



County of Los Alamos

BCC Meeting Minutes - Draft

Environmental Sustainability Board

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*Joseph Chandler, Chair; Hermann Geppert, Vice-Chair; Shannon Blair; Armand Groffman;
Erik Loechell; KokHeong McNaughton, and Dina Pesenson*

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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:

+17193594580,,85656951187# US

+16694449171,,85656951187# US

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Member Groffman absent

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by Member Geppert, second by Member Loechell - The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve by Member Loechell, second by Member Blair the motion passed unanimously.

[18593-24](#)

Approval of the February 15, 2024, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Joseph Chandler

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[18594-24](#)

Discuss and Develop Communication Management Plan to Maximize Public Involvement

Presenters: Joseph Chandler

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule reported that during the work planning session one of the priorities was to develop and implement a communication management plan, including a method for the boards communication frequency message, and who would be the responsible board member and who would be the audience. Ms. Gurule presented a draft plan that is open for the ESB's input.

See attached Communication Plan

[18595-24](#)

Debrief on Climate Action Presentation to County Council

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule reported that Cascadia gave an excellent presentation to the County Council on March 5th. It was an update on the Greenhouse Gas inventory for the community and discussion on different analyses they have done to start developing the different actions the County could take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and setting up a potential target. Feedback from Council was that they are more in support of ambitious target and policies, but would like to consider the economics.

[18596-24](#)

Establish Baling Twine Working Group

Presenters: Shannon Blair

The ESB moved to establish the Bailing Twine working Group for the months beginning March 22, 2024 and ending June 22, 2024; and appoint ESB member Blair as lead; and request the lead to report findings to the ESB on or before the July 18, 2024 meeting.

Presenters: Shannon Blair

6. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report - Joseph Chandler

Chair Chandler encouraged everyone to get involved in all the groups the ESB is starting and, also encouraged everyone to recruit new people to the board.

B. Board Member Reports

1). Board of Public Utilities - Armand Groffman/Erik Loechell

Member Groffman was absent, however he provided the following report to Sustainability Angelica Gurule to share:

LAC BPU Manager's Report

AC has caught up with the gas recovery fund (sunset utility fund).

New employee orientation offered this month

Chromium plume letter from the NMED gives permission for N3B/LANL to start-up injecting treated water to the aquifer to control plume migration. LAC is drafting a response letter to the regulatory authority (NMED HWB).

LAC is in a start-up phase of the Jemez Mountain Protection Project (pipe line to Pajarito Mountain ski area) with \$900k from the NM Capital Outlay grant to update the electrical transmission line. LAC fire department is investigating structures to be located a Camp May to house fire protection equipment.

LAC is preparing to pay their obligation of \$0.5M to New Scale Carbon Free project agreed upon at the signing of the contract.

NMED HWB has accepted closure of environmentally restored solid waste management units along DP road. The land is now able to be transferred to LAC to be used for development. Conversations with the Nevada geothermal project with power output of 35 MW is ongoing. LAC's share would be 4 MW.

Fox Tail Flats Update-

- This is a solar panel/Battery electricity storage system (BESS) scheme
- LAC is ready to sign agreement with the Navajo (Dene) Tribe
- It will be 2-years until power is available. Weather and logistic impacts may impact the timeline
- LAC is the sole customer and can sell spare power to other entities
- Agreement between Fox Tail Flats and BPU passed the Board by a vote of 4-yay to 1-nay.

Los Alamos County Managers Report (Steve Lynne)

Steve Lynne is retiring after 28 years of service. Steve waxed eloquently about his experience and how inspirational his time has been working with LAC talented staff.

All consent items were approved without debate.

- 2). Transportation Board - Hermann Geppert/Erik Loechell

Vice-Chair Geppert reported that there was public comment between Nectar and 19th Street that it is not in good shape can County do something about. Presentation on road renewal on Bathtub, Peach and Nectar Street it is in the 45-50% design phase, needed community comments by March 14, 2024, there will be another presentation at the Historical Preservation Board Meeting on April 3, 2024 and bids will start in May. Another discussion was medium design standards along Canyon and Diamond will be changed for better water sustainability, lower maintenance, and it is very dangerous to maintain those medians on those streets. Also, presentation on "Dial a Ride", where you can request transportation in Los Alamos, discussing expanding the service.

3). Parks and Recreation Board - Shannon Blair

None

4). County Council Liaison - Randall Ryti

Council Ryti reported that while in Phoenix he visited a butterfly exhibit and would share some photos. Commented that the communication presentation was very interesting and liked the idea of encouraging friends to attend meetings. Suggested designated someone like the chair for article review for meeting recap. Councilor Ryti is also the Council liaison to PRB and gave ESB an update. Mentioned that at the Parks and Recs Board meeting started with looking at their charter is to gather information from the community about what we like to see in the parks. PRB can also bring forward options to County Council to consider. Commented that the format and the schedule for the work plan has changed to a calendar year format and that PRB is more complex because they have three working groups and discussion on their workplan will continue at next month's meeting, there was also several updates on various projects.

C. Team Reports

1). Bee City Team/Seed Library - KokHeong McNaughton

Member McNaughton reported the following;

1) Los Alamos County is officially certified as a Bee City Affiliate of Bee City USA as of 2/15. Xerces will be sending us a box of materials for publicity including signage that Parks and Rec will install at their chosen location. Web page is being developed which will have links to many resources. We don't have to submit an annual report until end of Feb 2026.

2) Bee City committee plans to meet monthly and the meeting from here on must be opened to the public as per Xerces requirements. We'll be identifying key partners and contact persons from local and surrounding organizations to receive email notifications of these meetings. They will be able to participate in future planning because our work will impact them. General notices will go out via local news outlets. Next mtg on Tuesday March 19 @4pm @PEEC.

3) We have ordered 60 trays of pollinators plants from Santa Ana nursery. 20 trays each for advance, intermediate, and beginner levels of gardening experience. They expect us to save seeds from many of these plants and to return seeds back to them for future planting. These won't be ready till September for fall planting. We'll offer a workshop prior to given these plants away.

4) Meanwhile many groups and individuals are ready and eager to start planting. So we're asking local gardeners to dig up volunteer seedlings from a small and manageable list of deer resistant, native plants that we can give out on Earth Day. These are very easy to start from seeds now or propagated. A kindergarten class can grow them in a box outside their classroom, for example.

5) Parks & rec and Open Space have identified a section of county land that we can begin converting into a pollinator habitat demonstration garden. This is the land behind our Extension Office along Bathtub Row flanked by the meandering walking path on one side and the Senior Center fences on the other side. It's about 20,000 sq ft. The project is expected to take 5 years. We are inviting the community to join us for a ground breaking workparty on Saturday, April 6th from 8 to noon to weed and prepare about 1/5 of the ground for a May planting. Publicity went out the middle of March.

6) One final piece of good news to share -- Taos has shown interest in becoming a Bee City also.

Community Seed Library Report

The Community Seed Swap 1st anniversary party on March 2nd was well attended. We estimate about 65 in Los Alamos and a bit less in WR. We

served BD cake, helped patrons find and check out seeds, engaged children in making crepe paper flowers and games of mancala using assorted beans, and held a seed-identification contest. Data for one year of operation – 225 patrons checked out about 1500 seed packets. Does not include PEEC.

2). Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance

- Developing climate action video
- Preparing for Earth Day

7. STAFF REPORT

[18598-24](#) Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Bear Art Update
- Carbon Capture
- Energy Transition Global Macro Scale

9. ADJOURNMENT

7:23 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.

| | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| LARES Action | Fun Jar Activity at Earth Day Booth (Educational) with handout | Fun Jar Activity (Educational) with handout | | | | | |
| CAP Action | CAP: Community Workshop (Inform & Educate) | | CAP Invite Community to attend Council Meeting | CAP Request input on draft plan | CAP Request input on draft plan | | Invite Community to attend Council for |
| Event | Earth Day Booth Flyer with roadmap for CAP and opportunities for ESB Meeting | PEEC Water Festival ESB Meeting | Farmer's Market ESB Meeting | Science Fest ESB Meeting | County Fair ESB Meeting | Clean Up LA Day ESB Meeting | ESB Meeting |
| Social Media | | | | | | | |
| | Pre-mtg: Reel inviting people to the Workshop / | Are you willing to be a participant in the reel demonstrating how to use the calc. | Pre/Post event reels with Board members to promote education of these elements including recruiting more board members | Pre/Post event reels with Board members to promote education of these elements including recruiting more board members | Pre/Post event reels with Board members to promote education of these elements including recruiting more board members | Pre/Post event reels with Board members to promote education of these elements including recruiting more board members | |
| Social Media (Tik Tok & Instagram) | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings, Testimonial Reels | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings | Pre/Post - ESB Meetings |
| Traditional Media (LADP/Youtube or County Recording that can be posted on social media) | Post-Community Workshop Interview with ESB Member (Shannon Blair/Joe Chandler) | | | | | | |
| | Post ESB Mtg Interview (Dina/Erik) | Post ESB Mtg Interview (KokHeong) | Post ESB Mtg Interview | Post ESB Mtg Interview | Post ESB Mtg Interview | Post ESB Mtg Interview | Post ESB Mtg Interview |
| Editorial (Post ESB Meeting) What was covered, what is coming up. Perspectives on agenda items. | Dina Pesenson | Shannon Blair cool climate calculator; UC Berkley | Joseph Chandler | | | | |
| Online Resources | | | | | | | |

Take out until
December 2024