

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
Single-Use Plastics Working Group
September 20, 2022

I. Call to Order

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Working Group was convened by Jacqueline Y. Beam, Santa Fe County Sustainability Manager on the above-cited dated at approximately 5:30 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 Sweeny

Sarah Pierpont

Kim Kelly

Joseph Eigner (unable to sign on, observation only throughout meeting)

Members Excused:

Others Present:

Jacqueline Y. Beam, Sustainability Manager

Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison

Cristella Valdez, Assistant County Attorney

Hank Hughes, County Commissioner D5

Anna Hansen, County Commissioner D2

III. Approval of Agenda

All in favor of agenda, approved collectively.

IV. Introductions and Matters from the Working Group

A. Purpose and Process

Jacqueline Beam opened the meeting with welcomes and a brief background on the formation of the Working group via Resolution 2022-031. In May of 2022 the resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Hank Hughes and Commissioner Hansen with the goal of evaluating the impact of plastic pollution in Santa Fe County and to consider equity in implementation of any potential ordinance for businesses throughout the County that might be affected, as well as the possibility of a single-use plastics and polystyrene ban with educational and outreach initiatives to residents and local business on alternatives to single-use products.

Following the discussion regarding the purpose and formation of the working group, introductions were made by all committee members and participants:

Kim Kelly is a Santa Fe business owner and member of the Business Quality of Life Committee and Sustainable Santa Fe Commission. In addition to this, she served for two years on the City of Santa Fe Recycling Task Force that helped institute the Single Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance.

Karen Sweeny is on the board of Eldorado 285 Recycles and co-founder of Beyond Plastics Santa Fe that strives to cultivate a nationwide initiative and education efforts how plastics impact our Country and County.

Sarah Pierpont is the executive director of the NM Recycling Coalition that consist of over 230 members representing local municipalities, solid waste authorities, universities, government entities, pueblos and businesses. The New Mexico Recycling Coalition helped the City of Albuquerque to pass their single use plastic bag ban in 2019 and worked to fight its repeal in 2021.

(Joseph Eigner is an environmental consultant who advised manufacturing plants on compliance with federal and state natural resource regulations in the State of Missouri on the board of the Northern Group of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club to set up the Midwest Industrial Waste Exchange to provide businesses an option to deal with chemical wastes rather than disposal. He has volunteered for the American Friends Service Committee and was a co-founder of the Eldorado 285 Recycles non-profit organization.)

B. Santa Fe County Resolution 2022-031 Review and Work Plan

Jacqueline reviewed the therefore section in the resolution that establishes the scope of work and duties expected from the working group: To develop educational campaigns

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that encourage constituents to reduce their use of single use plastic products and if deemed appropriate to develop details of a proposed single-use plastics and polystyrene products ordinance. Furthermore, the resolution calls the working group to make an impact analysis and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on plastic in our landfills, recycling centers, and community. These recommendations will focus on the fiscal impact of a potential single-use ban on businesses located in Santa Fe County and cost estimates for deployment of educational campaign.

Ms. Kelly recommends that we begin the work plan with a focus on assessing the local businesses in SF County. What type of plastic are they using? Thickness of bags? Would they be open to collecting funds for the sale of paper bags? How does this impact our recommendation for the need of any modification to our regulations?

Ms. Pierpont recommends we gather local data and research about pollution in Santa Fe and New Mexico as part of our primary analysis. This information is already out there and easy to gather. In addition to this, with the list of Businesses that Olivia Romo produced with help from the GIS Division she can create a map with the business locations so we can begin to see if they are in our jurisdiction and how many businesses we need to work with.

Karen Sweeny is going to reach out to Harry's Roadhouse to seek interest in serving on the working group to help us garner the prospective of a sustainable local business. Beyond Plastics can provide guidance to the working group on how to assist businesses in transitioning to recyclable and safe materials.

Cristella Valdez reminded the working group that the town of Edgewood and Pojoaque Pueblo may not fall under regulations the County enacts, yet she agreed it might be a good idea to reach out to them for their input and collaboration.

Ms. Peripont will reach out to Pojoaque Pueblo and Tesuque Village market in hope to garner their support in joining the working group.

Ms. Peripont motions that the primary task for the work plan be focused on creating a map of the businesses in SF County, research and analysis regarding the impact of plastic in the County, and recruitment from board members from business sector. Second by Karen Sweeny. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. Motion passes.

Olivia Romo, reviewed the rules of order of County Committee and Working Groups: As a formal committee formed by the County Manager a Chair and Vice Chair need to be appointed to conduct the business of the committee. They must also comply with the Open Meetings Act in regards to noticing, agendas quorum and rolling quorum rules. It is also important to emphasize that the role of the committee is an advisory role, only. All laws, policies and decisions are made by the Board of County Commissioners. *Olivia will send out a copy of the business list and reference guide to conduct meetings to the*

committee.

C. Chair and Vice Chair Nominee/Appointment

Ms. Pierpont expressed interest in serving as Chair of the committee. Kim Kelly motions and second by Karen Sweeny. Roll Call: All in favor. Motion passes

Kim Kelly motions for Karen Sweeny for the Vice Chair position. Second by Sarah Pierpont. Roll Call Vote: All in favor. Motion Passes

V. Discussion & Ratification of 2022 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve 3rd Tuesday of every month. Kim motions and Karen seconds.

Roll Call: All in affirmative

VI. Matters from the Public

None were offered

VII. Other Business

Olivia Romo announced the temporary closure of the Eldorado Re-Use area for cleanup and management activities. It will be opened on Wednesday October 5th and be open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business and having completed the agenda, Chair Pierpont declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved by:



Sarah Pierpont

SFC Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene

Working Group President

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Olivia Romo, Constituent Services Liaison

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 2ND Day Of December, 2022 at 09:47:25 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2002363**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy Dorothy Romero County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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