



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, September 16, 2021

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue, Suite 110

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:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

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)
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Webinar ID: 818 3661 2698
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International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81836612698?pwd=SVI0bFpPU3J2cTIMUkVwZTdqL3hnQT09>

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Chair, Eric Loechell, called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. The following members were in attendance.

Present: Chair Loechell, Member Geppert, Member Lui, Member MacDonald, Member Pesenson, Member Staples

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[14848-21](#) Approval of the August 19, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [A - Draft ESB Minutes August 19, 2021](#)

A motion was made by Member Geppert, seconded by Member Pesenson, that the August 19, 2021 minutes be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[14850-21](#) Election of Environmental Sustainability Board Vice-chair

Presenters: Erik Loechell

A motion was made by Chair Loechell, seconded by Member Staples, that Member Pesenson be appointed Vice Chair with a partial term date beginning September 2021 and ending December 2021.

The motion passed unanimously.

[14892-21](#) Los Alamos County Landfill Gas Update

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [LAC PP Probes Ron final](#)

The ESB received a presentation from Ron Wilks, Vice President of SCS Engineers, on the Los Alamos Closed Landfill Gas Extraction system. The Landfill was closed in 2009, methane gas was detected migrating away from the landfill so a temporary gas extraction system was installed in 2014. Design and installation of a permanent system took place in 2018 and 2019. Once the permanent system was brought online methane outside the landfill was once again at safe levels. Mr. Wilks stated that in five to ten years the current system may need to be replaced with a smaller one. There may be an option to sell the current one to cover the cost of the smaller system.

N/A

[14854-21](#) Pesticides Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Recommendation

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [Pesticide Presentation-2](#)

The ESB received a presentation from Vice Chair Pesenson on pesticide and herbicide use in Los Alamos County. She asked that the board consider passing a recommendation to the Council that Los Alamos County operations stop using Glyphosate containing products. The recommendation will be discussed at the October ESB Meeting. Some questions asked included how much of an impact would not spraying cause in terms of labor and will there be a need for more employees? Would the

County and residents be ok with more dandelions and weeds?
Councilor Williams noted that he would support the recommendation to Council.
Vice Chair Pesenson plans to write a letter to the editor.

For a copy of this presentation please email solidwaste@lacnm.us

14853-21

Discuss Public Information and Involvement Plan for Bear Cart and Dumpster Deployment

Presenters: Erik Loechell

Attachments: [C - DRAFT PIIP - Operation Save the Bears](#)

Staff Liaison Angelica Gurule updated the Board on the Draft Public Information and Involvement Plan (PIIP) for the replacement of 7000 residential roll carts and 260 commercial dumpsters for bear proof containers.

14893-21

Discuss Liaison Assignments

Presenters: Erik Loechell

The ESB discussed member liaison assignments and chose to revisit during the October 21 ESB meeting.

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

Vice Chair Pesenson thanked the new board members for joining the ESB

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

Vice Chair Pesenson reported that LARES has presented their interim report to County Council and are now deciding how to proceed on the final report.

1). Board of Public Utilities - Erik Loechell

None

2). Planning and Zoning Commission - Vacant

Vacant

3). Transportation Board - Vacant

None

4). Parks and Recreation Board - Dina Pesenson

The Parks and Recreation Board did not meet last month.

5). Community Development Advisory Board - Vacant

Vacant

6). County Council Liaison - Sean Williams

Councilor Williams reported that the Council received a presentation and there was a discussion on a shared use gym between the middle school and community. The County is going to apply for a grant to build pedestrian crossing and trail improvements across State Road 4 to connect the Mirador sub-division to the Pinon Park area. At the next meeting the Council will receive a presentation from DOE EM on Middle DP Road on the potentially contaminated land.

D. Team Reports

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

Angelica Gurule, Staff Liaison, reported that she is planning on meeting with Chamisa School art teacher Andrea Lynch on Monday September 20th to start planning the annual Art Fair and Recycle Fashion Show.

2). Zero Waste Los Alamos - Vacant

Angelica Gurule reported that the Zero Waste Team will be having a meeting on Wednesday, September 22nd and will discuss what the team will be doing in the upcoming months. The Zero Waste Team had a tent at the PEEC Bear Festival where they collected food waste for composting and provided information to the public.

7. STAFF REPORT

[14849-21](#)

August 2021 Residential Sustainability Report

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [B - Residential Sustainability Report - August 2021](#)

The ESB reviewed the August Sustainability Report. The diversion rate for August was 30% which is in line with past months. With the introduction of the yard trimming program we are able to divert more of our waste. Environmental Services is seeing some contamination in the yard trimming bins, and is educating residents on how to use the cart correctly.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Revisit liaison assignments.
2. Discussion and recommendation for pesticide use.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Lui, seconded by Member MacDonald, that the meeting be adjourned. With no objections the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

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.

