



SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE
*Cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange*
507-328-7022

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting
Friday, May 19, 2017
10:00 a.m.
Blue Earth County Library
100 E. Main Street
Blue Earth, Minnesota

AGENDA

-  10:00 Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes
-  10:05 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever
-  10:15 Joint Powers Board /Budget Update
-  10:30 Regional Planning Next Steps Discussion – All
 - Follow-up on last month's assignments
-  10:40 MPCA Updates – Anna Kerr & Ben Crowell
-  11:10 Member Updates – All
-  12:00 Adjourn

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon

SEMREX Meeting
Mower County (Highway Dept.)
April 21th, 2017

Members present; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn/Steele Counties, Scott Martin, Olmsted County, Jean Lundquist, Blue Earth County, Georgette Hanson, Waseca County, Paul Pieper, Rice County, Rita Cole, Dodge County and Jeff Weaver, Mower County.

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

Scott M. called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Rita made the motion to approve the minutes of the last SEMREX meeting, seconded by Georgette, motion passed.

Scott then deferred to Sharon, for the marketing update. Sharon passed out the update. The OCC market has seen a \$5/ton decrease this month. Jeff told the group that he has heard that there will be a \$50-60 per ton decrease for the May OCC price. We did not discuss anything more regarding the market update, see update for more information.

Sharon added the discussion of the JPB meeting to our current agenda. Sharon then discussed the agenda for the JPB meeting. So far the agenda will include the regular items (budget, budget changes and regional planning discussion. Scott asked about our individual county updates; Sharon said that she will need them by about mid-May. She will send out a reminder in the next couple weeks.

Sharon then brought up the Regional Education Plan. She is on the board working on this statewide plan to try to get the recycling message to all households in the State of MN. One of the major challenges is to have all Minnesotans get the same message. Since all programs are different they have come up with a list of acceptable materials that fit almost all programs. They also have a short list of all material to keep out of the recycling bin. They are trying to have a unified message to get to the residents to make it less confusing to the public. Each County will then take this message and put it out to their local media, newspapers, shoppers, radio, and television.

The group then discussed Regional Planning. Scott led the discussion and asked each County individually whether they thought their Solid Waste Administrator or County Board would be willing to sign on to the regional plan. Each member discussed the pros and cons as to whether or not they agree with or whether their board would agree to the plan. We had a long discussion on this topic. The next step will be to bring this up at the JPB meeting and see who is in!

MPCA UPDATE: Ben gave a short MPCA update. Jean asked about the Statute that states that a hauler cannot charge more for customers that recycle than for those who do not. Ben explained that this Statute was intended to make sure that if each County is following the rules and is making recycling available (drop-off or curbside) that the licensed garbage haulers cannot charge more for customers who recycle than for those who do not. The State did not want to have residents be able to opt out of recycling because they did not want to pay for it. Counties are responsible to make sure that this is not happening because they are the governmental body that is licensing haulers.

Member updates-

Dodge County; Rita said that they still working on the grant as well as the plan for their self-serve type garbage system.

Freeborn County: Mark told the group that their recycling rebate from WM for the single-sort recycling system is up to \$103 per ton. He said that it is the highest it has ever been. This rebate helps reduce the cost of recycling through their contract with WM to the tune of approximately \$6,000 per month.

Rice County: Paul said that they are still short staffed and he has some temporary help that is working out very well. He told the group about the expansion of the LF (really a fill area between two existing cells) this additional fill area should add about 20 years to the life of the landfill. He also discussed the possible changes to their recycling tip floor. He told us that Jennifer V. was talking about a new possible legislative rule that would not let the State employees communicate any guidance unless it is first in Statute. Group discussed this further.

Waseca County: Georgette told us that their disposal and recycling was higher than usual, mostly because of the flooding last year. She is starting construction on a facelift for the recycling center, new windows, door, etc. They have purchased a new mower to replace the 1974 model. She is also short staffed as she had a few issues with the new hire, hopefully will have new staff soon.

Blue Earth County: Jean told the group that they had their second shredding event recently (she was the only one working) and they just about doubled last year's participation with 123 customers. She heard a lot of positive responses from the customers.

Mower County: Jeff told the group that the County's new Solid Waste Ordinance is nearly complete, (still in draft form) but the County has had the public comment meeting and will only make a few changes. It is on-line and he gave the address to Sharon who will forward to all SEMREX members. The City of Austin is again having an electronic collection which will be on May 13th. The County is a silent partner, Jeff is doing the advertising. His new addition is working great and he is willing to give a tour to for the SEMREX folks after this meeting.

Olmsted County Sharon started off with their update since she is working on the 30-year anniversary of the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF). She passed out some of the handout items that they are giving out for their events. They are having the free shredding event tomorrow (April 22) and along with the free shredding they will conduct tours of the facility. Scott then told us that he is currently in the process of purchasing a new skid loader for the recycling facility. They have three of them and periodically replace the older one. He told us that his Storm water testing is going great and if he has good results in the next testing period he might be done testing until the next 5-year Storm water permit. He is currently working on putting in a new rain garden around the storm drain at an estimated cost of \$12,000.

The next meeting was set for May 19th and may be held in Blue Earth County, but Sharon will let us know.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jeffrey Weaver
