



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

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

Friday, September 23, 2016

10:00 a.m.

**Red Wing Solid Waste Campus
1873 Bench Street, Red Wing, MN**

AGENDA

-  10:00 Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes
-  10:05 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever
-  10:15 SEMREX Re-imagined Discussion
-  11:00 MPCA Update – Ben Crowell
-  11:15 **Member** Updates – All
-  12:00 Adjourn

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon

SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting
Blue Earth County Ponderosa Landfill
Friday, August 19, 2016

Members Present: Jean Lundquist – Blue Earth County, Jeff Schneider – City of Red Wing, Rita Cole – Dodge County, Scott Martin – Olmsted County, Sharon Schriever – SEMREX, Paul Piper and Shelby Emerson – Rice County, Mark Goskeson – Freeborn County, Jeff Weaver – Mower County, Georgette Hanson – Waseca County

Guests Present: Anna Kerr and Ben Cowell – MPCA, Dave Kronlokken – Blue Earth County

Meeting was called to order at 10:45. Introductions were made. The group then received a tour of the new Public Service Building at the Ponderosa Landfill.

Minutes approved on a motion by Paul, second by Rita.

Director's Report: Sharon reported prices are doing better for OCC and MP. Metals held steady or climbed a bit. Plastics prices were mixed. The fiber price increase will help our bottom line. Also to save money, Anthony will take over the website maintenance. That will save us \$25/15 minutes if IT continues to do it. This means the site can be updated more often.

MPCA Update: Peder Sandhei will give an update on the SCORE Program at the upcoming SWAA Conference in Baxter. Haulers will be reporting, but Counties will continue to report as well, as a cross check. Expect an email asking for Market Rate Prices. Everyone should reply. Round 2 of the Greater Minnesota Grants will be coming out in the end of August.

SEMREX Future Sub-committee: Jeff S. made the case that SEMREX should hire a lobbyist. Red Wing hired one, and spent \$4k a year for 5 years, while netting \$2 million for the department. We will get the interest of elected officials if we get some money into our programs. Jeff said he would like to introduce the lobbyist he hired to meet with the Tech Committee, and then the JPB.

He suggested new programs that are big things. Buy equipment, offer milk runs, away from home recycling, educational initiatives, and burn barrel reduction programs, setting up rural collection and recycling sites (staffed events).

Member Updates

Red Wing: Deconstruction and decontamination is proceeding at the burner. They are finding a lot of very thin metal there. They quit burning at the right time. County plan has been approved, and says it will work toward designation. \$441K had been withheld in SCORE funds.

Freeborn: Albert Lea is asking people to bring in small electronic devices for recycling when they pay their water bills. Those items are profitable. A grant for \$6,300 for public recycling was approved. Working on a solar project with the city.

Blue Earth: The Message in a Bottle program in Mankato, Waseca and Owatonna is over, and the bins have been removed.

Dodge: Status quo. New site manager is doing well.

Rice: Still 1 worker short. Looking at remodeling office area. Brad has moved to water planning. Recently toured Republic facility.

Waseca: Has a full staff. Textiles moved yesterday, but there are 25 to 30 bales remaining. Since Jobs Plus quit, deliveries have skyrocketed.

Olmsted: Recycling Center on track to make its \$1.3 million budget. The City of Rochester is exploring organized collection due to road wear. That might mean less material through Olmsted County Recycling Center Plus Facility. Designation ordinance takes effect September 1.

Adjourned on a motion by Paul, second by Georgette.