



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Minutes

Environmental Sustainability Board

*Erik Loechell, Chair; Alesia Benson, Vice-Chair; Amanda MacDonald; Brendon Parsons;
Dina Pesenson; Heidi Rogers; and Heather Ward Members*

Thursday, May 20, 2021

5:30 PM

Zoom

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the meeting will be conducted remotely:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81836612698?pwd=SVI0bFpPU3J2cTIMUkVwZTdqL3hnQT09>

Passcode: Recycle

Or iPhone one-tap:

+16699006833,,81836612698#,,,,*8719285# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,81836612698#,,,,*8719285# US (Tacoma)

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**US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 929
205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799**

Webinar ID: 818 3661 2698

Passcode: 8719285

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81836612698>

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Chair, Erik Loechell, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The following members were in attendance:

Present: Chair Loechell, Vice-Chair Benson, Member MacDonald, Member Parson, Member Pesenson, and Member Ward.

Absent: Member Rogers

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Felicity Fonseca, Community Engagement Librarian for Los Alamos County Library System, commented that Laura Paskus will be presenting at the Library's evening lecture on July 8th at 7:00 pm. She asked that if either the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) or Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) Task Force would like to write a letter to an editor about climate change to be published in the local newspapers. She also asked if LARES or ESB would be interested in partnering on future sustainability discussions at one of the Library's evening lectures.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Pesenson, seconded by Member Ward, that the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously with Member Parson absent at the time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[14289-21](#) Approval of the April 15, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [A - Drafted ESB Minutes April 15, 2021](#)

A motion was made by Member Pesenson, seconded by Member MacDonald that the April 15, 2021 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously with Member Parson absent.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[14292-21](#) Herbicides Use by Los Alamos County

Presenters: Dianne Marquez, Cory Styron and Juan Rael

Attachments: [B - 2021 Herbicides Used by the Los Alamos County CSD - PROS DivisionParks](#)

ESB received a presentation from Dianne Marquez of Community Services Department about herbicide usage within Los Alamos County Community Services Department. The County is willing to try alternative integrated pest management solutions. ESB members asked more questions and commented they want to continue the dialogue about herbicide usage in the County.

[14297-21](#) Review and Approve the FY22 ESB Work Plan

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [C - DRAFT FY22 ESB Workplan](#)

A motion was made by Member MacDonald, seconded by Member Pesenson that the FY22 workplan be approved as presented.

The motion was approved unanimously.

[14290-21](#) Discuss the 2021 Zero Waste Champion of the Year Award

Presenters: Erik Loechell

The ESB discussed the 2021 Zero Waste Champion of the Year Award. The ESB choose to have several categories this year: Schools, Business, Non-Profit Organizations, Small Business, and Restaurants. Unfortunately, only one nomination was submitted for the Zero Waste Champion of the Year Award, the Children's Dentistry. After speaking with Ryn Hermann, in future years she is in favor of collaborating at the annual Chamber Awards and adding a category for Zero Waste Champions. The ESB will forego the Zero Waste Champion of the Year Award due to lack of nominee submissions.

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

Chair Loechell reported that he presented at the May 18, 2021 County Council work session. In the presentation he bragged about the ESB, the Zero Waste team and all the work they have been doing the past year. Several Council members asked about recycling plastic bags in Los Alamos County and if there were any plans to find a way to recycle plastic bags. They were also excited about the exciting things ESB have on deck.

Chair Loechell also had a chance to talk to Community Development Advisory Board Chair Aaron Walker and Parks and Recreation Board Chair Ramiro Pereyra about teaming up to create a pesticide task force.

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

Member Pesenson reported that the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force received more applications to join their subcommittees. They have approved and appointed all the applicants. In the next meeting they will receive a presentation from Waste, Consumption and Natural Resources subcommittee about their research. The Task Force is also hoping to have someone from the Los Alamos National Lab join the task force. They are also looking for data about local consumerism to calculate greenhouse gas emissions.

1). Board of Public Utilities - Erik Loechell

None

2). Planning and Zoning Commission - Brendon Parsons

None

3). Transportation Board - Heather Ward

Member Ward reported that the Transportation Board went over their FY22 work plan. May is National Bike Month and Friday, May 21st was bike to work day. The way finding signs will be installed in September. There will be a new walking tour in the historic district. They have some ruin improvements going on in White Rock.

4). Parks and Recreation Board - Dina Pesenson

Member Pesenson reported that the Parks and Recreation Board also received the Herbicides Use by Los Alamos County presentation as well as a golf course presentation. Chair Loechell asked if the graywater system would be updated at the golf course. Member Pesenson recalled that the graywater system was not presented in that presentation.

5). Community Development Advisory Board - Carol Kay Carr

None

6). County Council Liaison - Sean Williams

Councilor Williams was not present but sent an email to the ESB with the following updates: "\$2.4M was approved by Council for the bear-resistant roll carts - which includes enough to replace all the dumpsters and roll carts for the entire community. One of the big issues with that is outreach and education: Environmental Services offers support for people who need help with their roll carts, and switching to heavier and more complicated carts could present a challenge for many residents. But people will need to be made aware of the support the County offers.

A smaller budget item was passed to expand the County's Office365 subscription, to allow boards and commissions members to have a county (@lacnm.us) email address. I don't have a timeline, but I think this is a great change: B&C members can potentially be subject to Inspection of Public Records requests, so it's easier for everyone if B&C business is conducted through county email.

Another smaller budget item will set aside \$50k per year for canyon and mesa restoration, to build on the success of the Graduation Canyon rehabilitation. Work in FY2022 (which starts this July) will focus on Upper Pueblo Canyon."

D. Team Reports

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

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule reported that Susan Hettinga is planning to re-launch the Green Schools Task Force starting next school year in hopes that things will be back to normal and have more participation from all schools. The Los Alamos Public Schools Team Subcommittee has also continued to expand their distribution of compost tumblers to some of the schools, Aspen, Chamisa and the Middle School each have two compost tumblers. The Middle School has also been requesting mulch for food waste composting pilot project that they're doing. Environmental Services has delivered a total of 36 yards of mulch to the Middle School to help with that pilot project.

2). Zero Waste Los Alamos - Sara Martinez/Alesia Benson

Office Specialist, Sara Martinez, reported that the Zero Waste team had to reschedule their meeting for the following Wednesday, May 26, 2021. She also reported that the team will receive an update on the Backyard Composting Kit Distribution, Food Waste Prevention and Sciencefest Kits, and discuss the future Fix It event.

7. STAFF REPORT

[14300-21](#)

Environmental Services Business & Operation Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

The ESB received their routine update regarding business and operations, as well as future outreach opportunities that Environmental Services is doing.

[14298-21](#)

April 2021 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [D - Residential Sustainability Report - April 2021](#)

The ESB reviewed and discussed the April 2021 Residential Sustainability Report. The data now includes more data and graphs that will demonstrate overall diversion as a result of the new yard trimming program which began July 9, 2018.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Set a schedule for FY22 work plan
2. Bee City Presentation by Alesia Benson
3. SCS - Methane Extraction System and GHG Emissions Overview
4. Discussion about Pesticide Task Force

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no objections, the ESB meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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