



Agenda

**Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe
City and County Advisory
Council on Food Policy
April 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Santa Fe County Extension Office
3229 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, NM 87507-4892**

Procedures for Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy Meeting

Hybrid Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88987396329?pwd=sgcqrXfBRRgszNNUHzBAabJiq5qc6b.1>

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. April 9, 2026, [ACTION].
 - b. Prioritization and Agenda order.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 11, 2025. [ACTION].
 - b. January 8, 2026. [ACTION].
 - c. February 12, 2026. [ACTION].
 - d. March 12, 2026. [ACTION].
5. Communications from the Floor
6. Initiatives and Actions
 - a. Local Updates / Federal / State.
 - b. Update Food Plan from Food Plan Committee.
7. Presentations
 - a. None.
8. Staff Communications

- a. Website re-build and transfer—Update from Helen Henry.
9. Items from the Council
- a. Member Update.
10. Matters from the Committee
11. Items from the Co-Chairs
- a. New member update.
 - b. Next Meeting: May 14, 2026-Hybrid.
 - c. Topics for future presentations.
12. Next Meeting:
- a. Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Hybrid.
13. Adjourn

Closed captions are provided for this meeting. Persons with disabilities in need of additional accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 505-955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, December 11, 2025,
9:00AM-11AM

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:04am

B. ROLL CALL

Nate Crail - Present
Eric Renz-Whitmore - Not present
David Sundberg - Present
Susan Perry - Present
Emigdio Ballon - Not present
Tejinder Ciano - Not present
Said Assali - Excused
Jasmine Meyer - Present
Peter Ives – Present
Coy Maienza - Present

We have a quorum.

Staff:

Pam Roy
Helen Henry

Guests:

Christa Hernandez
Marco Alarid White, NM Center on Law and Poverty
JoDee Powers
Catherine Nolte, Advocacy and Policy Specialist at The Food Depot

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –December 11, 2025 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order

Move item G to just after item E

David motioned

Coy seconded

Approved as amended

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – November 13, 2025[ACTION]

Sue motioned

David Montoined

Approved

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Christa Hernandez introduced herself and described what she does for the City.

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal/State Updates

Peter mentioned the news about Farm Aid becoming available to help out some farmers who are experiencing shortfalls because of the tariffs. Pam said that many farmers in NM will not see that aid because it is oriented towards commodity farmers and not small-scale farmers. She shared a list of the areas where the state is picking up funding shortfalls.

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) is meeting this week to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. The state is now predicting a downturn in oil and gas revenues which will affect the state budget this year. It is likely that we will not be able to get recurring funding for programs this year.

Marco: NM Center on Law and Poverty is beginning to get clarity around when SNAP work requirements will go into effect and what the parameters are. They hope to have materials available soon for people who are needing to maintain their status.

Pam was in a meeting that it was announced that there is about a 40% increase in needs related to food, healthcare and other costs of living. Catherine concurred with this.

David reiterated that all of these shortfalls in programs affect farmers in NM. He also mentioned that Congresswoman Ledger-Fernandez is working to update the requirements for including foods like nuts in food standards for programs such as SNAP and Double-Up Food Bucks.

Pam went over the NM Food & Ag Policy Council's 2026 priorities which are related to food and nutrition needs, and agriculture and water needs and include programs that are also on the Governor's priority list.

Sue commented that all of the programs in these priorities are connected and support each other synergistically.

Pam also mentioned the work that we are doing at the federal level that affect us at the state level - these are things that Farm to Table is providing through the AgriPolicy newsletter and roundtables.

Pam also explained about how funding for purchasing farmland and equipment is changing.

The NMFAPC is doing a Civic Engagement Training on Jan 15 (virtual) and Food & Farms Day on Jan 30 at the Roundhouse. There will also be several walk-throughs at the Capitol to focus on advocacy work. There will be virtual Action Team meetings on Mondays at 11:30 throughout the legislative session.

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

Nothing to report

3. Update and submit County and City Resolution for 2026 Legislature

We are behind on this. Pam has circulated the documents that we have used in the past to everyone. Action: She will do drafts of the documents and send those out. Peter mentioned that we need to highlight changes at the federal level that will affect us at the state level. Pam will keep things broad enough to give an overall picture.

G. PRESENTATIONS: **Santa Fe County Connect**

Coy Maienez MA, Health Services Administration Division Manager

Santa F County Community Services Department

Coy started out by acknowledging that several people who are on the call are involved with this program.

Connect is an accountable community model that works to understand what the social determinants of health are with the goal of helping people thrive. It helps people connect to things like transportation, affordable housing, nutritional food, utilities, and interpersonal safety. Coy went over the history of the program which started in 2017 by establishing an affordable health community with 13 navigators across 8 programs. It is now a City/County partnership that has been built out with a call referral center. The state is currently looking at replicating this model with other NM cities adopting this model.

The program now has about 85 community-based organizations that are part of the program. There are many ways that people can connect to the resources of the organizations in the network.

Peter asked about funding as well as how the program is able to provide food assistance. Coy said that funding is tight because of the federal cutbacks.

Peter suggested that Coy and Chistina meet with Justin Hennamin at the NM Foundation. Peter can make the introductions.

Action: Peter suggested that we add a short update for the program to our regular agenda.

Sue asked a question about how they protect people's personal information and privacy. They are Hippa - compliant, so screening info is shared across the platform. There are some areas where the information is protected, depending on the situation. Navigators are trained in procedures. Sharing information is consent-based.

City of Santa Fe Self-Referral Portal: <https://www.santafenm.gov/connect>

Santa Fe County Self-Referral Portal:

https://www.santafecountynm.gov/community_services/hhsd/ahc

For 211, dial 211 and enter a Santa Fe zip code or call 505-245-1735

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer - Update from Helen Henry

We are waiting for funding from the City to start this project. Action: Pam will follow up with Eric.

Pam mentioned that Farm to Table is in the last stages of hiring a new Executive Director and that Pam will be moving to only doing the job of Policy Director.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member check-in

Coy stated that the SF Health Policy and Planning Commission (Santa Fe's health council) is seeking to fill a position for District 1 (in the northern part of the county, Tesuque, Nambe, Pojoaque, up into Espanola.)

David mentioned that USDA is launching a new regenerative pilot program (through EQUIP and Conservation Stewardship program).

<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/12/10/usda-launches-new-regenerative-pilot-program-lower-farmer-production-costs-and-advance-maha-agenda>

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Peter talked about the transition team for the new mayor. He is involved with this process.

Peter mentioned a GMO development that might reduce the use of fertilizers. Discussion around this.

1. Mechanics for regular updates to City and County Governing bodies from SFFPC.

Action: Peter asked that the SFFPC should forward the AgriPolicy notes and Report Card to the county commissioners and city councilors. We would like to establish ongoing regular communication with them. Sue said that we should be sure to flag information that may be of interest.

2. New member update

Sue has some interest and is following up.

Marco mentioned that the NMLPC is hiring for a new position that might be a better fit for this council.

David will be stepping off the Council when we have someone who can replace him. We hope he will still come to these meetings.

3. Next Meeting: January 8, 2026: Hybrid at the Food Depot

4. Topics for future presentations

Zach Ben from Bidii Baby Food - farming at the Navajo Nation (Pam)

We should devote a meeting to working on the Food Plan so we can get this done.

K. ADJOURNMENT 10:50am

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

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.

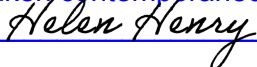
2.. Next Meeting: Feb. 12, 2026: Hybrid

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.

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

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy

Thursday, February 12, 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

Susan Perry, Co-Chair - Present

Peter Ives, Co-Chair – Excused

Nate Crail - Present

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Present

David Sundberg - Excused

Emigdio Ballon -Excused

Tejinder Ciano - Not excused

Said Assali - Not excused

Jasmine Meyer - Present

Coy Maienza - Present

We do not have a quorum.

Staff:

Helen Henry, Scribe

Guests:

JoeDee Powers

Harrison Gibson

Catherine Nolte, The Food Depot

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –February 12, 2026 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order

No quorum.

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – December 11, 2025, January 8, 2026[ACTION]

No quorum.

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Catherine shared about an upcoming reception that they are hosting sponsored by the NM Association of Food Banks Legislative Reception, Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Hunger Action Day at the Roundhouse, Wednesday, Feb. 18 (organized by Roadrunner Food Bank)

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal/State/local Updates

Pam was away, so Helen went over the status of state legislation that is being tracked by the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council.

The Senate Finance Committee passed their version of HB2, the Budget Bill, as amended by the Senate (on Sunday). Next steps, HB2 as amended by the Senate needs to be passed by the full Senate, likely tomorrow (Monday). Then the House must concur. Then it will pass to the Governor.

Food systems priorities that this includes:

1. Double Up Food Bucks Expansion \$1 million in the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
2. New Mexico Grown and raised food for senior meal programs, \$1.5 million in the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) "Kiki Saavedra Dignity Fund".
3. Regional Farm to Food Banks Program, \$2 million to the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
4. Approved Supplier Program, \$430,000 to the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
5. Healthy Food Financing Program, \$2 million annually for three years (totaling \$6,000,000 in SB177) to the Economic Development Department (EDD)
6. WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, \$1 million to the Department of Health (DOH)
7. Student nutrition, \$42,201,000 to the Public Education Department's Student Success and Wellness Bureau (PED)
8. Farmers and ranchers soil and water conservation training program, \$1 million to the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
9. Farmers and ranchers water efficiency grant program, \$10 million to the NM State University Water Resilience Research Institute (WRRRI)
10. Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, \$4,345,000 to the NMDA, water protection program of the environment department \$1,936,100, and conservation services program of the department of wildlife \$4,348,340.

Helen also shared out information about FTT's latest AgriPolicy Brief <https://farmtotablenm.org/field-notes-agripolicy-brief/>

2. Food Needs Assessment

No new information

G. PRESENTATIONS:

No presentation.

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS 5 minutes

Website re-build and transfer- Update from Helen Henry

This is in progress.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL 5 minutes

Member check-in

Jasmine talked about the Northern Roads program that Presbyterian runs. It's a 16-week produce prescription in which MoGRO sources their bags and they partner with Santa Fe Connect now for referrals. Any community partner who's on the network can refer any community member to the program because It's not just for patients now.

Sue asked about how people who are homebound can access the program. Jasmine said that they don't have the capacity to home deliver themselves, but organizations that they partner with can do this.

Jasmine said that their team is hiring for Prebyterian's Community Health program for the regional team, in Santa Fe, Rio Riba, San Miguel , Curry, Lincoln, Otero and Dona Ana counties currently.They are hiring for a couple of jobs including manager of strategic operations, Uh, but it oversees our chronic disease and older adult-related programming, as well as a community health worker team and also a supervisor for those community health workers.

Sue mentioned the PEARLS program and how that intersects with other community health programs.

Coy mentioned the pipe bursting at Valle Vista and how Food Depot has been provided bottled water to those in the community while the problem is being addressed.

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR 10 minutes

1. New member update

Sue is working on getting new members and has received materials from several people. We will work with Eric to identify a replacement for Maria. Eric is not sure if there is someone identified yet. There has been a lot of reshuffling with the change in administration with the new mayor coming in.

She's also working on other people's applications.

2.. Next Meeting: March 12, 2026:In-Person (Action: Vote) This will be a hybrid meeting but hopefully . Sue is working on getting a location.

4. Topics for future presentations

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy

Thursday, March 12, 2026,

9:00AM-11AM

Hybrid

In Person Location: Santa Fe Country Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road Santa Fe, NM 87507

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:06am

B. ROLL CALL

Susan Perry, Co-Chair - Present

Peter Ives, Co-Chair – Present

Nate Crail - Present

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Not excused

David Sundberg - Present (but had to leave)

Emigdio Ballon - Present (joined late)

Tejinder Ciano - Excused

Said Assali - Excused

Jasmine Meyer - Excused

Coy Maienza - Present

We do not have a quorum with everyone present at the same time.

Staff:

Pam Roy, Coordinator

Helen Henry, Scribe

Guests:

Joseph Scala, Aggregate program, Santa Fe County

JoeDee Powers, Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity

James Martinez, Santa Fe County Senior Services

Harrison Gibson (and Josephine)

Catherine Nolte, The Food Depot

Cathy Day, Farm to Table

Marco Alarid White, NM Center on Law and Poverty

Michelle Stizza, Santa Fe County Extension

Hvtch Miller, SF County

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –March 12, 2026 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order

No quorum

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – December 11, 2025, January 8, 2026,

February 12,2026 [ACTION]

No quorum

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Marco is working on supporting materials for some state legislation around nutrition.

Harrison has been consulting with Kitchen Angels and he asked the new ED of Kitchen Angels would be able to come to this meeting. She wasn't able to participate today, but is interested in being more of a part of what we are doing. Pam met with her recently as well.

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal/State/local Updates

Pam gave an update on the legislative session. The Governor signed everything yesterday. Pam went over everything to make sure that all the things that we thought were going to pass, did indeed pass.

Funding for programs in the state's FY27 budget:

- Double Up Food Bucks Expansion \$1 million in the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
- Regional Farm to Food Banks Program, \$2 million to the NM Department of Agriculture
- Approved Supplier Program, \$430,000 to the NM Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Grown and raised food for senior meal programs, \$1.5 million in the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, "Kiki Saavedra Dignity Fund"
- Healthy Food Financing Program, \$2 million annually for three years (totaling \$6 million in SB177) to the Economic Development Department
- WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, \$1 million to the Department of Health
- Health Councils, \$4 million
- Student nutrition, \$42,201,000 (Healthy Universal School Meals) to the Public Education Department's Student Success and Wellness Bureau
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, \$2.5 million
- Farmers and ranchers' soil and water conservation training program, \$1 million to the NM Department of Agriculture
- Farmers and ranchers water efficiency grant program, \$10 million to the NM State University Water Resilience Research Institute (WRI) and an additional \$5 million
- Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, \$4,345,000 to the NMDA, water protection program of the environment department \$1,936,100, and conservation services program of the department of wildlife \$4,348,340.
- Acequia repairs and improvements, \$5 million; SB 193 passed which will double the funding for the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund (ACDIF) from \$2.5 to \$5 million per year.
- Water Trust Fund, \$100 million
- There's additional funding for acequia and land grant education, bovine reproductive trichinosis eradication, \$5,100,000; veterinary education and retention, \$1,500,000; and support for NM State University's meat processing facility, \$3 million (pages 225-226).

Pam noted that Bonnie Murphy is back on board to manage the Farm to Food Bank program. This is a very significant gain.

Marco gave an update on SNAP litigation and how the state is making sure that the requirements that they have received are legally sound, measured against the requirements that NM is using. They are looking at reallocating some funds for the short term and are working on introducing legislation that can shore up the gaps in funding from the federal government.

Pam: We will continue the discussions with some of our legislators who care really deeply about what we're doing to see if there are some ways to codify these things into a more holistic package and into recurring funding. We're hoping to be on the Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee's work plan with all the food and ag initiatives that we're working on.

Sue made some observations about how NM is well-positioned to address food and water needs because we have put money aside that we can use for contingencies. NM is a state that has people who are willing to work towards solutions and not afraid to speak out which is a really healthy thing.

Peter: We need to reach out with thank you notes! FTT is putting something together and can include the members of the SFFPC. (Arrange a sign-on event.) Also send to City and County governing bodies.

Pam: We will try to get on the City Council's agenda to do a presentation.

Pam is going with the NM Dept of Ag on a trade visit to Argentina.

Pam: Federal - Chairman Thompson decided to work on the farm bill. NM Congressman Gabe Vasquez is on the committee and NMFAPC has been meeting with him around this. The House Ag committee did pass their version of the Farm Bill that does not increase SNAP. This goes to the House floor. We are urging them to not pass this version of the bill because it does not address SNAP, which has been gutted. There is a slim margin in the House. Nothing has been introduced on the Senate side. It's a delicate balance so we need to focus on the areas that are most meaningful to us. We can address some of the issues through amendments such as one for the Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program (LFPAP).

Part of what needs to be addressed in the Farm Bill is the situation caused by tariffs and how that affects our beef production. Pam also noted that the Farm Bill does not necessarily meet the needs of our tribal communities. If the Farm Bill does not pass, they will do continuing resolutions. There are a lot of things that are included in the Farm Bill, so addressing this is really important.

We recently presented to the County Commission and are asking questions about how we are addressing food and farming needs at the local level, including adaptive types of farming. Commissioner Bustamante is also still interested in the Transfer of Development Rights and bringing a resolution back.

Joseph added that the County's Open Space team is having discussions about possibly allowing agricultural leases on available land, also, crossover in connections between entities that can benefit from collaboration. They will also be developing a master plan for the La Bajada Ranch property.

Pam mentioned a study that was done about community gardens that identified gaps in gardeners' capacity. How to fill those gaps (education, etc)? The group had a discussion about community gardens - how that reflects a community and what is necessary to keep one going.

Emigdio: The essence of community gardens is the community and preserving collective knowledge.

Michelle asked if there is a community plan that shows all the community gardens? Joseph said no.

Pam met with Erica, the city's conservation and sustainability division director, about the City's sustainability plan which has 144 goals and objectives. Pam mentioned that she might be interested in a seat on the Council.

2. Food Needs Assessment

No discussion.

3. Update Food Plan

The Council went over questions that came up in regard to updating the Food Plan and made a decision to form a committee that would address this in detail..

Committee:

Peter

Sue

Pam

Catherine

Emidgo

Nate

Helen

Marco

Said

G. PRESENTATIONS: None

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer - Update from Helen Henry

We are in the process of selecting a template for the new site.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member check-in

We did not have time for this.

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Peter reported that the City of Santa Fe is forming a Santa Fe Charter Commission and we will be bringing a focus on food to this discussion. He will reach out to commission members to see if we can get that as an item to be adopted as part of the Charter Commission.

1. New member update

Erica, the city's conservation and sustainability division director might be interested in being a member,

2.. Next Meeting: April 9, 2026: Hybrid

4. Topics for future presentations

K. ADJOURNMENT 10:59am

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
