

Monthly Public Meeting

Accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels as we collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with climate crisis fighters in and around Santa Fe

Date: June 13, 2020

Place: via Zoom

Attendees: Robert Cordingley, co-facilitator; Paul Biderman, co-facilitator; Stephen Schmidt, Julia Ying, Greg Sonnenfeld, Lucy Gent Foma, Gary Payton, Maria Spray, Jim Eagle, Adam Wasserman, Jean Darling, Barbara Sinha

Current Business

Welcome and introduction

The meeting began at 10:00 am. Robert confirmed that everyone on the call has experience with Zoom meetings. Greg asked whether it was all right to record this meeting for other people who could not attend. Lucy Gent Foma, the presenter, said it was all right with her.

Announcements

Julia Ying announced two events people can take advantage of:

- 1) Climate Reality Project Global Online Training offered on July 18 – July 26, 2020 requiring about 14 hours to complete
- 2) Northern New Mexico chapter of the Climate Reality Project is sponsoring a screening of 'The Story of Plastic'; it can be viewed in your own time from now until June 20 at <http://www.storyofplastic.org> ; on June 20 at 5:00 pm there will be a discussion of the film

More information on these events is available on the calendar of the 350 Santa Fe website.

Invited Talk

The AgriGate of Santa Fe County: Supporting Resilient Local System

Speaker: Lucy Gent Foma

Speaker note: Lucy Gent Foma is a Senior Planner in Santa Fe County's Growth Management Department. Born and raised in Santa Fe, Lucy received her BA from Smith

College and her MA from Cornell University, as well as a Fulbright Fellowship and Rotary Scholarship in Senegal where she lived with her husband from 2010-2011. They moved back to Santa Fe in 2013 and are raising their two daughters down the street from grandparents and cousins. Lucy is also the author of Funded, a book about finding funding to pursue your passions.

Ms. Foma used the screen sharing feature of Zoom to give a slideshow as she discussed AgriGate, a program developed by Santa Fe County personnel leading to a website launched in October 2019. The program grew out of the County's Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan. Lucy demonstrated features of AgriGate, such as finding local farm locations for a particular product or signing up as a grower to have your products put into the system. There is a part of the website specifically for food buyers and another section for resource providers. The intent is to connect growers of food with buyers of food in Santa Fe County and the nearby region.

Ms. Foma is on the Santa Fe Food Policy Council. She explained how the council started meeting twice a week around the time COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. Two effects of the pandemic were to disrupt supply chains and to greatly increase the number of hungry local people. The members of the council saw the unique circumstances as a way to restructure partnerships. They were able to get the financial and staffing resources to make meals at Santa Fe Community College. They got YouthWorks involved in this process.

In looking toward the future, Ms. Foma believes there is a need for an aggregation center with refrigerated storage, for meat processing facilities, and for an app to improve vehicle routing of supply trucks moving food around the state. Her work intersects with the permitting part of county government and she is aware of instances in which the current permitting process is getting in the way of progress for what farmers could be doing. She also talked about the land the county owns and uses for open space and trails. She showed a PDF document detailing county sustainability projects.

In conclusion, Ms. Foma gave 350 Santa Fe two possible areas in which our assistance could be used:

- 1) Permits – Support farmers by encouraging local governments to remove roadblocks to desirable projects
- 2) Just transition plan – Follow up on the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution passed by Santa Fe County

Q & A section

- Request for more details about the aquaponics project that encountered stiff neighborhood opposition. Answer ~ More details were provided.
- How would the planning department fit in with a just transition plan? Answer ~ A just transition plan would probably involve multiple county departments.

- Paul suggested we write a letter to the County saying they should prioritize the just transition plan and direct staff to pursue it.
- Is there anything we can do to help educate the public? Answer ~ Educational partners do give practical advice about soil building and pest control, for example.
- Has the story presented today by Ms. Foma been given wide-spread publicity? Answer ~ Some selected parts appeared in *Green Fire Times* and local newspapers.
- What happens once the county modifies land it owns, e.g., rehabilitating a wetland? ~ It depends on the individual project circumstances.

Team Progress Reports

Paul recommended each team generate an abstract of what they are doing and then have those abstracts available on the 350 Santa Fe website. In the interest of time-saving, team leads agreed to do this.

Citizens' Climate Lobby National Virtual Conference

The annual conference of Citizens' Climate Lobby is being done in a virtual format this year and it begins at 11:00 am Mountain Time today. Participants of this 350 Santa Fe meeting were encouraged to register for the conference and attend the portions that interest them.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, July 11th.

Meeting ended at 11:00 am

Notes taken by Barbara Sinha