



# **THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE**

cooperative marketing \* market development \* materials exchange

## **SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING**

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

Conference Room B

Dodge County Government Services Building (not the courthouse)

721 Main Street North (on the west side of Highway 57)

Mantorville, MN

9:30 A.M.

### **AGENDA**

- 9:30 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call and Introductions
- 9:35 Approve June 2023 Minutes
- 9:40 Director's Report– Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
  - Market Update
  - Budget Report
  - Outlook for SEMREX /Discussion - All
- 10:05 2024 Agreements
  - Approve Professional Services Agreement
  - Approve Fiscal Management Agreement
- 10:10 Approve 2024 Budget
- 10:15 Review and Approve SEMREX Legislative Priorities
- 10:40 MPCA Update – Ben Crowell, MPCA
- 10:45 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion - All
- 10:55 Set Next Meeting
- 11:00 Adjourn

**SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting  
Dodge County Government Services Building  
December 2, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner; Greg Wright, Olmsted County Commissioner; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Tammy Bramer, Waseca County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County Commissioner; Brian Harguth, Waseca County Commissioner; Jim Purfeerst, Rice County Commissioner; Katie Barden, Steele County; John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Ted Herman, Freeborn County Commissioner; Jerry Reinartz, Mower County Commissioner; Jim Kollar – Waseca County Public Works; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing

**Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes** - Rita Cole called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. John Allen agreed to be the chair for the JPB meeting Introductions.  
Motion to approve minutes from June 3, 2022, meeting by John Glynn and Greg Wright 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion passed.

**Director's Update:** We're having a good year until August. OCC is close to an all-time low. What goes down does come up. The budget is in pretty good shape. MN lost West Rock this year for OCC- they are switching over to do just box board. We are still getting \$45/ton at LDI because of our longstanding relationship. Most commodities are on a downward trend except SOP. It's been a strange year with all changes in inflation, fuel, interest rates, etc. Revenue is up 21%. Marketing revenue is up 46% over last year.

Budget Discussion: Membership fees will remain the same this year which includes the waste wizard fee. Cash Balance is \$58,233. Going out of 2022 in the black.

Question-When will OCC go up? – no one wants to really give an answer but it's looking like maybe in March.

The following items have been addressed.

1. The Fiscal Management Agreement with Olmsted County – with an increase of \$100 from last year.
2. The Professional Services Agreement with Olmsted County – with an increase of \$2,000 from last year.

Motion to approve the Professions Services Agreement. Motion by - Jim Purfeerst - Greg Wright 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Fiscal Management Agreement by John Glynn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted Herman. Motion Passed unanimously.

Budget: Accounting is done on a cash-in and cash-out so we don't hit the \$200,000 threshold for auditing.

Motion to approve 2023 Budget by Jim Purfeerst with 2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Herman.  
Motion passed.

Tammy Bramer – SWAA Product Stewardship Committee presentation.

Product Stewardship is working with manufacturers to be responsible for their materials and look at how they will be handled at the end of life. A framework is being proposed to the legislature on December 6. The committee has made changes to the proposal so that programs get set up the same way to avoid inconsistencies as there have been in the past. PaintCare, E-Waste, Pesticides are the current material programs.

There was discussion about producers needing to be responsible for taking care of their material at the end of life and hopefully making changes to make the products more recyclable/sustainable. The goal is to create a document that puts the responsibility back on producers instead of the county and tries to recoup the costs charged to the counties for recycling.

Red Wing has the issue with batteries as with any facility – this is why we need product stewardship. Still talking about solar panels to be on the list- need to find a way to take care of that material environmentally. Retrofit and Dynamic will take certain types of solar panels.

There is a place in Eagan that will take the big electric car batteries – Jeff Schneider believes the small batteries are more of a hazard than the big ones.

Discussion on different products that need to be on the list, such as mattresses.

MPCA Update – Ben Crowell.

There are EPA grants related to recycling infrastructure and education. Start thinking about it now. Notify in December and applications are due January 16<sup>th</sup>. One time thing. Quite a large amount of money- \$300,000 million. Can find it on grants.gov.

Environmental Assistance grants are available.

Ben Crowell wanted to thank solid waste administrators for answering the survey about sustainable materials in their county. Thinking more on the ReUse, repair etc.

Member Update additions –

Dodge County – Removed outlying blue recycling bins for 2 weeks in hopes of making people aware of the dumping problems at these locations. Most phone calls were supportive and a good teaching moment. Will be making up some new signs with English and Spanish to help with language barriers. Will let people know more as we go along if it helps.

Steele County – RFP for recycling contract and hauler license renewal.

Rice County – hired a new environmental tech start Dec 12. Also hired a new admin supervisor start Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. RFP for recycling – going to the board for Dem-Con. Construction going on – pouring the deck of the new scale. Starting a new cell.

Olmsted County – Sharon. Completed an ash analysis to use ash in road bed. Scott working on HHW contracts. Approved SW management plan update on public notice for Board approval on 20<sup>th</sup>. SW – tiered classification for hauler licenses. Increased the waste cost by \$1 ton – will give them funding to hire someone to enforce the SW plan. Returning the number to 12 licenses instead of limiting and having the haulers buy out and create a monopoly. Hoping for the bonding money for the MRF – waiting on the legislature.

Waseca – bituminous laid – HHW closed end of Sept. Looking at fees – increasing because of transfer costs.

Blue Earth County – started licensing organics and junk haulers. Went through first full year of hauling recycling to Dem Com. Made a profit. The cell that was built in 2019 – is already completely filled. Starting new cell construction in 2023. Submitted new permit SW for landfill. Dave Kronlokken will be retiring.

Freeborn County – Score time and permitting haulers. Working on language barrier for HHW.

Red Wing – embarking on a compost feasibility study. Depends on the volume coming in. Looking at options for collection and whether they are able to start this. Looking at a drop-off program. Washington-Ramsey looking at anaerobic digestion that they could possibly get in on.

Looking at tip fees in the region. Fees are going up at Pine Bend so will be sending waste to Burnsville. Staffing is getting better. Generating over 100 tons of RDF every day.

Vape pens – discharge batteries and now have to remove the nicotine because it would be transporting a controlled substance. Looking at taking engineered fuel from a company in Milwaukee. Up to 30,000 tons delivered every year.

Mower County - Raising the SW fee – was recycling assessment. Working on ways to stay ahead. HHW – looking at doing electronics in the future. Looking at grants. It is a big need in the community.

Additional info:

Paul – Rice. Problems getting brush chipped – found another facility Mdwaeketon Sioux will grind.

Jeff – Red Wing brush might have a problem getting rid of their wood waste. District Energy will not take it anymore soon in the future. Looked into burning or shredding it yourself. E-factor 3 bringing up a dual shredder from NC to do a demonstration.

Next Meeting is set for Friday, June 2, 2023 at Dodge County.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Wright and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted Herman.  
Adjourned meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Rita Cole.

Tour of Dodge County Transfer Station.