

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
Single-Use Plastics Working Group
November 16, 2022

I. Call to Order

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Working Group was convened by Olivia Romo, Santa Fe County Constituent Services Liaison on the above-cited dated at approximately 5:35 p.m. in the Johnson 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:

Karen Sweeney
Sarah Pierpont
Kim Kelly
Joseph Eigner
Gary Stoller

Members Excused:

Others Present:

Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison
Hank Hughes, County Commissioner D5

III. Approval of October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Karen Sweeney and Second by Kim Kelly. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kim Kelly and Second by Karen Sweeny. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

V. Matters from the Working Group

A. Assignments and Research Discussion

Discussion was led by Chair Sarah Pierpont through the committee's draft excel work plan and delegated tasks to committee members.

Member Stoller discussed how the Beyond Plastics Santa Fe has some great models that we can adopt to assist the restaurants in transitioning away from plastic and polystyrene products. Chair Pierpoint assigned Mr. Stoller to conduct research for alternative products & eco-friendly packaging & related cost to those businesses. Considerations for compostable materials not composted (BPI certified), PFAS lined paper packaging will be researched by Member Eigner, Member Sweeney and Member Kelly.

The educational campaign recommendations will be investigated and proposed for pre-plastics ban by Member Kelly. In addition to this, Member Kelly will investigate packaging materials from Shamrock and alternative products to recommend to restaurants and local businesses.

Chair Pierpont moved the committee to the next committee goal established by the resolution which tasks the committee to undergo impact analysis of single use plastics and polystyrene products.

Under the direction of Chair Pierpont, NM Recycles will conduct a waste audit of the Jacona Transfer Station. In addition to this, she will request data from SFC Solid Waste on the amount and types of waste being generated by Santa Fe County; Talk with City Recycling & SFSWA about plastic contamination in Santa Fe waste stream this includes existing expenses related to plastic contamination in the waste stream, litter, quality of life, tourism, etc. Important data to extract would be the number of items by type and their estimated used in county each year.

Member Stoller will investigate the negative health benefits toxic pollution has specifically how it impacts the County Waste Water Treatment plant, also known as the Quill Plant.

In order to investigate how a single use plastics ban could impact County operations and local businesses, Member Pierpont will work with Santa Fe County Sustainability Department and Solid Waste she will put together a cost estimate on revenue generated annually for using reusable bags and if businesses charge a \$.10 cent fee where in the County would that go?

To complete the research deliverable on understanding the process other local governments

have taken in banning single use plastic staff will ask Neal Denton from the City of Santa Fe will give a presentation on his lessons learned in banning plastic bags and undergoing an ordinance for the City. Member Pierpont will research and report back findings from the City of Albuquerque & Las Cruces. Olivia Romo will reach out to the Town of Taos to see where they are at in enforcing their ban and if they could make a presentation to the committee. From this information, Member Kelly will pull this research together and make a condensed written analysis for the Board of County Commissioners for May 30, 20223. Member Kelly will also focus on identifying incentives like discounted prices for reusable items and promotional items like window stickers. It is important to highlight that businesses will keep a portion of any fee consumers pay for single-use plastic replacement item, research incentive for restaurants that can be marketed to city restaurants as well.

Chronologically, the Committee will also investigate the best enforcement mechanism the County could take if a ban was passed. Commissioner Hughes pointed out that legal research may need to be done understanding what kind of enforcement powers the County has since we are not “home ruled”. He recommends that it may be best if Sustainability would call and warn violators and if they do not comply Land Use could issue fines. Committee will need to create a fine structure for the County to consider.

Finally, the committee reviewed and delegated tasks on the policy recommendations section of the resolution and the following deliverables expected by the County.

All research regarding applicable laws and ordinances from other states will be undergone by member Kelly.

Member Stoller and Member Sweeny will extract legislative models from Beyond Plastics regarding exemptions for low income communities, prohibition on helium balloons and intentional releasing.

Olivia Romo, staff will investigate the County procedure and permitting for large events and how recycling and vendors using compostable and alternative products as a mandate.

Finally, the committee will collect bids for a designer for a media campaign and the expenses for advertising, ideas include: grocery store and restaurants signage, recycled reusable bags, decals, include any County staff time FTEs, educate event planners, event to hand out reusable bags, caterers that use county facilities (through permitting process), etc

VI. Discussion & Next Steps

- A. Circulate Work Plan to Group and start working on tasks and sign up for tasks that still need committee member.

County staff did outreach to solicit more board members for the committee – press release, etc. received one applicant.

- B. Sarah moves that we ask the County to move forward in recommending Steven Schwarts on this committee. Motion by Sarah. Second by Kim. All in Favor.
Motion passes
- C. Karen reached out to Black Bird Saloon and they cannot join the committee.
- D. Karen will reach out to Café Fina to garner their interest in serving on the committee.
- E. Gary – contact owner of Eldorado Hardware to join committee – does not have staff or time, John Brooks supermarket company – asked to see resolution, will follow up with Upper Crust pizza company and Eldorado grocery store.
- F. Olivia noted that if we do site visits to businesses and addresses don't match up, then she can update it the County's GIS system.

VII. Matters from the Public

None were offered

VIII. Other Business

Next Meeting December 20, 2022 with special guest Neal Denton from the City of Santa Fe.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business and having completed the agenda, Chair Pierpont declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Motion by Member Kelly and Second by Gary Stoller. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approved by:



Sara Pierpont
SFC Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene
Working Group President

Respectfully submitted:

Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison