



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, January 27, 2023**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Location: **Freeborn County –
2020 Pioneer Trail - Albert Lea, MN**

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellsvig**

Note Keeper: **Mark Goskeson**

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Sharon Schriever
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:15	3. REC Updates	Sharon Schriever
10:25	4. Lithium-Ion Batteries >300 Watt-hour	Scott Martin
10:40	5. Waste Wizard Permissions	Sharon Schriever
10:50	6. MPCA Update	Ben Crowell
11:00	7. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	8. Next Meeting	
12:00	9. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

Friday, November 4, 2022

Steele County

Present Members: Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Mark Goskeson; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Tim Farnan, MPCA; Wayne Gjerde, MPCA; & Katie Barden, Steele County.

Scott Martin called the meeting to order at 10:09am. Tammie motion to approve the August 26th meeting minutes, seconded by Rita. Motion passed. No Discussions.

Directors Updates: Sharon reviewed the market updates, OCC prices dropped \$40/ton in October. Plastic was \$0 for October with shipping paid. Nationally, PET is up 13%, moving at 8.5 cents/lb. SEMREX shipped 4,257 tons of recyclable materials though October 2022 and 4,353 tons during the same period in 2021, which is a 2% decrease. Total revenue was up 27% compared to last year. Marketing revenue was up also by 45% from last year. OCC market price \$65/ton & Old Newspaper \$90 per ton. LDI is predicting a \$20-\$40 drop for November.

Review of Reuse Conference: Rita attended the Bridging tour. Serving 100 households per week. Funding is by donations & partnerships. The conference used a cup rental called, Our Cups. At the end of the conference everyone turned their cups and utensils in to be washed and packed up to be reused again. Rita shared information about the Tare Company, they specialize in shopping from bulk refilling stations. Tare is also located in the cities. Better Futures has grants available to help those start reuse facilities. Please see links for more information.

<https://www.mnchamber.com/your-opportunity/waste-wise> - has MNimize on their website

<https://rcup.com>

<https://betterfuturesminnesota.com>

<https://www.certifiedrecycling.org>

<https://bridging.org>

<https://www.reusemn.org>

www.donategoodstuff.com

www.pianocycle.com

www.thetaremarket.com

Joint Powers Board Agenda Review/Approval: Normal updates will be presented and an update on the legislation information regarding the EPR bill for solar panels, plastic packaging, etc. Sharon shared that both the Professional Services and Fiscal Management would be

increasing in cost along with Waste Wizard. Dodge County will also be giving a facility tour for the JPB meeting.

MPCA Updates: Greater MN Grants are due November 15th. Reuse Grants are due November 17th. Welcome Tim Farnan, Ben's new boss in the Planning & Assistance Department, who also attended today's meeting along with Wayne Gjerde. Happy to have you! Survey results are in from the "Reduction & Reuse" survey. The MPCA is in the process of reviewing and compiling the data. The survey had a very high number of participants. More to be determined with the Life cycle analysis process. West Rock closed their mill at the end of October, they produced 600 tons of OCC per week. Another Recycling grant opportunity will be available July 1, 2023. This grant will cover all curbside recyclables. Last year the MPCA awarded \$1.6 million dollars in grant funds.

Member Updates:

Freeborn: Design, Ready & Control is a control panel manufacture who is hosting an event in Freeborn. 26 charging stations are located around Freeborn County along with 1,600 acres of solar farms. HHW up and running smoothly on Wednesdays 9am – 3pm, serving around 600 people per week. Incorporated a reuse room where people can drop off or pick up. E-waste is down 13 pallets from last year.

Waseca: Had to turn Viracon away with their thin coated cardboard. Looking to help them find an outlet. Currently working with Retrofit to recycle customers solar panels. Pricing ranges from .9 cents to \$9 per pound depending on the type of solar panel and what it's made with.

Steele: Had our annual meeting with Recollect to go over how things are working regarding the recycling calendar and Waste Wizard. We were able to fix a broken link for the Waste Wizard. Took Retrofit out of the Waste Wizard options for places to recycle items in Steele County. Retrofit is no longer accepting residential drop offs at the Owatonna location due to staffing issues. The Steele County Landfill is restructuring positions, it was found that they are needing to higher for a position that was never refilled previously. The application process closes November 15th. HHW is now closed for the season and landfill is currently working with the MPCA for the PFAS testing, more to be determine on that process.

Dodge: The demo landfill is now capped. The new reuse building is being scaled back to due constructions costs have gone up. The building won't be heated and possibly left as a dirt floor and the size of the building is now 50' x 72'. Dodge County is now looking for more funding options to proceed with the new construction.

Mower: The solid waste tax assessment is going up again to \$68 which covers the recycling curbside pickup program. Mower is now using Paint Care's totes for used paints. Interviews

have finished and the job has been offered for new Solid Waste Tech/Feedlot/HHW position. County is waiting to see if the job offer will be accepted. A mixed plastic load just went to Quincy for a few cents per ton. Quincy noticed how clean the mixed plastic load was and thinks its some of the cleanest they have seen. Quincy also paid for the mixed load to be hauled. Mower is ready to ship out another load of HHW for the season.

Olmsted: Solid waste plan has been approved by the MPCA and is moving into the public notice stage. January 1st, 2023 the four types of licenses for haulers will be implemented. The four licenses will be Recycling, Roll-Off, Organics & Junk Haulers. Tipping fee will be going up a dollar for the upcoming year. Scott shared information regarding the Product Stewardship committee is reupping the HHW Agreement with Paint Care which is up for renewal at the end of the year. Four county attorneys are reviewing the agreements and the information will be presented at the upcoming SWAA conference. Agreements are in 5-year terms and the EPR to be completed by the end of the year for contract renewals.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm; motioned by Rita and seconded by Marcus.

Next Meeting on Friday December 2nd – Joint Powers Board.