

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
Single-Use Plastics Working Group
Special Meeting
April 6, 2023

I. Call to Order

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Working Group was called to order by Sarah Pierpont, Chairwoman on the above-cited date at approximately 1:10 PM. in the Grant Conference Room, 100 Catron St. Santa Fe, New Mexico.

This meeting was available on a WebEx/audio platform.

II. Roll Call

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Member Present:

Sarah Pierpont, Chair

Karen Sweeney

Joseph Eigner

Gary Stoller

Kim Kelly

Others Present:

Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison, D5

Laura K. Jagles, Constituent Services Liaison, D2

Jacqueline Beam, Sustainability Manager

Taylor Hohensee, Sustainability Specialist

Members Absent:

III. Approval of Agenda

All in favor of agenda approved collectively. (Joe made a motion to approve. Second from Karen.)

IV. Approval of March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

All in favor of minutes, approved collectively. Changes to spellings of people's names and titles made and approved. Gary made a motion to approve. Second from Karen.

V. Matters from the Working Group

A. Difficulties with Google Doc Excel Spreadsheet

Sara: Maybe I can create an excel spread sheet not on Google.

B. Assignments and Research Discussion

Joe Eigner: The City of Berkeley in California has a permanent committee who helped draft an ordinance and got it passed. Does anyone else know about the Berkeley Committee to see how they went about it? It was focused on three specific items: 1. Biodegradable Packaging 2. Regulating the Use of Carryout and Pre-Checkout Bags and Promoting Use of Reusable Bags 3. Single Use Food ware and Litter Reduction. This also includes a .10 fee for bags used for meat or produce.

Vendors sign a document testifying that what they are selling is not polystyrene items and disclose the alternatives they are using. In every case, the city must conform to the ordinance.

Sara: Is there anything we can use from their ordinance?

Joe: Defining the pre-check out bag will be helpful. Food service keeps records from specific vendors.

Olivia: Do they have specifically defined ways of enforcing this ordinance?

Joe: Yes. The State and County have bag ordinances, but Berkeley goes beyond them.

Sara: You can help us take some ideas and make recommendations for what we can take from their ordinance.

C. "Santa Fe County Single Use Plastic Reduction Survey" Discussion

Changes to the survey were recommended by numerous members, which will be updated by Sara.

Olivia: Are businesses interested in alternatives? How would we frame that question?

Sarah: Maybe we ask about the conditions. If opposed to a ban on single-use plastics, what are the conditions in which you are willing to support such a ban?

Jacqueline: Ask them how they can support a ban.

Taylor: How would you support a ban like this?

Jacqueline: How would you be willing to support limited plastic waste through your business operation in Santa Fe County?

Sarah: What are some anticipated answers?

Taylor: Avoiding a fine

Jacqueline: Through incentivizing; setting up a recycling program

Olivia: They can sell reusable bags.

Jacqueline: Give them some choices then give them an option for “Other.”

Sarah: Let’s not add too many questions.

Sarah: Incentivize filling out the survey by offering them an opportunity to win a gift card for the first 5 or so businesses who submit it first. (Email link to survey with incentive along with printed out forms.)

Taylor: You could also print out the survey on a clipboard and conduct the survey in person.

Jacqueline: “We are working on reducing plastic in our community . . . “ Do not discuss a ban at all when approaching businesses to fill out the survey.

Olivia: At the end of the survey, invite businesses to the upcoming SUPP meeting and who to contact for more information.

Sarah: We need to explain to the businesses that only those outside City of Santa Fe limits are impacted by these changes.

Jacqueline: How can policy be used to reduce single use plastic waste?

Sarah: Adding multiple questions

Jacqueline: Green Chamber did water conservation program. They receive a sticker and advertise how great they are at conserving water.

Sarah: There are two surveys.

Jacqueline: Yes, you need a customer (end users) survey and another one for the businesses.

Sarah: I don't think we have the time to create another survey.

Olivia: Commissioner Hughes already put out a survey that was County wide. We can replicate it, and send it out again.

Karen: Can we see that survey?

Olivia: Yes, I can send it out to everyone.

Sarah: Did you use Survey Monkey?

Olivia: Yes. We received about 500 responses.

Sarah: We need to pick a date to go out to Tesuque, Highway 14, and Eldorado.

Sarah is requesting that we break into teams and survey the businesses. We are going to email it out just to business. We will then do a separate survey to constituents about they are being in support of a plastics ban or reducing plastic pollution. We will do the survey for business first and NM Recycling Coalition will provide a \$100 gift card as an incentive.

Gary: Would the businesses be willing to meet face to face?

Karen Sweeney: Can the County purchase the reusable containers and other alternatives to incentivize business? What about identifying the cost of the alternative products? Kim Kelly is working on the list and we should finalize this as a guide for business. If this improved public health maybe this can be a way to avoid the anti-donation clause. Beyond Plastics may have a grant to support for alternative products?

Santa Fe County can apply for a clean and beautiful grant to purchase recycled take out bags, food containers and hold special events to hand out reusable containers to businesses and constituents.

The County should create a sticker that businesses can have on their door that they have transitioned to compostable and alternatives than plastics. Maybe SFC Economic Development can host this program?

VI. Discussion & Next Steps

Sarah will update the business survey and send it out to the Committee for approval. Olivia will send it out to all County platforms.

Send it out April 17th and due back on April 22nd. The week of April 24th the committee will go business to business in person to survey them. Sustainability will have print out survey at the County Earth Day event and make a QR Code so that people can scan it and complete the survey on their mobile devices.

Blown in the Wind SF Beyond Plastics on April 12th at the Vista Grande Library at 6:30pm. Liz Stephanics, Matthew McQueen, Greg Pope, and Commissioner Hughes will be on the panel.

For April 18th all committee members must review excel spread sheet and complete policy recommendations on alternatives and the impacts of single use plastics. Sarah will format it in excel and email it out. She will update the chart with everyone changes. Olivia will upload it as packet material for the next meeting.

April 18th 2023 post the agenda and excel file tomorrow April 7th before 5pm.

VII. Matters from the Public

None were offered

VIII. Other Business

None were offered

IX. Adjournment

Motion from Joe Eigner and Second Karen Sweeney. All Approve.

Approved by:

Sarah Pierpont

SFC Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene

Working Group President

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Jagles, Constituent Services Liaison