



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange

Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, October 25, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

**Location: OLMSTED COUNTY – Environmental Resources- 2122 Campus Drive SE,
Rochester, MN**

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: Terri Heim

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. Potential Tri-County Memberships	Sharon Schriever
10:25	4. Joint Powers Board Agenda: Grant Project Application? Olmsted Contracts & Budget	Sharon Schriever
10:50	5. Recycling Education Committee Update	Sharon Schriever
11:05	6. MPCA Update	Ben Crowell
11:10	7. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	8. Next Meeting	
12:00	9. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Meeting Mower County (Highway Dept.)

Members present; Scott Martin, Olmsted County, Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County, Rita Cole, Dodge County, Jeff Weaver, Mower County, Georgette Hanson, Waseca County, Paul Pieper, Rice County

Also present Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Director and Ben Crowell, MPCA.

September 20, 2019

Scott M. called the SEMREX meeting to order at 10:04 AM, asked if everyone had a chance to look at the minutes and whether there needed to be any changes made, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Georgette made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul, motion passed.

Scott then deferred to Sharon, for the marketing update. Sharon passed out the update. All markets are still slowly declining. We had a discussion regarding markets. She told us that SEMREX will need to have an audit for this year (for 2017 and 2018) the cost is about \$8,000. Sharon also told the group that the total tons sold through SEMREX is about 21% less this month compared to last year at this time and the total revenue is about 45% less than last year. The only good thing is that the National average is 50% less revenue than last year. See update for more information.

Sharon is part of the Market Development committee working on mixed paper. They are planning on working with paper manufacturers to use more recycled paper in their products. They will also be working on educating the public and businesses about the need for purchasing recycled content paper products. She asked if anyone still has county policies regarding environmentally preferred product purchasing. Most of the group stated that they used to have such policies but may not have any longer.

Sharon then discussed Waste Wizard, as of now Blue Earth, Dodge and Rice have had their test phase emailed to the Counties. They are running into a few problems, but ReCollect will be working on fixing them. Freeborn County is currently on deck and should receive their test phase in a week to two. Sharon stated that it was not this much trouble when Olmsted's WW was completed, but they also have new people working on this and maybe they are not as well trained. Sharon is also working with staff at the MPCA and ReCollect on a state wide program to use ReCollect's video game regarding recycling to be put on the internet.

The group then discussed Ag plastics. Revolution has been bought out by a company called Arsenal who has stated that they will continue to run the same programs and hopefully expand the current programs. Rita is the only county in the group that is currently working on Ag plastics; they have 11 larger dairy farms collecting them which Arsenal picks up from at no cost to the farmers. Others have not had as much success; Ben told us that Lincoln County had saved 80,000 lbs. but were unable to have it picked up because they could not bale the material, so they ended up landfilling the material. Scott said that it is a very difficult material to work with and is usually quite dirty. Blue Earth County is studying the possibility of starting a program, maybe collect at the landfill and have Arsenal pick up, but have not made any decision yet.

MPCA UPDATE;

Ben discussed a few points from the 9-page Solid Waste Update, please see update for more information. He did ask if anyone was going to the SWA meeting next week. He asked if we had anything to bring up at the meeting from our group as no one is planning on attending. A lengthy discussion took place regarding lithium batteries. He will bring up our concerns/thoughts on this next week.

Member updates-

Dodge County; Rita told us that they have recently purchased a used semi-truck and trailer to be used to transport their demo waste to SKB in Austin. Their self-serve garbage has been working quite well and have recently black-topped the area around the recycling and self-serve facilities.

Mower County; Jeff said that he has been quite busy in the HHW facility lately and is getting a lot of old stuff, thought that those days were over. The recycling is finally getting caught up and he is finally moving some recyclables to market that have been difficult.

Rice County; Paul discussed the problem of too much rain at the landfill and the difficulties that the extra rain has caused. He said that they are finally about to move into the new recycling area as construction is complete (maybe next week). The group is hoping for a tour at the next SEMREX meeting in Rice County.

Waseca County; Georgette said that they are finally going to be tearing out the concrete at their Recycling Center to get ready for the new construction, due to the fire. She has already received here insurance money and has purchased a baler and other equipment. She was promised that they would be up and running before the snow flies! She did get one extra building 40X64 pole shed for storage; the group agreed that storage is always needed. Waseca County will be losing another County Administrator; this is the 7th new Administrator in the last 7 years. A company called Green Forest Recycling has started up in the old Brown Printing complex. They are going to be recycling paper products, mostly from schools. There was some discussion about whether they will have optic sorting for the paper or not and whether there is enough material in the Waseca area to keep them busy. They may have other material coming in or from other areas? She also has started to once again take colored glass and will be shipping (at a considerable loss) to Strategic Materials in St. Paul.

Blue Earth County: Molly told the group that she is going to be working with the Blue Earth Library on a program called Makers Monday. They will be holding classes on junk crafting next week and each Monday will have a new theme. The paper shredding program (that accepts paper from the public) has been successful as they fill a Gaylord each week; the paper is shredded and shipped to LJP for recycling. The county is going to start a contamination campaign to work on cleaning up the recycling stream. The landfill is working on an efficiency project for better compaction of the waste in the landfill.

Olmsted County; Scott told us that they have had their last mobile collection of the year. On October 12th they will be helping to clean up the river area near the City of Oronoco in the flooded area. He

said that there are a number of barrels of gunk/unknown that they will be taking care of along with any other hazardous waste that they find. The clean-up will also deal with tires, appliances, etc. Olmsted County will pay for up to 50% of the costs and hopefully the township will pick up the remainder. The state is also sending some staff to help with the clean-up. The Recycling Center has just recently purchased a new skid loader and has finally ordered a new recycling truck (four wheel drive with a snow plow), the old truck was 20 years old and held together with duct tape. Scott will be ordering a new 5,000 lb. electric forklift for the Recycling Center, they will keep the old gas powered one for back up. Now that the City of Rochester is no longer pursuing organized collection the regional MRF is on hold and Olmsted will be working on the planning of building an updated transfer station to keep up with the volume of self-haul garbage at Scott's facility.

The next meeting was set for October 25th to be held in Rice County.

Rita made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jeffrey Weaver
