



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: In PERSON @ Freeborn County:

Freeborn County Hazardous Waste Facility
2020 Pioneer Trail, Albert Lea, MN

Chairperson: Molly Kjellesvig

Note Keeper: Mark Goskeson

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes (September 2021)	
10:05	2. Marketing Update	Sharon Schriever
10:10	3. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:20	4. Preliminary Budget / Fees	Sharon Schriever
10:40	5. SEMREX Future Discussion	All
10:45	6. Joint Powers Board Agenda	All
10:55	7. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
11:05	8. Member Updates	All
11:45	9. Set Next Meeting	All
11:50	10. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

September 30, 2021

Steele County

Present Members: Rita Cole, Dodge County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Jeff Schneider, Redwing; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Katie Barden, Steele County.

Scott Martin called the meeting to order at 10:08am. With no discussion or corrections, Rita made a motion, seconded by Katie, motion carried, minutes from the April 30th, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Marketing Updates: Markets are still going strong in September SOP price was up \$10/ton. OCC cardboard also jumped from \$10/ton to \$200/ton this month! That's a new record! Mixed paper is now \$120/ton for SEMREX. Tin and mixed plastics were down. Aluminum cans are up 5 cents per pound from August, expected to hold through this Fall.

Directors Updates: SEMREX shipped 3,530.33 tons through the end of August. This was up 227.15 tons from August 2020 and close to a 7% increase. Total revenue was up approximately 50% from last year. Compared to the same period in 2019, tonnages are down by 11% and marketing fee revenue is down by 12% and a total revenue is up by 37%.

Interest in a Reginal MRF in Olmsted County: Currently, Olmsted County is seeking bond funds from the State in the amount of \$12.5 million. Legislatures are set to come down mid-November for another meeting, the MPCA would like to attend. Several counties have expressed interest and are working on letters of support.

Recycling Education Committee Update: Promoting uniformity with educational materials, etc. Committee is sending out monthly emails with helpful social media content. REC is seeking email addresses for those who are interested in receiving emails.

Discussion on Commissioner Wright's Request to Ban Single use Plastics: Not much interest from the county level. Counties believe the banning of single use plastics should come from the top down. Enforcement would be a big issue. Most counties have retail stores that accept plastic bags to be returned.

MPCA: Greater MN Grants are coming out soon. MPCA working on new capture rate methods. Stakeholder meetings will be formed to include counties. Rice County's Solid Waste Plan has been approved.

Member Updates:

Rice: Solid Waste Plan approved by the MPCA. Looking at some upgrades and reworking the entrance gate for incoming traffic. Also working on the old tipping wall area. The landfill got a new hydro seeder sprayer and a new John Deere loader.

Red Wing: Another hauler accident, flipped the trailer on the highway. Hosted a three-hour tour for Olmsted staff to see Red Wing's Materials Recovery Facility.

Steele: Held a meeting discussing the long-term plan for the landfill. Household Hazardous Waste site closed for the year. Four new haulers for 2021.

Dodge: Mark Gamm is retiring December 1, 2021. Lauren Cornelius has taken the new Environmental Services Director position. Transfer station going well and staying plenty busy. Waste Management's tipping floor broke and used Dodge County's facility for about seven days while they made the repairs. Dodge is noticing more self-haulers and seems to be a new trend. Possibly looking into a maximum cubic yard to keep out the large loads from the demo landfill. The demo landfill is set to close in 2022. Triton Middle School has resumed recycling education presentations. Dodge County was asked to do two presentations this year.

Olmsted: The MRF is the current top priority. Mattress recycling is going well. Three-year contract with 7 Rivers. Olmsted is charging \$22 per mattress. HHW mobile collections were up and running this year, totaling five events. Product Stewardship Committee will be looking at lithium batteries next.

Freeborn: Hosted three E-Waste collection events this year. HHW still not open. Working on the flammable room. Building and Fire Marshal need to sign off on the construction before the facility can open. Hoping to open within the next few weeks. Hours of operation will be 9am-3pm on Wednesdays or by appointment. No more fairground collections. Solid Waste Plan will be prepared with assistance from an engineer from the Duluth area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm, motioned by Paul and seconded by Rita.

Next Meeting on Thursday October 28, 2021 in Freeborn County.