



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, February 21, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Steele County –

Steele County Administration Building – 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN – Room 10

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: Katy Barden

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Sharon Schriever
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:20	3. Discussion Next Steps – Tri-County	Sharon Schriever
10:30	4. SEMREX Website Discussion - What should be on it?	All
10:50	5. MPCA/Legislative Update	Ben Crowell
11:00	6. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	7. Next Meeting	
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting

Friday, January 31st, 2020

Waseca County – County Hwy Shop

Members present: Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Katie Barden, Steele County; Ben Crowell, MPCA.

Call Meeting to order & approve minutes: Scott Martin called meeting to order at 10:04 am. With no discussion or corrections, Rita made motion, 2nd by Jeff, motion carried, minutes from the November 15th, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

Director's Update: Sharon distributed the January 2020 market update/newsletter. 59,019 tons shipped in 2019. \$422,321 revenue amount. Some upward movement in exports. China says no importing of "garbage". Audit on 2017 & 2018 almost done. Waste Wizard going forward. Freeborn is at Re-Collect and Steele is on deck. **Market Development update:** Statewide group looking at organics/food wastes program. Not a lot of interest, multiple obstacles in this process. Metals are big problem in glass cleanup process. Too many problem materials in the mix. Mixed paper met with 3M and others about using more fiber in the process, contamination is an issue to make their own paper products. They will need less than 2% contamination to accept. Brita is retiring, but for now still working on Ag plastic project. Sharon is working on ordinance to allow hauler to charge \$20 for contaminated recycling. Sharon with the help of Mark, had an informational video on recycling in Olmsted County. Very good, informative, entertaining video. Various business and schools are going viral with it.

Alternate Markets Presented by Scott Martin: Because of bad markets and problems in the ag markets, farmers want shredded paper and cardboard for bedding for the animals. Did it for many years and now looking to source that. With the recycling markets the way they are, this maybe an option. The farmers would do the shredding. Sharon has gotten some calls for marketable paper. Ben too has gotten calls for paper products as bedding. MPCA will have sessions about this process need to take all components into consideration.

Ben Crowell: MPCA updates, Agreement for SCORE \$'s coming in February. Standards are set for all grants, so this is the reason for agreements. MN recycling grant coming soon. Regional planning grant too, details coming soon, thinking about \$140,000.00 in grant dollars.

Members Updates:

Dodge: Things are a bit slow right now, doing reports, pretty quiet.

Freeborn County: Ok, so Mark is a single stream guy, and his hockey team questions why. He's working on permits and abatements. Working on cleanup on burnt properties & County reclaims. Recycling contract is up, so going thru that process, getting bids, has a number in interested parties,

all needs to be done by November. Doing I-90 cleanup, a company over by Windom is doing this. In discussions regarding the HHW collections to continue with them or stop them.

Mower County: Waste Wizard waiting for IT department in County to complete. Batteries are a problem material and need action on this, WM says NO batteries in garbage. Jeff had a tour for education with leadership group and chamber members. He says was awesome group that has a serious interest in the recycling process. At the end of the day, Jeff became a bonafide Freeborn County Celebrity!!

Waseca County: Moving forward on rebuild. Feb scheduled to begin full blown work. Sending Tammie to HHW training class. Doing year end reports like everyone else. Questioning GreenForest Recycling request for PBR application. I have received the application and they have requested my signature on the acknowledge section. Consulted the group about this, suggested I contact Shelly at MPCA and local departments regarding ordinances.

Rice County: Getting bids on new landfill compactor. Looking at CAT or Volvo. Pumping leachate. Busy for this time of year. Recycling was busy & then really slowed down. Batteries seemed to be disappearing for a while, but now coming back. Taking ALL batteries in HHW. Had a small fire in the new part, crew took care of it. Maybe looking into a fire suppression system. SCORE report in process. JR's now hauling the mattresses. Going to HHW training.

Blue Earth County: Meeting on reuse in MN, doing a study and recycling education committee transition. Are doing HHW Wednesday and Thursdays each week. WM will be charging haulers for contaminated loads. Christmas lights collection, almost a ton collected and taken to Jobs Plus for recycling.

Steele County: Katie got the calendar on the County website. Sent out surveys for SCORE reporting. Still working on Waste Wizard. Doing lots of mailings.

Olmsted County: 120,000 customers have gone thru recycling center in 2019. Joe is retiring, so Scott will need to get new person, Problem materials are an issue. Revenue was met at both facilities at \$1.9 million. Working on E-Waste product stewardship. This needs to become a passion for all counties to be made whole. Paint Care still an issue. But, seems to many irons in the fire and no one issue is done before others get into the mix. Need to get things done! Batteries an important issue in the works too. Olmsted going thru strategic process to tie in with the SWM Plan.

Next meeting: February 21st, 2020 & location TBD

Motion to adjourn made by Georgette, 2nd by Katie. Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Georgette Hanson