

**SANTA FE COUNTY
SINGLE-USE PLASTICS WORKING GROUP
TUESDAY, July 27, 2023, 2:00 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 Sara Pierpont, Chair, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 2:00 pm, in the Johnson Conference Room, 100 Catron St., Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joseph Eigner
Gary Stoller
Karen Sweeney
Sara Pierpont, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kim Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT

Gabriel Bustos, Constituent Services
Jacqueline Beam, Sustainability Manager
Laura Jagles, Constituent Services

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Pierpont, seconded by Ms. Sweeney, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF JULY 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Pierpont said we will table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting as they were not posted.

V. MATTERS FROM THE WORKING GROUP

A. ASSIGNMENTS AND RESEARCH PLANNING

Chair Pierpont said Karen and Gary were tasked with putting together “frequently asked questions.”

Ms. Sweeney reviewed the work that she and Mr. Stoller developed.

Ms. Beam asked in your responses, are you noting resources.

Ms. Sweeney said we did not, but we can do that.

Mr. Stoller said he has been keeping track of citations as to alternatives. There are some really good sites from California. He is making a list of those.

Ms. Sweeney said we welcome any input.

Chair Pierpont said she saw a study about paper bags being better than plastic bags.

Ms. Sweeney said we are not talking about people using paper bags, we are talking about bringing your own bag.

Chair Pierpont said you are not allowed to bring your own container to restaurants. It is a public health issue.

Ms. Sweeney reviewed her work on the pros and cons as to the ban of plastic bags, styrofoam and litter.

Ms. Bean said that is helpful and great.

Chair Pierpont shared her screen so that the slides she has drafted could be discussed by the members. The first screen reviewed was the Task at Hand Check List.

Ms. Jagles said Commissioner Hansen asked if you looked at the Colorado law.

Chair Pierpont said yes.

Ms. Jagles said she also asked about the Product Responsibility Act.

Chair Pierpont said that is in Colorado as well. It is not applicable to what we are working on.

Ms. Jagles said Commissioner Hansen and Commissioner Hughes would like to see the draft before it goes to the County Manager.

Ms. Beam said Legal has to be a part of this as well before it goes to the County Manager. She will speak with the County Manager.

Chair Pierpont continued with what work the group was tasked to do and what may be left out of the current draft saying she will add the Connecticut study to the “why page.”

Mr. Stoller asked if we have any figures from the City of Santa Fe.

Chair Pierpont said no. Their presentation was more in theory, but was not quantifiable.

Mr. Stoller said he thinks local numbers would be eye popping.

Chair Pierpont said litter is a big problem in Santa Fe. We can add something about reducing bags and litter in this section.

Chair Pierpont said the next slide is our recommendations to the Ordinance.

This document was reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Eigner reviewed his section on the Ordinance that created this group.

Chair Pierpont shared her document with links to research.

Chair Pierpont said we need to look at the Ordinance that created this group to see what is missing from our presentation.

The group reviewed the Ordinance noting the following:

- We need to get the data on cost needs and the back to basics statement.
- We need to look into the potential of an incentive to develop new markets and to incentivizing businesses to sell reusable bags.
- We need to look at the use of eco-friendly packaging.

Chair Pierpont said all of these items can go into the slide on tasks at hand.

There was a discussion about enforcement.

Ms. Beam said additional staff needs to be part of the recommendations regarding enforcement work. Maybe we need a half or quarter time person.

Chair Pierpont said we have done most of what the Ordinance asked. What else do we want to recommend in our presentation and layout.

Ms. Beam said maybe next steps.

Mr. Stoller asked do we need slides or photos.

Chair Pierpont said no, she does not think so.

Ms. Beam said maybe a slide on wastewater.

Chair Pierpont asked Karen to go through her frequently asked questions and see which ones are most important to include.

Chair Pierpont said let's add something about how you cannot recycle plastic bags and tie it to the oil and gas industry. She will formulate that language. She will also add language about newspaper.

Ms. Sweeney said she feels like small restaurants will have the biggest problem with this.

Chair Pierpont said she has a fact sheet that was put together for another project. We may be able to use some of that information and facts as well.

The group reviewed the fact sheet.

Chair Pierpont said we have all heard the public comments. Most of them seem easy to debunk. The answer is to disincentivized reuse.

Ms. Beam said there were questions about why we are asking business owners to pay for bags and taking away from their bottom line.

VI. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Beam said she needs the most up to date copy of the presentation by

Monday. Karen asked her to describe the official hearing process. It is the Board of County Commissioners. She will come up and introduce the project and the team. Sarah will go through the slides for the presentation. The draft Ordinance will be part of the meeting packet material along with documentation so the Commissioners will have seen it prior to the presentation. They will have questions based on what they have seen. We will answer the questions. They could table it to have more time if they want to, which puts a pause on any discussion. We could have to continue to meet to massage the Ordinance. They could also recommend approval. It will still need to go through a public hearing for comment and review. After that it will go back to the Board for review and comments. Then it could be voted on for final approval. The public can speak at any of the three Board of County Commission meetings where it will be on the agenda.

Ms. Sweeney said there might not be a barrage of negativity at the first meeting.

Ms. Beam said maybe, maybe not.

Ms. Sweeney said if there are media representatives there they can report it and that gets it out to the public.

Ms. Beam said the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners where this presentation will be heard will be in September. She has to meet with the County Manager. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm.

Chair Pierpont asked if the presentation could be at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Beam said she can ask. That is up to the County Manager. They usually have a regular place on the agenda for presentations.

Ms. Jagles said it is also up to the Chair.

Ms. Sweeney asked if they can speak.

Ms. Beam said yes, in the public comment section.

Chair Pierpont said all of us should be at all three of the Board of County Commissioners meetings.

Ms. Jagles said Commissioner Hansen would like to invite all of you to her event on Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ms. Beam will be the speaker.

Chair Pierpont said her homework is the additions and changes. She will send them to Ms. Beam on Monday. Mr. Eigner is to review the Resolution itself and Karen

and Gary are to go through the frequently asked questions.

VII. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Eigner, seconded by Mr. Stoller, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

There being no further business before the group the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Sara Pierpont, Chair