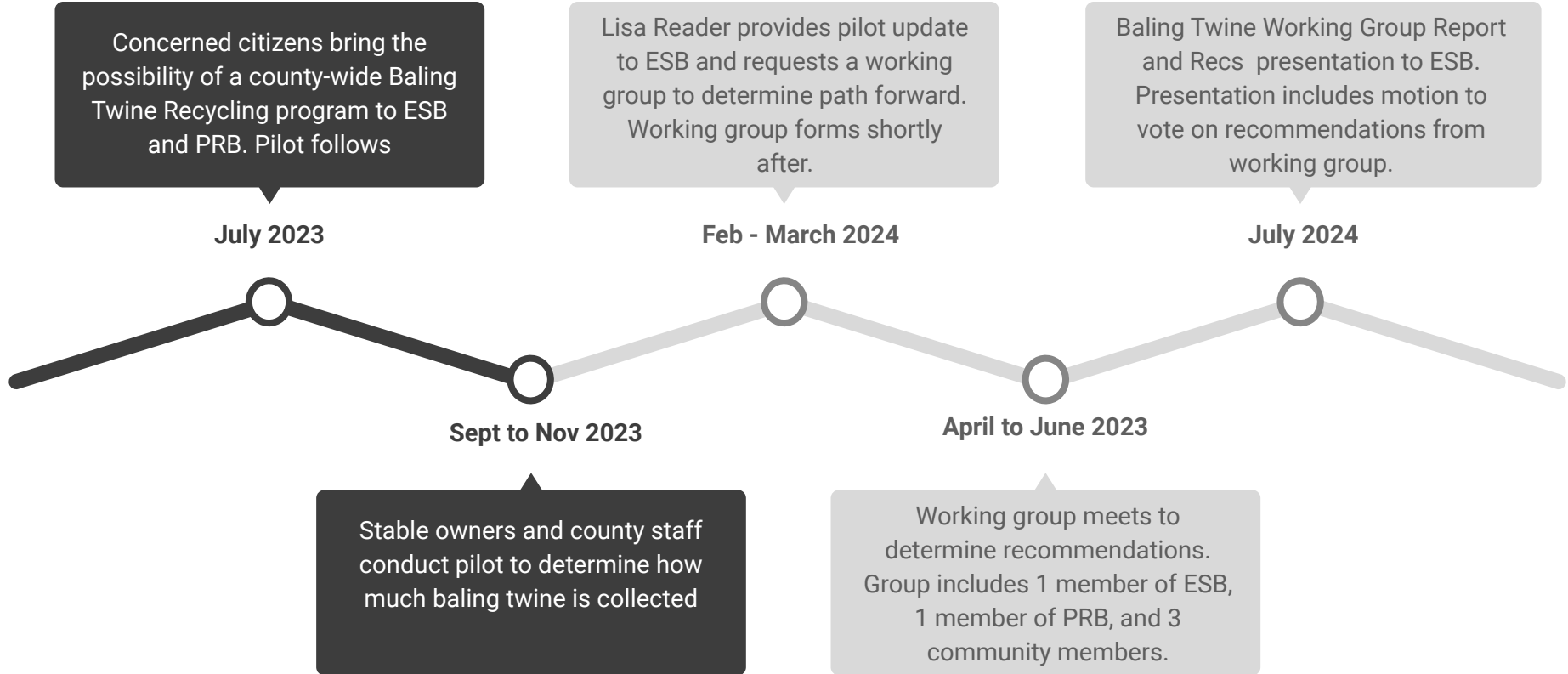
July 17, 2024  
Shannon Blair

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# Agenda

- 1. Timeline of Events**
- 2. Pilot Summary**
- 3. Motion**
- 4. Bailing Twine**
  - a. What is it?
  - b. Use in LAC
  - c. Environmental Impacts
- 5. Other recycling programs and recycling locations**
- 6. Working Group Approach**
- 7. Recommendations**
- 8. Questions**

# Timeline of Events



# Pilot Summary

- Support of Pilot from community and county staff
- 3 month pilot from Sept to Nov
- 380 pounds of baling twine were collected from Los Alamos and White Rock Stables
  - Would be 4,560 pounds per year
- Given amount of twine collected, it was determined it was not cost effective for LAC to manage a recycling program

# Motion

*“Upon the request of Lisa Reader, the ESB is proposing to establish a Baling Twine Working Group for a three month period beginning March 22, 2024, and ending June 22, 2024. Working Group members may include Shannon Blair (ESB member), one member of Parks and Recreation Board, and community members to include Lisa Reader and may include up to two other community members. **The purpose of the Baling Twine Working Group is to assess the viability of baling twine collection and recycling including cost, resources and assess the role of Los Alamos County, if any.**”*

# What is Baling Twine?

- Polypropylene plastic material used to bind hay and straw
  - Made from petroleum
- Bales usually have 2-3 strips of twine (10-15 total)
- Takes 20-30 years to decompose in landfill
- Technically a #5 plastic but cannot be recycled in curbside recycling



# Use of Baling Twine in Los Alamos County

- 400 head of livestock between LA & WR
- ~50,000 bales of hay (wrapped in 500,000 feet of twine) are used per year
- Other smaller users include gardeners, landscapers, etc

# Environmental Impact of Baling Twine

## Impacts to Wildlife and Livestock

- Birds often pick it up and use it in their nests
  - Can become entangled and can die
- Can become wrapped around the hooves, legs or necks of wild animals
  - Death or injury
- If livestock ingests it, they require surgery
  - Possibly death

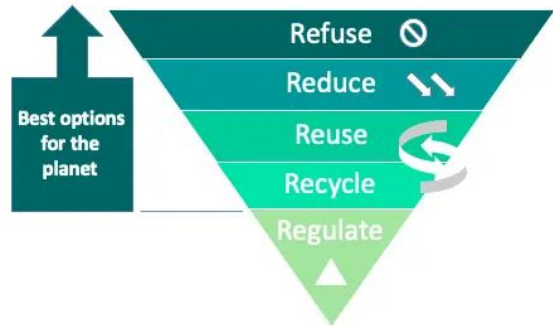
## Other impacts

- Made from a non-renewable resource
  - Net-zero and IPCC goals
  - Reduce & eliminate our use of plastics where possible
- Microplastics
  - Health and environmental concerns



# County Goals

Eliminate municipal solid waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and composting following “Zero Waste” principles - **Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy & Sustainability (LARES) Task Force, WCNR-1**



Protect native vegetation, wildlife and cultural resources through appropriate planning, monitoring, and on-the-ground projects” - **LAC Goal, listed under Managing Natural Resources**



# Other Recycling Programs



- Durango, Colorado
  - Volunteer system of collection and transportation to recycling facility
- City of Fort Collins
  - County provided service
    - Users pay by the pound to drop off
    - Collection in Boulder
      - Closer than AZ
- Montana
  - Managed by Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
- Other Countries
  - Canada, Germany, France and Spain have active recycling programs

# Recycling Locations

- Windsor, Colorado
  - Waste-Not Recycling
- Minnesota
  - Green Group Processing
- Glendale, Arizona.
  - RMC Industrial

# Baling Twine Working Group Approach



# 3 program types: Private/Public

## All Private - coordinated 100% by volunteers

- **Collection**

- Volunteers
  - Central location

- **Storage**

- WR Stable Owners
- Storage at a private facility
  - Possible costs involved

- **Transportation**

- Volunteers

- Volunteers include Los Alamos Stable Owners Association (LASOA), Los Alamos Pony Club (LAPC) and Pajarito Riding Club (PRC), High School EcoClub

# 3 program types: All Private

## Private/Public - coordinated 100% by volunteers, permission from LAC for storage

- **Collection**
  - Volunteers
    - Central location
- **Storage**
  - Privately Licensed Stable Lots at North Mesa
    - Request permissions from County
  - County Land
    - EcoStation
      - No - limited space, difficult to change lease
    - Bayo Canyon
      - No - crosses DOE land, limit traffic
    - White Rock Collection Station
      - No - no specific reason was given by county staff.
- **Transportation**
  - Volunteers

# 3 program types: All Private

## All Public - coordinated 100% by LAC

- **Collection**
  - Central Location (EcoStation, etc.) or Add recycling route
    - No - Costs, staff time
- **Storage**
  - County Land
    - EcoStation
      - No - limited space, difficult to change lease
    - Bayo Canyon
      - No - crosses DOE land, limit traffic
    - White Rock Collection Station
      - No - no specific reason was given by county staff.
- **Transportation**
  - LAC Staff
    - Either drive to recycling facility or coordinate pick-up
      - No

# Baling Twine Working Group Recommendation





# Recommendations

- Permit storage on privately licensed lots at the North Mesa stables - no cost to the county!
  - As per the Rules and Regulations governing the Stable Licenses, written permission from CSD would be required to allow activities that are not explicitly permitted under the current rules.
- Collection and Transportation would be coordinated by volunteers
- Pursue involvement of Los Alamos High School EcoClub (unknown status until school restarts)
  - Extend working group?
- Request that the county support communication and advertising of a future baling twine recycling program.
  - Possible support for Grant Writing if storage needs are identified

Questions?

Backup slides

# Other resource to pursue

- [Twinerecycling.com](https://www.twinerecycling.com)
  - Has resources and idea available to help establish a program
- Pursue collaborating with other Northern New Mexico stable owners