



SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

Cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange

507-328-7022

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

Friday, May 20, 2016

10:00 a.m.







Mower County - Austin Public Library

Please note – Library does not open until 10 a.m.

323 4th Ave NE

Austin, MN

AGENDA

-  10:05 Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes
-  10:10 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever
-  10:25 RAM Update/Discussion – Jean Lundquist
-  10:50 MPCA Update – Ben Crowell
-  11:00 County Updates – All
-  12:00 Adjourn

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon

**SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting
Dodge County
April 21, 2016**

Present: Paul Piper, Rice County; Wayne Gjerde, MPCA; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County.

Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes: Jeff Weaver called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Motion to approve minutes by Georgette and 2nd by Mark. Motion passed.

Director's Update:

OCC up \$5 and tin is up \$35. Aluminum is down a penny/lb. Both revenue and tonnage are down from 2015. Wayne Gjerde said he does not see PET going up and he believes commodities have hit bottom and we may see a very slow incline.

Waste/Recycling Stream Changes:

Sharon reported on a recent information from a webinar on the changing waste and recycling streams. There is less paper due to more online shopping, news and other services.

Packaging is going through an evolution there is less paper and more glass by percentage of weight, but more and more products are moving away from glass with metal lids to plastic and pouches. The biggest trend is toward the multi-layer flexible film, and single-serve pouches due to more on-the-go lifestyles.

Plastic Bottles have been light-weighted since 2005. They used to weigh 14.6 grams and now they are 9.2 or less.

The typical high value materials: fiber, HDPE, PET, and steel, are becoming less prevalent, the materials weigh less than before resulting in lower revenues. Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF's) are utilizing more sophisticated processing equipment causing costs to rise. MRF costs have increased 20% in the past 5 years because of more automation. Demographics are changing in China with workforce and what they will take for imports. Expect a decrease in demand for Steel.

MPCA Update:

SCORE Funding

Paint – There are now 228 Paintcare drop-off sites. MPCA staff is working on the Vikings Stadium Recycling. The C & D Recycling MPCA web page is getting updated. There are new movements with regard to Ag-Plastic – using Roto-chop in McLeod County. Wayne Gjerde is working on a film wash-line. Paper usage down. Paper mills won't be around in 10 years if we continue as we are. Two mills in Minnesota have already closed. Glass – Wayne is trying to get glass up to 0- MRF's have a charge for glass and trash in the single stream. Too much contamination in the glass is an issue.

Grants – The MPCA is getting a lot of applications. They do have a decent amount of money to give. There are loans for P2 or Recycling - \$275,000 of revolving loan monies.

EPP There are new contracts for carpet etc. Plastic Bags – promote return to retail. Main market is TREX and Delta Plastics.

County Updates:

Freeborn County –

Mark is going to have a meeting with all officials and groups- city, chamber, radio, newspaper, etc. and give a PowerPoint presentation on reuse and reduce projects that can be worked on collaboratively.

Dodge County applied for a \$3000 grant for producing universal messages for containers RECYCLE – ORGANICS – TRASH in certain public areas such as the pool.

Mark is doing compliance checks on all SSTS systems. This is an opportunity to educate on other issues such as burn barrels. They have a PartyLine radio program which is a reuse program that you can get items for free. Plastic Bags – Talking about charging for them at retail stores. Looking to see what not to do. Madalyn Ciocci is a lead person for this at MPCA.

Mower County –

County Board has approved weekly recycling collection. They will also be accepting 1-7 plastics.

Cedar Valley is waiting on a truck in order to implement. Probably September 1st.

HHW is getting busier.

Rice County-

Horizontal landfill expansion is moving forward. They sold their conveyors. They are looking at changes to contracts for haulers and recycling. The mattress recycling program is popular. They are receiving more than anticipated. The mattresses go to Momentum. Rice County charges \$20 each for mattress or box spring. Momentum charges \$15 each.

HHW is picking up. CFL bulb recycling picking up as people switch to LED's. Paul is doing education at the schools. His tip is to only tell them what you want them to recycle and not what you don't want.

Waseca County –

They are doing a facelift on their driveway and parking lot. They also had Retrofit change out their lighting to LED's. Georgette is already seeing a difference.

They are getting ready for the busy HHW season. She has enough clothes to fill probably 2 semis. They are not moving right now. Georgette is looking at alternatives for E-Waste. They currently use URT. A couple suggestions were Cimco and Retrofit.

Steele County is not going to take out of county waste so Waseca is also looking for other alternatives to take their garbage.

Dodge County –

New concrete floor being installed in Public Drop Building #2 at Transfer Station.

New site manager is settling in and new WasteWorks system seems to be working well.

They are working on getting new signage for the blue bins located around the county to make them more uniform. PaintCare acceptance is in full swing – 2 gaylords full so far of latex. Oil is not filling up as fast.

Olmsted County –

Sharon reported the Designation Ordinance is moving forward. Have not received anything for comments on it as of yet.

They applied for a grant to purchase recycling containers for government buildings. Staff will be involved in events for Arbor Day and Earthfest. HHW flyers are done for the mobile collections.

Sharon and staff are working to promote Olmsted County Property Assessed Clean Energy – These are loans for up to 20% of property value for clean energy that can be put on property taxes for the 2017 tax year.

Joint Powers Board – Sharon requested agenda ideas for June 3rd meeting.
Meeting will be held in Dodge County Government Services Building – Conference Room A.

Set Next Meeting: Technical Committee Meeting was tentatively set for May 19 or 20th in either Red Wing, Mower or Blue Earth County.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Rita Cole

Scott Martin, Chair