

SUSTAINABLE GALLUP BOARD (SGB) MINUTES Virtual Zoom Meeting, August 2, 2021

Quorum - Members in Attendance: Bill Bright, Tracy Lassiter, Gerald O-Hara,
Liaison - Elizabeth Barriga
Guests: Pat Sheely

Items A-D were addressed; the Board had quorum of 3 members present, and the Motion to approve 6/7/2021 SGB Agenda was approved; a motion was made by Bill and seconded by Gerald.

Item E: Consultation on water conservation

Bill discussed the City of Gallup Town Hall meeting held in 2004 that led to The Water Conservation COG job and city water conservation rebate programs. Gerald suggests having an AC cooler rebate. *Elizabeth* said it is a tradeoff. The City of Albuquerque had an AC cooler rebate, but the result was that any water saved was offset with increased electricity usage and higher bills.

Bill mentioned that the HVAC shares the same ducts as the heating system, and he reported that swamp coolers share metal ducts that rust in a few years. At his house, he has a ¼" bleed off hose with fibers that evaporates the water and leaves calcium deposits. The swamp cooler bleed tube to refreshes the new water and reduces calcium bleed off. He runs the extended bleed off hose into a water collection system to help reduce heat in back rooms, *Bill* suggests when using a central swamp cooler, open a window in the back of the house about 2 inches and to close all the doors and windows you do not want to cool. He suggested that maybe someone could create a pamphlet to help customers to teach them how swamp coolers work and make suggestions for how to use them efficiently.

Tracy noted that the *Gallup Independent* has published several articles recently about the regional drought and the potential water shortage resulting from the delay in the pipeline project. She offered to draft a letter to submit to the SGB and addressed to the City Council as the city and county haven't started to stress water conservation measures in anticipation of these long-term factors. She will prepare it for discussion by our next meeting. *Pat* asks about actions for the City of Gallup's water conservation:

- What are the City of Gallup's future actions for water conservation?
- There is the 50 year water plan meeting by the NMOSE coming up soon that will be talking about drought.
- What part is the City of Gallup going to be in this plan?

Gerald talked about the legalization of marijuana, that it takes a lot of water to grow these plants, and he is concerned about this as an agricultural endeavor under the drought circumstances.

Furthermore, *Bill* said in Boulder Colorado, permits are required for industrial business such as the glove factory. The Rhino glove factory here wants to expand, but it requires huge amounts of water and wastewater to be processed. He argues the region needs to think seven generations into the future, create green spaces, and green businesses, and an overall quality of life that is important to all of us. He says it is great to have new businesses come to Gallup but at what cost?

Gerald replied that he thinks municipalities have sold their souls to businesses, burdening employees. He does not know how to stop water, sewer, and ground contamination, and asks who is looking into this?

Item F: Consultation on potential value of 100% NM Initiative for the SGB .

Bill suggests everyone tune into the **100% NM Initiative Power Hour Series** is held weekly from noon to 1pm weekly. Sign up for these professional trainings - <https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqcO6pqzkjHtL0hY17fKBwOhDL3io7J11u>. Two experts from NMSU have initiated this program

working with local community leaders and elected officials. In Espanola, they had an unveiling ceremony of a mural they created that shows their collaboration with 100% New Mexico and its agenda to support all New Mexican communities. *Tracy* would like to also have this project enacted in Gallup. Starting in August, NMSU-Gallup will have Power Hours <https://annaageeight.nmsu.edu/about/7-part-power-hour.html> webinars so people can learn more about the project and what it's trying to do. *Tracy* eventually would like to invite the Mayor and City Council members to these webinar meetings, to meet at a future conference so participants can share the 100% New Mexico survey, and build from there. She will be busy at UNM working on her keynote speech for September 2021, and has a big work project looming with a October 15th deadline, but after this she would like to dedicate time to this initiative, especially since it dovetails with SGB's ideas of becoming a Sustainable Gallup Council.

Item G: Announcements - City Council new elections will be March 1 2022 in Council Districts 1 and 3. It would be a good idea to invite prospective Council candidates to future SGB Meetings. The Board could present the facts about various sustainability issues impacting our area, ask them what they think and plan to do. Hopefully, they might address some of these issues. Councilor Kumar is not running for re-election.

Pat says to sign-Up for the state's 50 year Planning meetings. <https://www.ose.state.nm.us/Planning/50YWP/index.php>

They are currently on Phase 3: Outreach, Resilience Assessment(s) and Creation of Strategies to Achieve Resilience until November 30, 2021.

Congress passed a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill for unique upgrades such as solar farms, water, and sewer projects, to name a few categories. Each participating entity has priority projects. The Zoom meetings are open to the public. McKinley County will be holding a meeting open to the public on the August 26, 2021 at 11:00 am to discuss the 2023-2027 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP).

Item H: Board Members retirements/ removals / recommendations (Bill)

Do you know anyone who would like to join the Sustainable Gallup Board? Please invite them.

Item I: Future meeting(s) planning & adjournment (Bill): Tabled

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm. Next SGB Meeting will be September 7th, 2021

Date Approved September 7th, 2021

W. Bright
William Bright, Chairperson

ATTEST: Elizabeth Barriga (Liaison)