



# Agenda



Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy  
August 18, 2016, 9AM-11AM

Genoveva Chavez Community Center, Classroom #1, 3221 W Rodeo Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87507

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 5 minutes  
*Prioritization and Agenda Order*
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR 2 minutes/person
- F. PRESENTATIONS/TRAINING 45 minutes  
*: Rebecca Baran-Rees from MoGro  
to discuss Health Food Healthy Kids and other food access initiatives at San Ildefonso Pueblo and in other areas of the County.*
- G. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR 10 minutes
- H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS 55 minutes
  - 1. Policy Committee
    - a. Food Plan Committee
      - i. Meeting Updates
    - b. Food Production and Land Use Committee
      - i. Meeting Updates
    - c. Education and Outreach
      - i. Meeting Updates
    - d. Governance Committee
      - i. Meeting Updates
    - e. State & National Issues
  - 2. Executive Committee
    - a. Meeting updates.
- I. ITEMS FROM STAFF 5 minutes
- J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL 5 minutes
- K. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodation contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting day.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 8/10/16 TIME 2:55 p

SERVED BY Sue Perry

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

**SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>	<b>PAGE(S)</b>
A. CALL TO ORDER		
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum	1
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/Prioritization of Agenda	Approved	1
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 28, 2016	Approved	2
E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR	Discussed	2
F. PRESENTATION: <i>Rebecca Baran-Rees from MoGro to discuss Health Food Healthy Kids at San Ildefonso Pueblo and in other areas of the County.</i>		2-6
G. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR	None	6
H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS		
1. Policy Committee		
a. Food Plan Committee	Discussed	6-7
i. Meeting Updates		
b. Food Production and Land Use Committee	Discussed	7-8
i. Meeting Updates		
c. Education and Outreach Committee		
i. Meeting Updates	Discussed	8-9
d. Governance Committee		
i. Meeting Updates	Discussed	9
e. State & National Issues		
i. Meeting Updates	Discussed	9-10
2. Executive Committee		
a. Meeting updates	Discussed	10
I. ITEMS FROM STAFF	Discussed	10
J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL	Discussed	10
K. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.	10

**SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy was called to order by Mark Winne, chair on this date at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center, Classroom 1, Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Mark Winne, chair  
Susan Perry, co chair  
Emigdio Ballon (arrived later)  
Tony McCarty  
Susan Odiseos  
Erin Ortigoza  
Pamela Roy  
David Sundberg

**Members Excused**

Patricia Boies

**Members Absent**

John Alejandro  
Maria De Anda Hay  
Cydney Martin

One vacancy

**Staff Present**

Ms. Morgan Day, Coordinator

**Others Present**

Jackie Munro, La Familia  
Rebecca Baran-Rees, MoGro  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/Prioritization**

**Ms. Odiseos moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Perry seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 28, 2016**

Page 6, second to the last paragraph, second sentence was asked to be changed to: – *She explained the plan came about in trying to understand the status of agriculture.* The remainder of the sentence was deleted.

Same page, in the last sentence: *Ms. Ortigoza said she is excited about the Plan and especially the TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) Program and the county is working on a TDR bank...* was changed to read: ...and the county is exploring *the feasibility of a TDR bank.*

**Mr. McCarty moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2016 as amended. Ms. Odiseos seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Chair Winne welcomed Jackie Munro with La Familia.

Ms. Munro brought flyers and said she wanted everyone to know about a day of celebration of local food. She said the event is September 8 and La Familia will participate at 6 p.m. in a panel discussion between farmers and customers of the Southside Market on imagining the future of the market. She offered to connect those who want a table at the event to the person who is organizing that.

Ms. Ortigoza asked about the opportunity for the county to distribute a questionnaire, or have a consultant approach the growers.

Ms. Munro suggested the discussion in the evening would not be the best opportunity. She said suggested the Southside Market would be a more captive audience.

#### **F. PRESENTATIONS AND TRAINING- *Rebecca Baran-Rees from MoGro (Mobile Grocery)- Health Food Healthy Kids and other food access initiatives at San Ildefonso Pueblo and in other areas of the County.***

Ms. Baran-Rees said MoGro is a project of the Santa Fe Community Foundation started with partners of the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health in Santo Domingo Pueblo. The Center has a 30 plus year history of developing and piloting projects in that community focused on improved health. There were many community conversations about the barriers to living a healthy life and food access came to the forefront. Philanthropists with Johns Hopkins launched and funded a food access project, which was MoGro's beginning.

MoGro began as a small mobile market that went to Santo Domingo, but conditions of the open air, dust, etc., resulted in a lot of spoilage. A custom-built grocery trailer was designed after meeting with tribal and community leaders. The trailer provided mobile grocery service to about six communities and became a place where people came to talk about reading labels and gain understanding about incorporating healthier foods into their diets. Cooking classes and nutrition instruction was then offered with partners in the community kitchens in Santo Domingo and other communities.

The trailer only served 6-7 sites per week and the large piece of equipment clocked a lot of miles and maintenance and was not efficient. In 2014 the trailer was closed and the Pueblo moved to the CSA model where community members could customize a box of food online, choosing different fruits and vegetables and pantry items, etc.

Scarsgard Farms out of Albuquerque enabled MoGro to take advantage of space on their trucks and pay for miles out of route delivery. MoGro after much reiteration now works closely with high-impact medical clinics like La Familia and community groups and locates organizations that have both a connection to families and the expertise to assist families and access to food.

MoGro's online platform allows a member to register, create a profile and choose what goes into their food box. Some support was needed for families without online access or computers. Santo Domingo Health Clinic orders boxes of food to either sell or give to their healthy heart patients and Jemez Health Clinic does something different. MoGro tries to work closely to best meet the needs of the families in the community.

Ms. Perry asked if there was a benefit also in terms of Scarsgard Farms farmers knowing what they are selling.

Ms. Baran-Rees said in some ways Scarsgard is like a food hub. They order what has already been sold and MoGro knows by Friday what will go in the standard box. Members choose from 25 to 30 different vegetables and Scarsgard does this for their own 12-13k (thousand) customers as well. MoGro benefits from putting their orders into Scarsgard's advanced system that does this on a larger scale and that helps bring down cost.

Ms. Baran-Rees said there is a demand in the community for this kind of program. They have been providing cooking classes and nutrition information in tribal communities for three years. They are seeing excitement around incorporating different foods and using traditional foods in different ways.

In the next phase MoGro will test recipes that will be will be tasty, healthy and exciting to help families on a budget learn how to use everything. All of the ingredients will be included in the box at a lower price and they hope to also highlight local and seasonal foods. They plan to test the idea and will hold family focus groups and spotlight chefs to bring more attention to food culture.

MoGro serves clinics at La Familia, Jemez Public Health Clinic, the Santo Domingo Health Center, NDI's Highland Theater in Albuquerque and a location in Tijeras, New Mexico. They hope to pave the way for something in the Pojoaque Valley and to establish a food site at the DOH (Department of Health) to serve WIC and state employees, etc.

Mr. Ballon said it is difficult to know how many people can be served. He said when making a recipe they have to give people an idea of the type of food and that is not easy. He said food culture is good and when talking about the pueblo they have the food they know, the indigenous people like corn, beans, squash, melon, etc.

Ms. Baran-Rees said they started cooking classes because a lot of people wanted the health and wellness outreach workers to do classes. The outreach workers wanted someone to cook something different and a person who cooked Moroccan food was brought in. That was extremely popular and participation in the class increased from 5 or 6 people up to 20 people.

Ms. Baran-Rees said the cooking classes became a place for the community to show how they prepare their food and share tips on making fry bread or their family meals. The classes turned into an idea to work with families interested in developing what people want to see and food that would resonate with their families.

Ms. Odiseos said the program sounds exciting and she is impressed they constantly reevaluate the program. She didn't understand how MoGro knows if they are serving people without the means to provide healthy food. She said organic is still higher priced and she hears people say they can't afford organic.

Ms. Baran-Rees said pricing is subsidized in two ways; a box of food is sold for \$20 that would cost on average \$36-\$38 in the store. They also do fund-raising and write grants to bring costs down more. MoGro also received funding from the USDA so those who purchase with food stamps can purchase a box for half price - 10 dollars.

She said conventional versus organic was something MoGro struggled with when they had the trailer. The number one sellers in the trailer were shelf and pantry items. When they went to the CSA style box there was at least a 200% increase in the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables. The box allows MoGro to serve about 600 families a month and most purchases are exclusively fruits and vegetables.

Ms. Roy added that Scarsgard is a food hub working with farmers year round. Ms. Baran-Rees said she has tracked that over the year 40% of the food is fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally.

Ms. Roy said she got to see the commodity food supplement program in Nambé that serves the Eight Northern Pueblos and also participated in Bernalillo that is focused on the Five Sandoval Pueblos. She said the Commodity Food Supplement Program is a federal program that provides a person up to \$130 of groceries per month. The number one request from the Pueblos is for nutritionists and thoughtfully done education that is modified [to culture]. She said that is important and something they need to do. The federal program is prescribed and difficult to get indigent foods into.

Ms. Perry said her understanding is that locally grown familiar food is one request, but they are also not able to provide access to local produce like beans and corn. She said how to widen that access is the challenge.

Ms. Roy said the USDA requires US grown produce and the Commodity Food Supplement Program or school food, is predicated on federal nutrition requirements and doesn't permit buying local. She said they need to map where the food comes from and where the food programs are. MoGro has the innovation and flexibility and that flexibility allows them to provide services that meet the needs of the people.

Ms. Roy said Santa Ana Pueblo tried to get a contract for the Eight Northern. They would have to be able to provide a full semi load of product that is for everyone; it cannot go to one place.

Chair Winne said MoGro must see opportunities for additional collaboration, even at the regional scale.

Ms. Baran-Rees said that is a question for the community; if they can have food that is given away next to food that is affordable, fresh and organic.

Ms. Perry said the City of Santa Fe is interested in bringing quality, fresh food to employees at their worksites and the City Manager wants to find a way to do that. She suggested that be added to MoGro's list. She offered

to talk with Ms. Baran-Rees about doing that on a smaller scale with the city and if it works well, the county and state might want to do it.

Mr. Sundberg asked about the sustainability of the current model; how Ms. Baran-Rees sees the future for those who make too much to be on SNAP or WIC, but wants an opportunity to get \$20 worth of food that has a \$40 value. He asked if a system is in place for feedback.

Ms. Baran-Rees said there is no income test and she likes that, because for now no one is turned away. She said the main concern is not to cannibalize customers who might go to Scarsgard. She said they target their work to collaborate closely with organizations that serve low income families and there are times someone will replace shopping at Whole Foods and buy a MoGro box, but it is not a concern in the short run. She said for MoGro's purpose and mission that is not an opportunity lost to provide a service to low income families. More orders and more sales mean MoGro is becoming closer to being sustainable and their hope is to create a sustainable and long lasting food access program.

Ms. Ortigoza asked if there is a distribution chain where a grower in the North would not have to go to Albuquerque to get their food into the site and the food eventually comes back up to the northern distribution site.

Ms. Baran-Rees said every part of the process has costs; bringing food down versus the cost of the packers in the warehouse and quality management. She explained the process is as efficient as it is because the food is all in one place and already inventoried and easy to pack. The operations have to be focused to be sustained.

Ms. Ortigoza said it might be doable if there was an aggregation site for growers to take their food.

Ms. Day thanked Ms. Baran-Rees and said everyone has learned a lot about the process. She asked if she had comments on policies at the state, federal or local level that are barriers for her, or if there are general barriers she hears about from clients.

Ms. Baran-Rees said most are federal issues about the manner in which EBTs are used. The USDA is piloting online EBT programs. She said if there was federal support for online EBT that would allow placing an order online, but another issue is if the person does not pick up their box; what to do with the food box.

She said regarding Mr. Sundberg's question on feedback; they have local "champions" that interface with families and do program evaluations when they pick up their order. They also use focus groups and an advisory committee and discuss program impact and how to best meet the needs in tribal communities, etc.

Ms. Roy offered to follow up with Siete del Norte in the Espanola area as a potential food hub. She said Farm to Table applied for a USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant for the New Mexico Grown initiative. They will bring different distribution systems, farmers, etc. together and map out what is going on in the state. Mapping will also focus on areas like southwest of the state and in the four county area to look at who has trucks on the road, who is back hauling, locations of facilities and farmers and where gaps are, etc.

Mr. Ballon said he likes what MoGro is doing and would like to see the possibilities of a hub. He said Pojoaque, Tesuque and other Pueblos will look at the type of product and whether there is a demand and if they can supply those things. He said also if there is need for storage, Pojoaque has a good facility. He said they have to collectively look at how to serve the community and that is a benefit is to the growers and farmers.

Ms. Baran-Rees said she wants MoGro to get back to organizing tribal farmers from the communities they work in and support. They want to have as many growers as possible selling to MoGro.

Chair Winne asked members if there are further opportunities, etc. they want to explore.

Ms. Day said she will follow up on the USDA pilot program; Ms. Ortigoza would follow up on the overall ag' resource inventory and identifying where production is happening and where there are aggregation sites for the county, and she will continue to work with the pueblos. Mr. McCarty thought this a great way to partner with the FPC and MoGro utilizes volunteers. Mr. Sundberg will start a conversation with the aggregation sites and continue that with the public. He said getting aggregation sites would be a struggle opposed to having a hotel with facilities that could hold food. Ms. Perry offered to support and promote the aggregation sites if they got something going in the city. Ms. Roy said she will follow up on the federal programs and mapping.

Mr. Sundberg volunteered Ms. Martin who has educators with recipe packets already put together. He suggested possibly finding a partner to bind the recipes into a recipe book. He also suggested Cooking with Kids as a great resource who is great about sharing their resources.

Ms. Baran-Rees said they have discussed culling resources and having families contribute recipes. They would like to create a community where people showcase the food they cook.

Chair Winne said they are learning there is a need for multiple interventions for clients and participants. He said also it would be interesting to look at how food is circulated through federal/state benefit programs and if that could be coordinated.

Ms. Perry said the Department of Health and the State is prioritizing diabetes and pre-diabetes and she is the master trainer for the National Diabetes Prevention Program in New Mexico. The program is about lifestyle, food and activity. She said she is also connected to some northern native groups and could help in terms of policy work, to bring some of those things together.

Chair Winne thanked Ms. Baran-Rees and said her presentation was informative.

**G. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR – There were none**

**H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS**

1. Policy Committee
  - a. Food Plan Committee
    - i. Meeting Updates

Mr. Sundberg gave an update on the meeting, which is summarized as follows:

- He and Ms. Perry met with Eric Aune from the city. Mr. Aune is knowledgeable in the policies of different city departments and is forward thinking about how to best serve the community. Mr. Aune has a grant from the federal government to research how kids under 18 use and access transportation. He has learned that the south side neighborhoods don't necessarily use sidewalks. Kids cut through yards, jump fences, use back alleys etc. for the most efficient access to where they are going. Mr. Aune wants to find how to get kids to use public transportation, free for youth under 18 to more efficiently get them to and from school and to services, etc.



- The sense was that the Food Council's job would be to gather information to present to the MPO and to make suggestions.
- A food bus/food route was discussed using existing routes and stops. The bus route(s) down Airport Road would serve the South Side Farmers Market dropping people off on Tuesdays in the front of the mall at the Farmers Market, instead of the back of the mall and would later pick them up.
- Ms. Day will continue to attend the MPO meetings and Mr. Sundberg will also try to go.
- They will contact Mr. Martinez for specific information on needs, etc. Ms. Roy offered to resend the emails regarding Reed Liming and Mr. Martinez.

Ms. Day said she has talked with Mr. Aune about building in an educational component in addition to rebranding. She plans to research case studies of other communities that have tried those things.

Mr. Sundberg said he connected Mr. Aune with the new program director at the Farmers Market Institute, as well as Lani Ersfeld from the South Side Farmers Market.

He said the city will move forward with grants, etc. for the bus stop and relocate across the street from the mall near the police station. He asked that the members think about the use of the building and possibilities for food access, public health, etc. He said education, cooking classes and cold storage for an aggregation site could be tied in. He offered to track down a map and send to members digitally.

Ms. Ortigoza said Mr. Alejandro is tasked with finding a location for the South Side Farmers Market.

Mr. Sundberg reminded members to send what they are working on so he can update the Food Plan.

b. Food Production and Land Use Committee  
i. Meeting Update

Ms. Ortigoza said the committee met briefly and talked about the agriculture plan. She provided updates:

- The ag' resource inventory is the biggest issue the committee is working on and the outreach plan is a series of hosted roundtables with themes; growers, farmers and ranchers and resource suppliers and markets (buyers for local food), etc. Each roundtable will have a community partner acting as a convener; Kirsten with the Farmers Market Institute is considering convening the producer roundtable. They want to invite other partners associated or with or knowledge of producers in the area. The end goal is to talk with farmers.
- A questionnaire has been developed; *what do you do with the food that you grow, etc.* A checkbox is provided with numerous answers. The food is listed on the inside and participants are asked what kind of food they harvest, the frequency of harvests, etc. to get an idea of where people are growing and scale.
- Ms. Ortigoza wants to discuss the role that members feel is appropriate and would best utilize their expertise in the inventory.
- The meetings are tentatively set in September/October. Ms. Ortigoza will contact Farm to Table on the meetings and try to engage partners so each has ownership as the initiative begins.

Ms. Roy said she would like to participate in as many of the meetings as possible, if appropriate.

Ms. Ortigoza said she also wants to talk with Mr. Ballon about how they might engage with production at Tesuque. She invited him to attend the meeting and talk about their production and harvest.

Ms. Day said the individuals at the table represent different aspects of the food system and there is a role for FPC in terms of aggregating the policy overlay. She offered to discuss that with Ms. Ortigoza.

Ms. Ortigoza said the consultants suggested a policy roundtable, but she wasn't sure that was within the scope of what they want with the policy inventory. They want to identify database information for markets and the process for purchasing food; how much they pay for produce, how produce is delivered, etc.

Ms. Day said in her understanding of the Food Plan there are clear spots where FPC fits and it makes sense in the resource part to fill in gaps with contact information. She thought after they obtain information it would be better for FPC to be involved in other parts of the work.

Ms. Roy said the Food Production and Land Use Committee could be a convener of one of the sets.

Chair Winne asked if there was a way for the county process to dovetail with MoGro for the big picture of the regional food system and markets. He asked if that could be included in the conversation, not just MoGro but other federal programs; how food moves in the region and who pays for it.

Ms. Ortigoza said the first iteration of the inventory will look at where production and purchasing happens and potential follow up and add a layer of where deliveries happen and cold storage is available. She thought they would end up making a web-based story map with information about the farm and production and where to buy and would then do the same with the markets.

Mr. Sundberg said restaurants are hard to pin down with regard to purchasing. He suggested inviting the restaurant in Chilile. He asked that a questionnaire be sent to the New Mexico Restaurant Association and they could shrink the field Ms. Ortigoza is looking for.

c. Education and Outreach Committee  
i. Meeting Updates

Mr. McCarty provided an overview of the committee work summarized below:

- The committee is working on the Green Fire Times article about World Food Day as a sidebar to the FPC article. They have a 16 point plan beginning in September and ending in October with World Food Day. The committee's first press release will go out September 14 and defines the event and FPC's response and some of the partners. An attachment to the press release lists agencies and programs people can be involved in and their contact information.
- The calendar has the 16 points, social and print media dates, E-blasts and radio. Ms. Roy and Ms. Martin confirmed they will do a radio spot. Topics are the I CAN Program and education and the Food Policy actions; Sarah Noss will talk about food and farming and the TDRs (Transfer of Development Rights) and he would like Ms. Ortigoza to join. Ms. Ortigoza suggested that Robert as head of the TDR program, be added.

- Ms. Day will meet with those doing a program to ensure a common message and the focus is on the most important points. Appointments will be made for those speaking but those with intense schedules should arrange their appointment.
- Ms. Odiseos asked about plans for PSAs. Mr. McCarty said they could be done if arranged at the time of the production. The press release message is first that World Food Day is a day of action against hunger; the bigger message is climate change and the disproportionate effect on poverty.
- Mr. Sundberg offered the number for the program director at KSFR radio. He suggested trying to combine a great topic like the school food program with Nuestra.
- The calendar will be sent today. The first deadline is August 30; media posts start 7 September.
- Chair Winne said as the messaging proceeds keep in mind FPC's key policy points and what the council is trying to target. He said this is an opportunity to create background noise and ensure the city/county is more responsive when FPC makes recommendations and requests funding.
- Ms. Day said a focus on climate change and climate action in the next press release is key as the message of World Food Day and tying that to FPC's hopes for transportation and school gardens, etc.
- Chair Winne suggested a mini training on messaging at the September meeting.

d. Governance Committee  
i. Meeting Updates

Ms. Perry said she appreciated committee chairs, etc. getting their packets to her. She said the members received the Governance packet. She said the protocol to bring in a new council member is first to invite them to a FPC meeting and second have them attend a committee meeting. The person can get an idea of how the Food Council works and members can see the participant's level of commitment.

She said she did reach George Toya and he was not able to attend this meeting, but is interested. She said she listed possible names for members to review.

Members nominated other potentials: Rebecca Baran-Rees; Jackie Munro.

Ms. Perry said the Mission Statement from the Upstream meeting was also discussed. She could not find that in her papers, but did find Council Guidance Principals and Ms. Day offered to recreate those digitally and send to members with the communication strategy.

e. State and National Issues

Ms. Roy said she attended the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Policy meeting. She said Farm to Table and the New Mexico Food and Ag' Policy Council is one of the only two members in New Mexico in the Coalition. The other is La Montanita Co-op and they are also part of the New Mexico Grown Steering Committee as well and they will pair up on many of the national issues.

The New Mexico Food and Ag' Policy Council did a listening session to have ideas in the national discussion. The EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) piece is center stage for the Coalition on the lack of EBT access at farmers markets. The Coalition is focused on the issue with other groups in Washington DC, including the Farmers Market Coalition and will meet specifically with the USDA.

Work is being done on the Farm Bill and a marker bill, which is a more comprehensive approach of looking at various policies. The Farm Bill is tied to food assistance programs like food banks and food pantries. The Local Food and Farmers' Jobs Act will be sponsored by a Congresswoman from Maine in a marker bill. Also added is a way to support gleaning programs through federal programming and possible funding for non federal food banks, etc. to buy local.

Ms. Roy said at the last meeting the Organic Certification Program administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture was discussed. There was short notice sent about the three hearings to be held in the state. She said the Thornburg Foundation, the New Mexico Farmers Market Association and La Montanita Co-op are also interested in the outcome. She said the director of the program retired and the position will not be filled, but certifiers will be maintained for the program. She said New Mexico applies for the USDA Cost Share Program, which is part of the Farm Bill and receives about \$80k to mitigate the cost of certification.

She said at the last meeting a letter to the congressional leadership about FPC's concerns was discussed. She said Mr. Alejandro suggested waiting until the council hears the outcome of the conversations. She added that FPC should look at a resolution and that message also; one would be to maintain the program without financial cuts or additional burden to farmers. Ms. Ortigoza added they should cite the economic benefits to the organic program and industry support and the result for those who have been certified should the program collapse.

Ms. Odiseos said she keeps hearing people express their angst/anger that food stamps can include potato chips and soda. She asked about FPC starting that conversation.

Mr. Winne suggested that issue be on the next agenda.

2. Executive Committee
  - a. Meeting updates

Chair Winne said the committee needs to do the evaluation with Ms. Day and a plan is underway.

#### **I. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

#### **J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

*Having no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.*

Approved by:



Mark Winne, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer