



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, JULY 16, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: **In PERSON @ Olmsted** – Conference Room A - 2122 Campus Drive SE, Rochester, MN

Chairperson: Molly Kjellesvig

Note Keeper: Anthony Wittmer

| Time | Information Items | Presenter |
|-------|--|------------------|
| 10:00 | 1. Call Technical Committee Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes | Molly Kjellsevig |
| 10:05 | 2. Marketing Update | Sharon Schriever |
| 10:10 | 3. Director's Update | Sharon Schriever |
| 10:20 | 4. Discuss Interest in Regional MRF | Tony Hill |
| 10:55 | 5. MPCA Updates | Ben Crowell |
| 11:05 | 6. Member Updates | All |
| 11:45 | 7. Set Next Meeting | All |
| 11:50 | 8. Adjourn | |

Optional - Olmsted County Recycling Center & Hazardous Waste Tour

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Tech Committee

April 30, 2021

Present on TEAMS: Tammy Bramer, Waseca County; Katie Barden, Steele Co; Marcus Thompson, Mower Co; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth Co; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted Co; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Rita Cole, Dodge Co.

Chair Molly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to Approve the Minutes by Tammy, Second by Katie. Motion carried.

Director and Market Update: OCC up \$10/ton, SOP up for April, other paper steady, Tin is up \$20 and Aluminum is up \$.04/lb. There has been 6 months of continuous gains. Fiber and plastics – there is more capacity and higher demand.

ReCollect is coming due. Cost is \$5,771/yr. It goes up 1.4% a year- highest cost for each entity will be \$670 per year. All agreed to continue.

Regional Plan – Monday May 3rd is an Emergency JPB meeting to discuss the options. SEMREX will recommend to the board option 1: to fully fund the project or it is a no go.

SEMREX Website – Molly is going to help with getting new info out there. Add social media info and REC information. Olmsted WebMaster helped set it up and we could have it updated but there would be a cost to it. Everyone is ok with keeping it basically for SEMREX – not as much for public. Others can offer info also.

There was discussion on what plastics we should be accepting at our facilities. Marcus was looking for help and info on Plastic recycling – Mower is still taking 1-7. Add to the JPB agenda so Commissioner understand the recycling process and what the MRFs are taking.

Education – Rice Co has large #'s of hit on their WasteWizard – Paul believes it is because they are still taking appts and people are looking up the prices. Checked with everyone to see how everyone was doing their education – mostly social media, newspapers, radio ads, and mailings. Olmsted does press releases a couple times a year and has a quarterly newsletter.

MPCA Updates – Ben mentioned that there is a company wanting to create foam glass. They would need 15,000 tons of glass per year. They are trying to site a facility in Minnesota. The 2019 SCORE report has been verified and is out. They are excited to share Reuse/Reduction as a goal and they are tying results back to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for management methods per WARM. The GHG Summary give number of metric tons of CO2 equivalent. The questions was asked if installing Water Machines (to refill water bottles) would be considered Source Reduction because of the number of water bottles being reduced because of refilling. For SCORE- concentrate on REUSE. They want everyone to meet the 35% recycling rate.

We will need to approve the JPB agenda- Sharon will remind us of when our reports are due. Meeting will be held June 4th in Dodge.

MEMBER Updates:

Rice Co – Short Staffed. State reports are done. Getting the roof redone on the Recycling Center. They decided to rebuild their baler instead of buying a new one. Things are getting busy – they are trying to keep business to just Rice Co residents.

Blue Earth Co – HHW started the beginning of April. In a couple weeks they will start their leachate recirculation. They are still in negotiations with Waste Mgmt.

Steele Co – Advertised for Earth day. HHW will be opening in May

Waseca Co – Facility closed yesterday for OSHA training. People not so happy about that. HHW opens on Saturday.

Dodge Co – Still looking for seasonal help. Mark will be doing a phased retirement. Going down to 3 days per week starting June 1 and then 10 hrs. per week starting in August. Lauren Cornelius will be the new Environmental Services Direct. Getting busier. Mattresses may have slowed down a little since increasing the price to \$30. Depends on the day.

Olmsted Co – Getting busy. Mattress recycling is going well. Sending a pup load about every other day.

There is some Product Stewardship legislation that is getting some traction. Scott is sitting in on that committee. They are talking about not offering any money but the collectors would be mandated to take them. The money would go to the recyclers and the state.

Olmsted is working on updating the fee schedule – it has been 3-4 years. It will have to go through public notice. They will maintain the 5 days a week schedule at the OCRC. They have seen about a 10% savings by doing this. The MRF- Self Haul Facility feasibility study is coming to a close. The MRF looks like 23 million and the RSHF will be 8 million. It will be taken before the Committee of the Whole sometime in June. Scott believes the MRF will probably get priority. They are also updating their ordinance to allow organics processing and transportation in the county.

Mower Co – Working on getting an additional baler. HHW is busy.

Next meeting is tentatively planned for May 21st.

Motion to adjourn 1st – Paul 2nd by Marcus. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.