



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Live @ Waseca County – Solid Waste/Recycling Facility
31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: To be determined

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. Facility Tour	Georgette Hanson
10:45	4. Regional Planning Update	All
10:50	5. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
11:00	6. Member Updates	All
11:55	7. Next Meeting	
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting
Friday, August 28th, 2020
Online Via Skype

Members Present: Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth; Rita Cole, Dodge; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted, Mark Goskeson, Freeborn; Katie Barden, Steele; Jeff Schneider, Red Wing; Jeff Weaver, Mower; Georgette Hanson, Waseca; Ben Crowell, MPCA.

Call Meeting to Order & Approval of Minutes: Scott Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am via Skype. Minutes from July 23rd, 2020 meeting approved as written. Motion made by Jeff Schneider, 2nd by Katie Barden, motion carried.

Directors Update: Sharon informed the committee SEMREX is currently 127 tons down from last year and revenue was down by 16% from June. Market prices are down across the board. Olmsted County is planning to participate with Winona County in the Ag Bag Program through Revolution Plastics, the bags will be distributed at the Kalmar Landfill. Revolution will pickup bags directly from the farmer. One bag requires farmers to collect and fill bag with up to 1,000 pounds of ag plastic. Freeborn County uses the Department of Agriculture's take back program and there is no charge to them for recycling their ag plastic through them. Molly informed everyone that Brita Sailor is involved in ag plastic recycling through the Dept. of Agriculture and there is no longer funding from RAM to participate in the program.

Member Updates

Steele County—Their landfill has been really busy with self-haulers. Their HHW participation is up 31% from last year and they just began letting the public use their product reuse since the beginning of COVID. They are still in the works of getting mattress recycling at their landfill and they are also currently in the process of permitting for a new cell. They are working with Waste Management on how to handle dumping at their drop-off site, they are considering putting up cameras to catch people dumping.

City of Red Wing—In June and July they have been getting tremendous amounts of garbage, over the past two weeks tonnage has dropped off. August had about 3,000 tons for the month. They have been able to capture 4 bales of aluminum a week from their waste stream, they have also been able to get a lot of steel out. They have been seeing a lot of cardboard come in lately. Goodhue County and the MPCA are putting their landfill into the closed landfill program, ownership should be transferred to the MPCA by the end of 2020.

Mower County—Everything is going smoothly in Mower County, COVID has not really been affecting them, with none of their workers testing positive. The HHW has been really busy with a lot of large loads coming in the past three weeks. Recycling has been steady, and they are able to keep ahead of the large volumes.

Freeborn County—County workers are still not back in the office yet, if needed they hold meetings out at sites. Prices have dropped from 70% to 65% in mixed commodity value. Have been receiving around 200-215 tons a month. Mark is fairly certain that they should be able to get into a permanent HHW facility and make modifications to an existing building. It will have a product reuse area, 2 drive-in bays, heated shop with plenty of storage and a dock. All Environmental Services offices will be located in the facility as well.

Waseca County—Recycling, MSW, and Demo have all been busy. Everyone is slowly moving into offices, there are a lot of little things to get done. Their new baler is working out good for OCC but needs tweaking for baling other materials.

Blue Earth County—On August 18th, the product reuse area of their HHW opened by appointment only, allowing only four people in per time slot, masks are required. The City of Mankato has started to charge residents for contamination fees, at least at the townhouse Molly lives in. Waste Management recently switched their fleet to compressed natural gas, Rochester will be getting it next. Self-haulers were really busy since the beginning of COVID but have slowed in the past month, except for on Saturdays and Mondays. Averaging 157 tons per week in the customer service building for self-haulers.

Dodge County—They are still working on getting their mobile waste works system to work properly. Rita checked in with Revolution Plastics to make sure all is going well, Price Murphy said everything is status quo for Dodge Co. Compost is being screened this week. Busy per usual, Transfer Station/Recycling Center are fully functioning. Environmental Services staff are coming back into the office.

Olmsted County—During COVID they have all facilities operational. Flammable liquids and aerosols are not being put out in the Product Reuse due to protests within Rochester. Recycling operations remain outside. They are working on getting mobile financial carts so they can accept credit cards outside again to protect themselves from COVID, they installed Wi-Fi at the facility, so they should be ready to go to implement this by next week. When winter arrives, they will have to move back into the building and use the mobile financial carts inside. They are now working on taking mattresses to be recycled in Onalaska. They fill a 40 cubic yard container a week with mattresses and no longer want them in the landfill, they are busting up their shredder and want to prevent that too. RSHF—combination project for a MRF and a self-haul garbage facility, separating it from their recycling center- RRT and RST are potential companies they will be working with. Phase 2 will include creating designs, schematics, and construction documents, this would be done next year and cost around \$250,000. The entire project will potentially cost \$18 million and will seek CAP money from the MPCA.

MPCA Update: All questions regarding each individual county's SCORE report history was due Friday, August 28th. Metro CON process has now been opened; Greater Minnesota counties can now ask for CON from metro counties if you think you are taking some of their waste. You need to get a letter from one of the counties. You can talk to Peter Sandhei if you have further questions. If you are interested in taking metro-county waste, you can ask them for CON. There may be another round of Greater Minnesota Grants coming this fall.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24th

