

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
SINGLE-USE PLASTICS WORKING GROUP  
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023, 5:30 PM  
100 CATRON STREET, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Santa Fe County Single-Use Plastics Working Group was called to order by Olivia Romo, Santa Fe County Constituent Services Liaison, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:35 pm, in the Johnson Conference Room, 100 Catron St., Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joseph Eiger  
Gary Stoller  
Karen Sweeney  
Sara Pierpont, Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison  
Jacqueline Beam, Constituent Liaison  
Laura Jagles, Constituent Services

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kim Kelly

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2023 MINUTES**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Stoller, to approve the minutes as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**V. MATTERS FROM THE WORKING GROUP**

**A. ASSIGNMENTS AND RESEARCH PLANNING**

Chair Pierpont said hopefully everyone has had a chance to edit our document at this point.

Ms. Romo shared the plan document on her screen.

Chair Pierpont said based on the discussion on the 10<sup>th</sup> she went through and

created columns for each of the main items for definitions and other information. Does anyone have any comments on items to fill in the blanks. She has Karen's added information.

Ms. Sweeney said she tracked down the Bureau Chief at the Environment Department. He has authority over restaurants. He sent her the current rule.

Chair Pierpont said that is good to know. She thinks this would not be on it's own now in the spreadsheet. We can note what the current Environment Department rules are.

Ms. Sweeney said she sees this kind of stuff as the next step to an Ordinance.

Chair Pierpont said the notes can be included in cell 3i, which is part of the styrofoam food containers.

Chair Pierpont asked Mr. Eiger to talk about what he found.

Mr. Eiger said you have a combination of the City Ordinance and the failed HB432. If we are going with bag fees he thinks that is appropriate. He is not sure we want to split things out. It would be easy to edit this.

Chair Pierpont said she thinks what the City does makes it very easy. Do we want to change the share to 50/50.

Chair Pierpont said the idea with the chart is to put together an impact analysis with pros and cons from the perspective of businesses and the perspective of the County. Lets talk through what the effect would be to the County. What are some of the things we need to take into consideration as to bag fees and the use of the money. 20 million bags would be out of the County in one year.

Ms. Beam said the County will need an additional FTE for enforcement. It does not necessarily have to be full time, but at least 25% to 30% of their time. Educational awareness. We could estimate the number of hours necessary to track the item. We have code enforcement officers, but are short staffed already. Education should remain in Sustainability. We have the budget for that.

Chair Pierpont said Shirlene's situation is unique at the City.

Ms. Beam said she thinks we can estimate how much it would cost to do enforcement for a year for the budget.

Chair Pierpont said the City hates the idea of using bag fees to fund an FTE.

Mr. Eiger said we have staff to do education and outreach. We could roll that in.

Chair Pierpont said we can show the positive impact to the environment and bring recommendations as an entity that recognize the impacts.

Chair Pierpont said she would like to assign tasks and let everyone get on it. Then we can have a special meeting in April.

Chair Pierpont said she would create a survey to use with the restaurant community. She asked Mr. Stoller if he would fill in the document for balloon retailers, straws and stir sticks.

Mr. Stoller said he would do that.

Ms. Sweeney said she will do single-use plastic accessories and fill in the columns as only upon request. Row 8. She recommends looking at what California just passed. What are the accessories and what is the definition according to law.

Mr. Eiger said there are definition sections in the laws. They all have good definitions. He can copy those and get them to her. You can put in the version you like the best.

Chair Pierpont asked Mr. Eiger to fill in the polystyrene for that row. You could copy and past the link to the Ordinance.

Ms. Romo said you can put in the language you prefer to ban it. Put that in the chart.

Mr. Eiger said he can photograph, but not copy and paste because it is not in PDF form.

Ms. Romo said send that to her and she will take care of that for you.

Chair Pierpont noted that the binder Mr. Eiger has is awesome and will be good as a resource.

Chair Pierpont asked if there were any other impacts to note.

Ms. Sweeney said the reduction of downtime at the MURF facility when they do not have to pull out plastic bags and the reduction of waste in water ways.

Ms. Beam said the County is required to report to the EPA on surface water contaminants. This would be a benefit for that. It will reduce surface water contaminants. Also wildlife hazards such as getting caught in bags, would be reduced.

## **VI. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Chair Pierpont said once we have this filled in we can work on our recommendations. She will send out an email to you with the draft survey. We may try to do some of the surveys in person in order to get more responses before we go to the Commissioners. She would like to get between 20% and 30% responses. She will check with the County list of businesses and see what we can do.

Chair Pierpont said as to a timeline, we will do the survey in late April - the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>. That will be Santa Fe County survey week.

Ms. Romo said once the survey is ready we can assist you and put it on the County website and have a big launch.

Ms. Sweeney asked what about the cons.

Chair Pierpont said everyone do their own in the sections they are working on.

Ms. Beam said we also need to think about the organizational challenge as far as system structures. Where will this be housed and enforced. How will we track the program and enforce it. Just think about that.

Mr. Stoller said that is something the County has to do.

There was discussion and it was decided to have a special meeting with the County Manager and the Land Use Director as to the feasibility of our recommendations and what they think.

Chair Pierpont said she would like to take our guidance from Santa Fe County.

## **VII. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Pierpont said we will have another special meeting and will need to choose a date. Our next official meeting is April 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was decided that the special meeting would be April 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. We should have the spreadsheet filled in by April 3rd.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the group the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

---

Sarah Pierpont, Chair

---

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer