

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy

Thursday, January 8, 2026,

9:00AM-11AM

Hybrid Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440927276?pwd=Xl2c2bsfnf6TlTFt4THgfa9bA0upK9.1>

In Person Location: The Food Depot ,1222A Siler Road in Santa Fe (Behind Kitchen Angels)

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:06am

B. ROLL CALL

Nate Crail - Present

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Excused

David Sundberg - Present

Susan Perry - Present

Emigdio Ballon - Excused

Tejinder Ciano - Not present

Said Assali - Present

Jasmine Meyer - Excused

Peter Ives – Present

Coy Maienza - Excused

We do not have a quorum.

Staff:

Pam Roy

Helen Henry

Guests:

Maya Martinez, NM Farmer Innovation Program Director, Farm to Table

Cathy Day, Executive Director, Farm to Table

Marco Alarid White, NM Center on Law and Poverty

James Martinez, SF County

Catherine Nolte, The Food Depot

Harrison Gibson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –January 8, 2026 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order

Unable to do this because there was no quorum.

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – December 11, 2025[ACTION]

Unable to do this because there was no quorum.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Pam introduced Maya Martinez, Program Director for Farm to Table's Farm Innovation Program, who would like to participate with the Council because she's quite involved with farmers in our

region and across the state. She would like to learn about our work on the food plan and work around the urban agriculture ordinance.

Pam also introduced Cathy Day who is the new Executive Director of Farm to Table. Pam is moving into the newly created position of Policy Director at FTT.

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal/State/local Updates

Pam shared a list of the legislative priorities of the NM Food & Ag Policy Council, to date; many of the priorities pertain to areas that could relate to Santa Fe City and County, particularly the Food Plan. The NM Grown program (providing funding to bring local produce into state-run programs) is one of our main priorities. Support for the senior programs are not currently in the agency budget, so this will be an area of focus. James Martinez shared that seniors in their programs really love the fresh food, and it is a way to get them to eat more vegetables. Pam mentioned that Sen Stefanics and/or Rebecca Dow are champions of this program and may want to run a separate bill for this. Pam will follow up with both representatives about this on behalf of the SFFPC.

This is a budget year so the focus will be on appropriations.

The Approved Supplier Program, which provided food safety training, is key to all of this work. There will not be a separate bill about this; this will be in the appropriations budget bill (HB2). It is also a priority of the Governor.

Regional Farm to Food Bank - we need everyone's help on this. NMFAPC will be carrying this legislation as a Tier 1 with support from the food banks. The Food Depot will manage this statewide program. This is one of the Governor's recommendations. There will likely be a bill.

David gave an update on the Healthy Food Financing Fund which recently received applications for funding that totaled about \$20 million, which shows great interest in this program.

David said that the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will need advocacy since not all of the money was included in the agency budgets. All of these programs are hugely impactful. Veronica Greigo said that the money for the senior food boxes is in the Governor's budget.

Peter had a question about applications for the HFFFI. David said that we need more data around who is receiving funding, how it is being used, etc.

Maya filled in some information about the work that the NM Farmer Innovation Program is doing and how the funding is supporting economic development. These small grants make a big difference to farmers.

Pam said that we need to look at the impact of all of these grants to help build out our understanding of how these investments are impacting the overall system.

We will be going to advocate for \$10 million this year for the Agricultural Water Resilience Program, focusing on water efficiencies in agriculture.

A new program is New Mexico Feeding New Mexicans - Nutrition Support for Farmers Markets, led by the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association. This is to enhance the Double Up Food Bucks program to help to evolve a pilot program to add more proteins to create a more robust program around the SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks for the state. This will be a separate bill.

NM Food Recovery, Organic Waste Recovery and Composting Act is being put forward by the NM Healthy Soil Working Group.

NMFAPC will also be focused on the Land Conservation Incentives Program which is already in place. It is a tax incentive for conservation easements for farmers and ranchers. This is a request to the state to provide more funding into the program. The idea is to build out these resources and get this program current in the state.

Peter would like to give this presentation to the Board of County Commissioners and the governing body at the City. Peter can get this on the meeting agendas. Pam, Sue and Peter will follow up with this in the Executive Committee meeting. Pam will also follow up with Nate on getting materials to the County. We will likely get 10-15 minutes to do a presentation. It would be good to prepare a PowerPoint presentation.

Marco said that they have not gotten any direction from that state regarding SNAP benefits for people who are no longer eligible. They are working on getting these updates and also working on dealing with any possible fraudulent use of cards, etc. Peter asked Marco to keep us apprised of any gaps or shortages that people may be experiencing.

2. Update to the Food Plan -summary comments [Action]

Peter suggested that we table this until we can do this in person at a regular meeting of the council (after the legislative session) and invite additional selected participants, to create a working group. There was agreement about this. This could be the focus of the whole two hours of our March meeting, David offered the use of the SF Farmers' Market Institutes' conference room and put a hold on the space. We do need to ask that everyone read through the whole Food Plan before the meeting and also ask for proposed changes to be submitted in advance. We will plan on voting to meet in person in March at the February meeting.

David said that they could use the conference room at the Institute (up to 20 people). Action: Vote on this at the February meeting. Sue will make a push to get everyone there.

G. PRESENTATIONS: No Presentations

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer- Update from Helen Henry

Helen said that Farm to Table had received a PO from the City for their sponsorship. The next thing to do is select a theme. She will confer with the Executive Committee on the choice of the theme, and then it's just a question of building out the site, which to start with, will be very similar to the existing site which focuses on the Food Plan. We will build it on a staging site, so there will be an opportunity to review everything before transferring over to the live site. Council members are invited to give feedback on the existing site that can be carried over to the new site.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member check-in

Peter said that he is part of a group from the City's Transition Team Leadership team that is working on the SWOT analysis of all the departments. He gave updates on other things that are in progress at the City, particularly related to land use. The report for Phase 1 was delayed and then finally approved, and the timing on Phase 2, which is where substantive changes to the Land Development Code will be made, is uncertain. But this situation might give us an opportunity to participate in the discussion. Peter will send out more information.

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

1. New member update

Marco has been attending meetings, but doesn't know if anyone else from the NM Center on Law and Poverty will be able to apply for a position. He is willing to apply to be on the Council.

We will ask Eric if there is someone from the City who can fill that seat.

2.. Next Meeting: Feb. 12, 2026: Hybrid

4. Topics for future presentations

David: Would like to have a discussion around how state grant programs are meeting the needs of farmers (food system needs assessment) and gathering metrics based on grants that are state-funded or federally funded but administered through the state so we can have a better understanding of community need among farmers and ranchers, as well as the food system at large. It would be good to understand demographics but also get a deeper understanding about different infrastructure needs and those types of things.

K. ADJOURNMENT 10:23am

These notes were taken contemporaneously and may contain errors and omissions.

Signed by *Helen Henry* Helen Henry.

I verify that these notes have been approved by a quorum of members of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council.

Signed by Susan Perry, Co-chair or, Peter Ives, Co-chair
