



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Minutes

Environmental Sustainability Board

Erik Loechell, Chair: Dina Pesenson, Vice-Chair; Hermann Geppert; Makayla Lui; Amanda MacDonald; and Wendy Staples, Members

Thursday, October 21, 2021

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Council Chambers

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.

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1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Chair, Eric Loechell, called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm. The following members were in attendance.

Present: Chair Loechell, Vice-Chair Pesenson, Member Lui, Member MacDonald, Member Staples.

Absent: Member Geppert

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Lui, seconded by Vice-Chair Pesenson, that the agenda be approved as presented,

The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[15040-21](#) Approval of the September 16, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes September 16, 2021](#)

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pesenson, seconded by Member Lui, that the September 16, 2021 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[15044-21](#) Bee City Presentation by Alesia Benson

Presenters: Erik Loechell

The ESB received a presentation from Alesia Benson on the Bee City USA program. Bee City USA is a program engaging communities on ongoing dialogue to protect and establish urban/suburban habitats that support pollinators.

Vice Chair Pesenson and Member Staples asked if it was difficult to provide native plants that are free of chemicals and pesticides.

Public Comment:

Dorothy Brown commented that Kaitlin Haase is the Bee City Santa Fe contact person. Honey bee keeping is allowed in Los Alamos.

Member Staples asked to discuss this further at the next ESB meeting.

[15042-21](#) Pesticide Use in Los Alamos County

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [B – Pesticide Use in Los Alamos County Presentation](#)

The ESB received a presentation from Community Services Department Director Cory Styron on pesticide use by Los Alamos County. Traffic and Streets Manager, Juan Rael, added information on how Traffic and Streets uses herbicide.

Public Comment:

Jody Benson commented that other counties and cities in the US have banned the use of Glyphosate and use a systems approach in maintaining a landscape. She thinks the environmental and health benefits will outweigh the costs.

Jessie Emerson commented that she has been a nurse for 57 years and has seen increases in Parkinson's and other neurological diseases as well as diabetes and cancer. She asked what is more expensive, the systems approach or taking care of the ill. Bee City USA is incompatible with pesticides.

Aaron Walker commented that if there is a requirement to notify the public 72 hours in advance it shows that Glyphosate is health hazard.

Katie Leonard commented that she is in support of banning Glyphosate.

The ESB asked Mr. Styron questions and commented on his presentation.

15043-21**Consideration of Glyphosate Ban on County Land**

Presenters: Erik Loechell and Dina Pesenson

The ESB received approximately 40 public comments on the recommendation to ban Glyphosate use on County Land. The majority of comments were in favor of banning Glyphosate.

Public comment:

Sue Barns commented that she supports the recommendation.

Aaron Walker commented that Glyphosate has been shown to be a potential serious health hazard.

David Hanson commented has concerns about people and pets picking up goat heads and being injured. He also has concerns about persons with asthma as well as the cost of dealing with weeds.

Erin Green commented that she supports the recommendation.

The ESB then discussed language of the motion.

A motion was made by Member Lui, seconded by Chair Loechell that ESB approve and recommend to County Council the amended motion.

- 1. Require pesticide application information (including area to be sprayed and product) to be posted in one designated County website location 72 hours in advance whenever possible or within 24 hours of each application and for at least six months after application including the Department of Agriculture Pesticide Application record for the particular application.**
- 2. Stop use of any herbicide containing Glyphosate on County land.**
- 3. Prioritize and support expansion of Integrative Pest Management efforts by relevant departments to continue to actively decrease the amount and frequency of chemical use on County land.**

The motion passed unanimously.

6. REPORTS**A. Chair's Report - Erik Loechell**

None.

B. Board Member Reports**C. Los Alamos Resiliency Energy and Sustainability Task Force - Dina Pesenson**

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule reported that LARES is busy seeking County staff input regarding their recommendations to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. They have a town hall meeting planned for Wednesday, October 27, 2021 that was originally scheduled for in person at Fuller Lodge but due to COVID it was moved to a virtual format. The final report will be presented to County Council in January or February 2022.

1). **Board of Public Utilities - Erik Loechell**

None

2). **Planning and Zoning Commission - Vacant**

Vacant

3). **Transportation Board - Vacant**

Vacant

4). **Parks and Recreation Board - Dina Pesenson**

Vice Chair Pesenson reported that the Parks and Recreation Board received a presentation on the work being done on the Golf Course. The board also received updates on the BMX track progress.

5). **Community Development Advisory Board - Vacant**

Vacant

6). **County Council Liaison - Sean Williams**

Councilor Williams reported that the County Council discussed the Downtown Master Plan, a grant opportunity for design for a recreation center in White Rock, and proclaimed October "The Peoples Eco Challenge Month." They also received a presentation on module one of chapter 16 of the development code for Planning and Zoning. The Council approved zoning for cannabis manufacturing in Los Alamos. Assistant County Manager Anne Laurent presented on the use of LED street lights within Los Alamos County.

D. Team Reports

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule reported that future ESB meeting will return to virtual only per County Council Direction.

1). **Los Alamos Public Schools Team Subcommittee - Angelica Gurule**

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule reported that the Los Alamos Schools Subcommittee has not met since the start of the COVID pandemic but they are hoping to meet again once a new schools superintendent is appointed. In the interim Environmental Services is sending information to the schools and teachers such as carbon calculators and other environmental sustainability teaching tools. A date for the Recycle Art Fair and Fashion Show was selected, April 20, 2022 at Chamisa Elementary School.

2). **Zero Waste Los Alamos - Angelica Gurule**

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule reported that the Zero Waste Team cancelled its booth at the farmers market due to increasing COVID numbers. The team instead met to work on articles for the local media. They are planning to partner with the Los Alamos Department of Public Utilities for the Water Festival in the spring of 2022. The County received a grant to purchase three water bottle filling station to be installed in high use parks as well as funds to purchase water bottles and backyard compost kits.

7. STAFF REPORT

[15041-21](#) September 2021 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [C - Residential Sustainability Report - September 2021](#)

The ESB reviewed the September Residential Sustainability Report. The Diversion rate for September was 25% which is a decrease from last year, this is likely due to people returning to working on site. With the introduction of the yard trimming program we are able to divert more of our waste. Environmental Services is still receiving requests for yard trimming carts which helps with diversion.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Food composting briefing
2. Discuss Bee City USA
- 3 Liaison assignments
4. LARES Presentation from Katie Leonard
5. Discuss possible revisiting a ban on single use plastic bags

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pesenson, Seconded by Chair Loechell, that the meeting be adjourned. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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