

**Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy**  
**General Action Team**  
**8.27.20 ± 12:00 – 1:30 pm**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Facilitator:** Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

**Notes:** Sharon Berman, Erika Robers and Xavi Vallejo, New Mexico First

**Participants:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allison Griffin, Cullari Group</li><li>• Anna Rondon, Social Justice and Equity Institute</li><li>• Brent Van Dyke, NM Association of Conservation Districts</li><li>• Brie Sillery, NM Coalition to End Homelessness</li><li>• Bruce Hinrichs, NMSU</li><li>• Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition</li><li>• Christina Morris, NMDOH</li><li>• Daniel Valverde, NM Appleseed</li><li>• Derek Lin, NM Voices for Children</li><li>• Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition</li><li>• Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children</li><li>• Jonas Moya, NM Cattle Growers Association</li><li>• Josey Foo, Indian Country Grassroots Support</li><li>• Karen Plawecki, NMSU Extension</li><li>• Katy Anderson, Roadrunner Food Bank</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Krista Martinez, Constellation</li><li>• Kurt Rager</li><li>• Melanie Stansbury, NM Legislature</li><li>• Mike Venticinque, NM Farmers' Marketing Assoc.</li><li>• Rose Nava, NM Appleseed</li><li>• Roy Montibon, The Montibon Company</li><li>• Shay Zamora, Non Metro Agency on Aging</li><li>• Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot</li><li>• Stephanie Rogus, NMSU</li><li>• Tim Davis, NM Center on Law &amp; Poverty</li><li>• Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives</li><li>• Tyler Eshelman, NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands</li><li>• Victoria Queveda, La Semilla Food Center</li><li>• Zak Barela, NMDA</li><li>• Zoey Fink, National Young Farmers Coalition</li></ul> |
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**Key:**

Green = Policy Recommendation Moved Forward

Yellow = Policy Recommendation Needs to be Developed (not yet ready for legislative action)

Orange = Action Item

**1) Check in and Preview of prioritization activity**

**2) Group & Prioritize Recommendations - 40 mins**

**PRIORITY #1 – Address Root Causes of Food Insecurity**

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela

Note-Taker: Xavi Vallejo

**Participants:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen Plawecki</li><li>• Kurt Rager</li><li>• Krista Martinez</li><li>• Brent Van Dyke</li><li>• Stephanie Rogus</li><li>• Carlos Navarro</li><li>• Tim Davis</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allison Griffin</li><li>• Ellen Buelow</li><li>• Roy Montibon</li><li>• Brie Sillery</li><li>• Shay Zamora</li><li>• Katy Anderson</li></ul> |
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**NEW MEXICO FIRST**  
*People. Ideas. Progress.*

Please contact Sharon Berman at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org) if we missed or misunderstood anything in these notes.

- Create a constitutional amendment to the NM Constitution making safe and sufficient food and water security a human right.
  - Majority in favor and 4 comments. Many have said, yes in concept and not right mechanism
  - A constitutional amendment might go too far. Look at county model to deliver to those in need. Those who have access could share. Is this the government's role?
  - Does water as a right only apply to humans? Does it also apply to ag? With so many lawsuits involving water, it could be difficult to make a constitutional amendment.
  - What are benefits of adding to constitution?
    - Rights in the const. may lay the foundation for other legislation and will be more stable. Would emphasize the importance.
  - This was modelled after the UN def. of water as a right.
  - Were people thinking drinking water? Or include all other needs?
    - People were talking about all of those needs. Sometimes those needs are pitted against each other. There is consensus, but for policy needs more work.
  - Constitutional amendment is a heavy lift. If goal is to lock in state policy makers to commit to recognizing water as a human right, it might be easier to make a gubernatorial resolution or a memorial. Then have working groups pursue the concept. Would be easier to get support.
    - Speaker of the house not in favor of memorials. Let's keep thinking.
  - Are there other states that have taken the step of passing a Constitutional Amendment? Also, some environmental organizations are going to be pushing for a Green Amendment, probably in the coming legislative session. Might be worth stepping back and seeing how that goes.
  
- Reject re-institution of a Food Tax in New Mexico.
  - More than one-year no food tax
  - Majority in favor of the concept
  - How often does this come up in the state legislature?
    - Almost every other session.
    - Might be helpful to have a document to use in lobbying efforts to show broad opposition to the idea.
  
- Reject taxation of non-profit organizations who provide essential nimble capacity in responding to basic needs in New Mexico's COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.
  - Majority in favor, idea that it needs to be broader
  - Comments included considering a competitive grant program to support nonprofits providing emergency relief for food and water; that due to anti-donation clause such an activity would need to be funded with state dollars; concern about competition between nonprofits and suggestion that mechanism include tiers or pools; definition of eligible entities could help in this regard
  - Does not specify ALL non-profit orgs. How do we define basic needs? Food banks, kitchens, etc. is what I see as basic needs.
  - How are non-profits taxed now?
    - Non-profits are tax exempt and not taxed like for-profit orgs.
    - Most funding comes from community members. Non-profits that meet basic needs should get more tax ride offs.
  - Should non-profits not be tax?
  - With state policy in mind, I haven't seen any efforts at the state level.
  - Who favors as a mid-priority? (8 in favor) Do we need to be more proactive?



- Require New Mexico to accept any waivers allowed in federal programs that are aimed at supporting people of low-income and reducing barriers to participation.
  - Add broader concept – no additional barriers –
  - Agencies taking hard look at administering rules – language directing agencies to aggressively pursue waivers, flexibilities in rules
  - Lot of support – 100% agreement
  - Federal flexibilities to remove barriers to allow people to stay on these programs and stay on. Flexibility varies with administration. Looking for a statute required by the state to allow more orgs access to resources. Previously worked on legislation.
  - The state has taken advantage of WIC waivers through FNS due to the pandemic.
  - We can implement this statute and ask for additional flexibility.
    - Can reduce the administration burden on the state and families to have more flexibilities. Reapplying presents more paperwork and can create other burdens. People can get lost in administrative shuffle.
  - Majority voted for Mid Priority:
- NM Legislature asks Congress for continued flexibility and implementation of programs that impact social and structural determinants of health such as food, housing, health, childcare, and workforce development as relief and recovery efforts continue across NM and the country.
  - No opposition. Some possible clarifications including specifying state dollars
  - Majority in favor
  - Combine with previous priority.
- Implement a Working Families Tax Credit to keep more money in family budgets and invest more in local economies.
  - Expand it as it already exists. Nuances including increasing staffing for state departments responsible for administering public benefits; institutionalize lessons learned from COVID-19 operations re. reducing barriers to re-verification
  - No opposition all in favor
  - Looking to expand eligibility and increase the amount. May be looking to recycle a previous project and will reach out for support. Not likely to be the year to press for increasing the amount of the credit.
  - High priority, but heavy lift: Majority
- Increase staffing for State Departments responsible for administering Public Benefits to lower caseloads, prevent churn, and assure the timely processing and administration of social safety net benefits and continuity of access to income supports to stabilize and strengthen recovery and relief efforts. Institutionalize lessons learned from COVID-19 operations about reducing barriers to re-verification.
  - Comments called for strategies enabling other orgs to help with this issue
  - Majority in favor
  - Lighten administration burden with proper staffing. Could connect with Secretary to fit into budget. Could also ask for funding after funding has been allocated.
  - Important to communicate with dept, but are there other ways for the dept. to address this issue with a decreased budget next year.
  - This could be a heavy lift this year. Would like to see some other alternatives (i.e.. Humanitarian groups) There's not much excess in the budget this year.

- State budget is going to have a \$1.5M shortfall. Oil and gas not doing too well.
  - Maybe we can focus on using existing money more efficiently.
- There are federal funds available for SNAP outreach. Could be reached by the state and then allocated to local orgs. There is fed. Funding available that could assist.
- Help families avoid the cliff effect (AKA the poverty trap) by creating longer transition periods or gradual stair steps to self-sufficiency rather than immediate termination of benefits when income thresholds are reached for up to 6 months to allow families to gain income stability.
  - Clarification requested regarding whether the extension of services would require community service or drug testing
  - Majority favor
- Increase training, professional development, reflective supervision, and quality monitoring for public benefits case workers and supervisors in: public benefits eligibility, parameters, and requirements across front-line staff in social safety net programs; Motivational Interviewing 40 hour training; implicit bias training and coaching; causes and responses to secondary and vicarious trauma; trauma-informed approaches; and conflict resolution.
  - Majority in favor
- Increase staffing for DWS to investigate and respond to wage theft claims and to enforce the minimum wage laws.
  - 21 in favor, no opposition
  - Comments included increasing DWS investigators in the private sector (currently, they increased the investigators for state complaints); Include historical and policy context of NM
- Study and develop recommendations about the relationship between food insecurity and housing insecurity and consider rent control in gentrifying communities across New Mexico.
  - Comments included determining if other people were working on this and considering asking them to consider this policy idea; reframe as addressing food insecurity at the nexus of housing insecurity.
  - Under half in favor – no opposition – but not broad support
  - Met with food pantry staff at NMSU. Staff had been working on a survey to evaluate basic needs and held a conference. Could potentially get data from this group.
  - There are a lot of people that are already receiving funding. We also understand that these issues are already well known. However, we do need to share the information folks are gathering.
    - \*Stephanie to reach out for data from Anna, Age Eight (100% Community Initiative)\*
    - \*Lilly to send this doc in survey format\*
- Invest in data and information sharing systems, technology, broadband, and connectivity to avoid programming or networking glitches that undermine clear and actionable communications with New Mexicans about income supports.
  - Comments include paying careful attention to IT development (who does work, who gets contracts)
  - 100% in favor
- From a federal perspective, SNAP is extremely important. **Protect and increase the SNAP allotment**, not just during the emergency. Keep maximum SNAP benefits; this is absolutely huge, from an on-the-ground perspective. All the federal nutrition programs are critical for NM esp. with the budgetary challenges we're

facing. We need to maximize all the federal resources we have.

- Question: State has added to SNAP benefits for seniors. What is happening? Does it need to be reinstated? Should it be added to this point?
- Comments included SNAP benefits for seniors should be increased, and public education was needed so public understands why SNAP is better for families and our economy
- All in favor

## **PRIORITY #2 Strengthen Food and Water Relief and Recovery**

Facilitator/Notes: Sharon Berman

Participants:

- Anna Rondon
- Christina Morris
- Rose Nava
- Josey Foo
- Derek Lin
- Melanie Stansbury
- Sherry Hooper
- Victoria Queveda

- Provide emergency funding to the Tribal Infrastructure Fund in IAD and the Water Trust Fund to leverage federal funding for Tribal, Rural, and Frontier Water Needs in New Mexico.
  - Reframe slightly – provide increased funding for water needs in Tribal communities – increase percentage of dollars set aside for the TIF – for water AND OTHER infrastructure needs – infrastructure set-aside or increase the funding. This would be an amendment. Advocating for increased federal funding
  - Many requests to remove “emergency”
  - Can’t “log roll” – need to separate Tribal infrastructure and food. This group may not have to do the research/scoping etc. But do champion!
    - Rep. Stansbury is working actively on this rec. IAS looking at doing rapid assessment of tribal water needs between now & session. There is an existing Tribal Assistance Fund- idea is to amend that bill to increase allocation for water, and/or emergency food/water, etc.
  - Majority in favor
- Invest \$12.5M in HSD for One-Time Budget Request - Emergency Relief and Recovery Efforts with Food Banks for purchased food, health and safety supplies, transportation, and to enhance capacity to respond to additional community needs.
- Protect \$1.2M already allocated to Food Banks to acquire, source, and distribute Fresh Produce from possible cuts. Protect \$500K and allocated in February 2020 for Shelf Stable Food for food banks.
- Reduce higher-education student hunger by providing state funding for partnerships between higher education and one of the 5 regional food banks to procure and distribute food on a weekly basis to food insecure students who are disproportionately people of color, LBGTQIA+, and veterans.
- - The actual number may need to be changed. Dollars made available through state budget for emergency food needs.
  - Q: is this retroactive? No. this is an emergency measure going forward.
  - Q: does “health & safety” include hygiene items?
  - Currently \$1.2 million going to 5 food banks to acquire produce. Close attention paid to nutritional quality of distributed food. There was an opportunity to add \$500,000 for shelf-stable food. Important because other nonprofits receiving food from food banks don’t always have capacity to

handle fresh foods. Donated food is decreasing. Having to increase purchase of food to meet growing demand especially during pandemic.

- Several people called for a single letter to federal delegation about food and water needs that would also include Tribal infrastructure and water funding.
- This would be another one that could be grouped together
- How do you know when students are food-insecure? A: Some universities and colleges are gathering this data
- Majority in favor
- Food Bank recommendation – consolidate with two above  
COMBINED THREE
- Is this for the same purpose as above bullet? The state has been generous to support produce food program for food banks. Mainly only having to pay freight costs. At most, .09 cents/lb. for produce when purchasing from sister food banks. This is helpful for the shelf-stable purchases.
- Protect existing funding and expand it for x and y purposes. We can outline the differences between the two issues - i.e. explain what the investment would do on top of existing funds
- Majority in favor

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to provide universal feeding programs and extend School Breakfast and Lunches to year-round using the Summer Meals Program and the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to expand supper and snacks to public and private early learning settings [REVISED]
- Implement a successful law from other states to allow schools to re-package and freeze (when appropriate) food that is unused during school meals for student use at home.
- Protect funding for Summer Meal programs for people of low-income statewide **across the lifespan**.
  - This is multifaceted, covered by different programs. The only way to do it universally would be through the CEP program.
  - All school district sponsors eligible to do free meals should be doing it at 100%.
  - Majority in favor
  - Rep. Ferrary is seeking information – will give it to Sherry
  - Majority in favor, no opposition
  - Goes along with previous on, includes “year-round”.
  - Federal funding.
  - Majority in favor

- **THREE COMBINED ABOVE**

- Protect and expand Senior Meal and Nutrition Programs through ALTSD.
  - Comments included attending to the challenge in rural areas to get to the sites, and capacity issues to deliver meals to seniors’ homes
  - Majority in favor
- Protect and expand the SNAP Double Up Food Bucks program.
  - More food with the same amount of federal dollars. Dome coordination happens through NM Farmers Marketing Association. Protect and expand category.
  - Majority in favor

- Reform rules and regulations that prohibit coordination and sharing of infrastructure such as dry and cold storage, kitchens, distribution facilities, and transportation across community programs that prioritize different parts of our community.
  - Removing policy barriers.
  - Majority in favor
  - Could this go with the La Semilla proposal? \*Victoria to ask Tim about this\*
  
- Create a NM version of the farm to food box program that delivers safe, high quality, local food to people of low-income who are food insecure by building on the health, safety, and quality tiers developed by PED and ALTS in their farm to school and farm to senior center programs.
  - Invest in local food production for emergency relief, building on NM safety standards rather than USDA federal rules that are challenging in NM; expand to ensure participation and collaboration with Tribal communities regarding reforming rules and regulations
  - Most in favor
  - Possibly move with PED or NMDA
  
- Need to look at barriers in the anti-donation clause that could be changed to strengthen food systems initiatives and infrastructure and deployment of resources to NGOs that are already in position to respond to basic needs.
  - Maybe group together – revisit, refine so state, county, city governments work with NGOs to target resources most effectively
  - Anti-donation clause is OLD and may have been developed to respond to railroad transportation issues in the past century
  - Ask Sen. Ortiz y Pino to point us at anti-donation clause
  - Most in favor
  
- Create a plan and allocate resources to respond to food deserts across New Mexico with expansion of mobile food pantries, education about growing your own food, and soil health to strengthen food sovereignty.
  - USDA keeps accurate tabs, as well as others in state
  - Comments included noting that Extension research facilities and data help understand this issue; water quality and quantity analysis is needed
  - Majority in favor
  - Might fall with the infrastructure bill
  
- Institutionalize lessons learned about adjusting to inter-generational feeding programs; allowing schools to continue to modify how they get food to students; adequately paying for those costs; creating direct-to-family options including P-EBT.
  - Community schools would help fulfill full-family, so they could get food, even dinners to the families and adequately paying for those costs, so we could leverage federal funding.
  - Most in favor
  - Possibly move to Priority Area 1 with financial support to individuals
  
- Implement gleaning similar to other states and adopt the Gleaning Taskforce's recommendations that address producer needs around respect of private property, liability, and economic needs as well as the emergency food sectors needs to source quality food at a low-cost by providing grants or tax credits the

producers who partner with local non-profit food banks, pantries, food closets, etc. to allow gleaning for use in the emergency food supply.

- Reduce wasting food, at restaurants and in the fields.
- Task force is still working – recommendations not yet solidified. Support partnerships between emergency food sector and producers that are genuine win-win for both. Maybe when that work is more mature this is something we can support.
- About half in favor, no opposition

- **Healthy food financing – La Semilla and Poverty Center**

- Been working on for 2 years. Large support throughout rural Doña Ana Co. Statewide program to attract federal funds – maybe \$2-3 million/year minimum. 2 different pots of food – thru treasure and USDA. “also cdfi’s are eligible for larger pots of money through the treasury.” So businesses have info that they need to expand their business. There is equitable language in the bill. Historically not included would sit on steering committee. Black, indigenous, people of color, women, LGTBQ, farmers
- Majority in favor, 1 opposed – needing to learn more about La Semilla’s efforts

## NEW ITEMS

- Improve healthfulness of restaurant meals - CSPI
- IDEA - Identify emergency food sector providers that focus on immigrants and refugees

## PRIORITY #3 – Invest in Local Food Systems & Resilient Local Agriculture

Facilitator/Notes: Erika Robers

Participants:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Bruce Hinrichs, NMSU</li><li>● Daniel Valverde, NM Appleseed</li><li>● Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children</li><li>● Jonas Moya, NM Cattle Growers Association</li><li>● Mike Venticinque, NM Farmers’ Marketing Assoc.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives</li><li>● Tyler Eshelman, NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands</li><li>● Zak Barela, NMDA</li><li>● Zoey Fink, National Young Farmers Coalition</li></ul> |
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- Maintain NMSU base funding for Cooperative Extension for \$13,635,000 and for Agricultural Experimentation Stations for \$15,147,000 to provide support, leading-edge information, and technical assistance to agricultural producers.
  - Majority, none opposed
  - Comments included concerns regarding how much work/research they do with pesticides and water intensive crops that don't need to be grown in a region with such scarce water and high heat. Research is focused on soil health and on less water intensive crops. Focus is on wiser use of water and safest use of pesticides. Also they spend time on food preservation and food preparation- teach the SNAP recipients how to cook with produce.

- Maintain and expand investments in agricultural literacy, and ag education including but not limited to 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom, ag-based CTE pathways, and other local and regional Pre-K through 12+ agricultural education efforts. Develop a New Mexico agriculture education day in which all students in New Mexico public schools will spend one day a year focused on agricultural education. Food corps, farm to school programs, etc.
  - Majority, none opposed
  - Comments included wondering how much is funding education about crops that are considered "specialty," even though they are the crops that actually stay feed our families and are more likely to stay in the region.
  
- Support work by tribal farm boards to get waivers and exceptions that will facilitate greater ease in demonstrating qualification requirements for farm bill funding, take a page from applications and re-verifications in public benefits and simplify processes.
  - Majority in favor, 1 opposed
  
- Invest in and develop greater connectivity across data systems as well as broadband infrastructure to strengthen communication and coordination related to production, value-added opportunities and facilities/processing, storage, transportation, and distribution that could exist in an opensource data base similar to some of the functionality of SHARE NM.
  - Majority in favor
  - Q: There are other initiatives to expand infrastructure. How does this relate? NEED FOR MORE CLARITY.
  - 1/3 of students in NM have no access to internet, Farmers in field have no access either to get satellite data. So, any broadband we can add to the state is hugely valuable.
  - Over 20% of new Mexicans, regardless of age, have no access to broadband. It's harder to get relief and recovery when that basic infrastructure isn't there.
  - Broadband access is universally critically needed... for this and all other. It is important to ensure the many Broadband access / infrastructure efforts are as coordinated and augment with one another. Even many of those that do have spotty connection.
  
- Capital funding for potential building projects targeted at creating or remodeling existing infrastructure to support food hubs – cold storage, loading docks, hubs – to bring networks into that region. It could be a two-way distribution – food going into rural areas, and when it is produced rurally, bringing it to urban areas. Viability for growers, getting their produce into town in food safe way
  - Majority in favor
  - Huge barrier; specially, remote/rural growers
  
- Maintain and expand investment to \$500K in ALTSD to support the Purchase of NM Grown Fruits and Vegetables for Senior Meals Programs.
- Maintain \$400K commitment in PED budget for NM Grown Produce for School Meals.
  - Majority in favor
  - This took more than two decades to make a reality... hugely important
  
- Maintain \$227K in NMDA for the Healthy Soil program and maintain \$200K in NMDA for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
  - Majority in favor

- Questions around whether private landowners can be mandated as to how to farm- Bruce and Zoey. Tsiporah wants to push for our state to adapt regenerative ag.
- Protect \$150K for program support to NMDA to develop New Mexico Local Food and Farming Systems including value chain coordination and food safety systems that Support the SNAP Double Up Food Bucks program and local producer sales to retail and institutional outlets.
  - Majority in favor
  - Is there a way to add that access to electricity is important in addressing food and hunger?
- Invest \$100K in DOH for the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.
  - Majority in favor
- Invest in the Department of Agriculture to strengthen capacity in NM related to Beef Inspection and Processing to get more protein into the local food supply.
  - Might be more appropriately housed at NM Livestock Board, Outreach housed and done through NMDA. Making sure the 2 agencies are supported, and that markets/channels/supply chain up and running and resilient. Long-term solution.
    - Add: – “invest in the department of agriculture or nm livestock board to strengthen”
    - Add – promotion of NM-raised beef.
    - State should support NM beef like it supports NM chile growers
  - Might be more appropriately housed at NM Livestock Board, Outreach housed and done through NMDA. Making sure the 2 agencies are supported, and that markets/channels/supply chain up and running and resilient. Long-term solution.
  - Tweak language to reflect the above – the two entities.
  - Reach out to Deena Chacon Reitzel NM Beef Council (Jonas has contact info)
  - About a quarter in favor, one opposed
- Invest in 100K in the existing program for agricultural workforce development program across the value-chain to recruit, develop, and employ a well-qualified and well compensated workforce.
  - Almost half in favor
  - Yes, as long as priority is given to limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers (as defined by the USDA).
  - Add in the following: water conservation corps; food security corps; renewable energy corps; sustainable housing corps
  - This is a statute.
- Fund NMDA to gather community and stakeholder input in an emergency relief and recovery plan for a pandemic, drought, other state or national emergency that addresses labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, and market fluctuations to protect local food systems and increase the reliability and durability of local agriculture.
  - Majority in favor, none opposed
  - Effectiveness of engagement and action based on feedback (2x)
  - Yes, as long as this includes emergency relief, hazard pay, and worker protections for farmworkers, since they are the most valuable part of our food chain.

- Recognize the local food production and processing industry as a public good and create pathways for public private partnerships to expand and strengthen local food systems.
  - Under half in favor
- What we use water for is very big decision and we need ways to prioritize that are informed by the public and science and support our long-term well-being. Research emergent technology and what types of efficiencies we can gain in food quality, such as water sufficiency's and technologies.
- Research is going on in collaboration with Israel (similar arid environment) using little water. Testing water soil and water quality and increasing regulatory capacity of the state to ensure the testing happens will keep food production safe.
  - Roughly a quarter in favor
  - Each county also has a role in water testing and maintaining
  - A process for how we prioritize for how we use water, that also looks at research & emergent technology.
  - Q: Does this include new water infrastructure, or political/legal angle?
  - I have concerns about maintaining water rights for Indigenous communities in NM, and what position this workgroup has on reclaimed water from the fracking process.
  - Under half in favor
- Enhance marketing and development to promote the viability of agriculture in NM and strengthen in state value-added through value-added grants at State level.
  - Idea is that if we want viable NM ag, we need to market and promote ag better. We need resources invested in local food production, especially around value-added. Keeping it in state instead of exporting, let's do value-added.
  - Yes, as long as priority is given to limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers (as defined by the USDA).
  - Make sure that the marketing program that exists within NMDA continue to be funded.
  - This should be split into two things.
  - Under half in favor- what else needs to be explained for people to support?
- Recognize and incentivize traditional ecological practices around ag and livestock rearing.
  - "traditional ecological practices" is vague.
  - Maybe a principle that could be worked into many of the policies.
  - Revisit as a principle to work in
  - Less than a quarter in favor (none opposed)
- Determine financing mechanism to augment cost of rainwater catchment and solar grids in extremely remote areas where people are food insecure to create infrastructure for home/local food production.
  - Can we incorporate idea – it's also for food production **AND** storage - CIRCLE BACK WITH VALERIE R
  - There are communities where harvesting rainwater is prohibited. This is a great idea, though existing regulations will likely first need to be assessed. Just as city-farming.
  - Under half in favor

- We need ways to build independent student/grant writing mentorship programs that matches students with expert grant writers to help farmers and producers write grants and deal with things such as GAP certification. Students would help grant writers with their grants and they team up with farmers/producers to secure grants.
  - This may not need policy change, it may be systems coordination
  - Benefits universities. Gives hands on, on the ground experiential learning opportunity for students.
  - NM is a philanthropic desert.
  - Yes, if priority is given to limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers (as defined by the USDA).
  - This is a capacity issue... and much needed. Can leverage federal resources for farmer training
  - Under half in favor
  
- Exceed weight bearing limits on trucks without compromising safety to get food to those in need quickly and effectively. Federal limits need to be examined.
  - I don't know enough about safety requirements to vote on this one, with amount of truck accidents in my area, this gives me pause.
  - Only a few in favor
  
- Invest in regenerative agriculture by building the health of the soil and helping to rebuild the water tables, in effect mitigates climate change.
  - It needs to be much stronger. Needs to be commitment from state to transition to regenerative ag for many reasons: water preservation and climate change.
  - Commitment by the State to transition to 100% regenerative agriculture in New Mexico by 2030. Regenerative agriculture rebuilds the soil by increasing carbon matter and the microbiome, thereby increasing the nutritional value of food produced. It increases soil's ability to retain water. Regenerative agriculture decreases the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, thereby protecting the environment. Regenerative agriculture significantly reduces agriculture's impact on the climate crisis.
  - Yes, if priority is given to limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers (as defined by the USDA).
  - Commitment by the State to transition to 100% regenerative agriculture in New Mexico by 2030. Regenerative agriculture rebuilds the soil by increasing carbon matter and the microbiome, thereby increasing the nutritional value of food produced. It increases soil's ability to retain water. Regenerative agriculture decreases the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, thereby protecting the environment. Regenerative agriculture significantly reduces agriculture's impact on the climate crisis.
  - A few in favor, but not ready yet for vote. Need to discuss more.
  
- Build on Farm to School and Farm to Senior Center efforts and incentivize State, County, City governments to buy-local agricultural products.
  - Under one half in favor
  
- Propose that PED adopt a statewide Ag Day promoting a focus on NM's continuing ag tradition and economy in all schools
  - Develop relationship with food and how food is raised at a younger age
  - Almost one-half in favor

### 3) Report out

#### Group 1

1. Some thought it shouldn't be constitutional - but rather a proclamation/public awareness campaign.
2. No one wanted the food tax. Be ready in case the issue comes up, with a united front and document for lobbying efforts showing broad opposition. Make it easier for folks to find – adding to website, toolbox
3. Rejecting taxing nonprofits – don't do it. Don't tax nonprofits responding to basic needs. Pay attention to how people's tax-deductible donations are considered. Take more of a protective stance than advancing legislation.
4. Waivers & flexibilities – put something in statute for state to seek waivers and flexibilities, then state could provide assistance no matter the current administration. Tim reaching out to California where this has been done.
5. Working families tax credit – expand eligibility for this. Potentially expanding the amount families receive.
6. Staffing for state departments, reasonable caseloads. Not new money but how more innovative and streamlined about resources we have. Do thinking & talking with Sec. Scrace rather than new legislation
  - a. Rep. Stansbury – re. legislative timing. Agencies are preparing budget submissions to present to LFC next months. If any of these ideas are budget initiatives, we need to talk to agencies now. We can get things added later, but if it is embedded in an agency ask, it's much easier. Touch base with them sooner than later. Budget proposals and discussions need to be moving full steam ahead.
  - b. 2021 session will probably be in a hybrid/pandemic setup. Meeting semi-remotely. Public may not have opportunity to be in the building. This means timeline will need to be pushed up further.
  - c. Hunger Caucus met a few weeks ago to discuss mechanics
7. Cliff effects – not sure what
8. Food/housing insecurity relationship – Stephanie knew about it

#### **Group 2**

1. Tribal Water and Other Infrastructure Needs
  2. Emergency Food Relief: Including a Special Appropriation \$ for emergency food, water, and distribution
  3. Food Infrastructure proposals
  4. School meal programs and distribution through schools and senior meal programs via PED and Aging and Long Term Services programs
- Rather than wordsmith, consolidate thematically and puzzle out how they work

#### **Group 3**

1. Some are fully formed ideas easy to get behind
2. Others aren't quite fully formed for whole group to support
3. Some were redundant and could be combined with other existing asks
4. People overall agreed on biggest priorities. There were different opinions about language and other details.

## **4) Next Steps**

Rep. Stansbury suggested the following next steps:

- 1) Take all ideas that require legislative action
- 2) Start opening file with LCS to get actions started
- 3) Start working with agencies now
  - HSD staffing levels
  - Cliff effects – not such a brutal drop
  - DWS

- 4) Might want to begin fact sheet for items that don't fall into above
- 5) Even if ideas area half-baked it's easier to clarify and work on
- 6) Take conversations – pull out priorities
- 7) Budget
- 8) Legislative proposals
- 9) Open file, get to work

Rep. Stansbury added:

- State agencies internal to executive branch receive advice from Legislative Finance Committee on crafting their budgets.
- DFA is telling agencies not to bring them new ideas.
- It is within the Legislature's purview to decide to dip into the reserves
- A given bill can appear both in an omnibus bill and on its own in a separate bill
  - Conglomerates multiple things on same subject tend to fare better
  - Keep doing your bill, and we can bring your bill into omnibus too. That is allowed.

Pam noted that the next meeting of food and ag policy council will be on September 23, and all are welcome. Keep an eye out for meeting announcement!

Lilly noted that NM First will clarify what is ready for conversations.

Please contact Sharon Berman at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org) if we missed or misunderstood anything in these notes.