



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange

Date: April 27, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Blue Earth Public Library – 100 E Main Street – Mankato, MN

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: Jean Lundquist

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Sharon Schriever
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:20	3. Set Joint Powers Board Agenda	All
10:40	4. Regional Planning Update	Sharon Schriever
10:50	5. MPCA Update	MPCA Staff
11:00	6. County Updates	All Staff
11:50	7. Other/Next Meeting	All Staff
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX March Meeting
Mower County (Highway Dept.)
March 23, 2018

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.

9:30 Regional Planning Committee meeting- members present: Mark, Scott, Rita, Sharon and Jeff W. We went over the list of members that have had a resolution passed. Discussed who is in and who is not joining the regional planning. Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, and Red Wing have signed resolutions. The next step is to check further into possible funding. John Helmers. from Olmsted will talk with the director of the MPCA regarding options. Scott wondered if anyone has found out whether or not the northern county group had received PCA funding when they joined and wrote a regional plan. Sharon will check into a possible grant for funding plan. The next grant funding round will begin in May. Our timeline currently has us starting the planning in 2019 after the JPB approves this next move.

Scott M. called the regular SEMREX meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Rita brought up a few changes to the minutes, changes were discussed and made. Georgette made the motion to approve the minutes (including changes) of the last SEMREX meeting, seconded by Jeff W., motion passed.

Scott then deferred to Sharon, for the marketing update. Sharon passed out the update. The OCC market has seen a decrease this month and has been slowly declining; possible reason is the loss of China market. See update for more information. Sharon told us that there is a new type of aluminum can on the market that has a plastic label instead of painted on label. She found out that it should not affect recycling unless a whole slug of them comes from bottler all at the same time.

Sharon then discussed the Regional Education Committee meeting she attended. She is on the board working on this statewide plan to try to get the recycling message to all counties 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 are trying to have a unified message to get to the residents to make it less confusing to the public. Jeff W. suggested that if they have the finances that maybe the State should offer the waste wizard program to each County.

The group then discussed recycling cartons. RAM has some posters and flyers that they want to make available explaining that cartons are easy to recycle and should be added to counties recycling material lists. Group discussed, no one knows the final destination of these cartons, but there seems to be a market.

Scott discussed the Product Stewardship matrix that he has been working on. He was involved in setting up a group from Southern MN including Jean, Jeff S. and Jeff W. from the SEMREX group. He gave the history of the matrix and how it works. After these meetings in the three areas of the state (south, north and metro) the numbers/results will be put together. The final matrix will be used by policy makers to either show why a material should not be included or why a material should be included in a product stewardship system.

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MPCA UPDATE;

Sharon told the group that she would email the MPCA update as it was a bit too long to go over at the meeting.

Member updates-

Dodge County: Rita said that their new building (self-serve garbage system) is ready except for the concrete. They are waiting for warmer weather to pour the concrete. The cameras are up and working. They have seen a decrease in the garbage coming in but know that it will increase once the weather is warmer. She said that she is done with the SCORE report but not the HHW report.

Freeborn County: Mark told the group that he is working on permit/SCORE numbers from his contractors and haulers. He should be starting the SCORE and HHW reports today and should finish by next week.

Rice County: Paul said that they are finally full staffed. Things are going smoothly and will be starting to get busy with the spring weather just around the corner. He told the group about the expansion of the LF (new cell) they should finally be able to put garbage into the new cell as they will get approval from the MPCA. It has sat empty but ready to go for a couple months. His SCORE report is nearly done and is also working on the HHW report. They are planning an addition to the recycling center to make it more convenient to load the single sort material for shipping; the original facility was not designed correctly to be a transfer station.

Waseca County: Georgette told us that they are also finally fully staffed at facility. She has had changes made by the County Board to change the hours at her facility so that one day per week (Tuesday) they are open until 5pm otherwise their hours are 7 to 3:30. She has been very busy with special wastes, says that they are coming from other counties and may switch company that takes electronics from URT to Dynamic. SCORE report in progress and she is waiting for the numbers.

Blue Earth County: Jean told the group that she was supposed to be on a tour of FiberOn a new company that takes carpet; she really does not know what they do with the carpet or what it is made into. Hopefully we can get this information. Midwest Recycling wants to make some major modifications to their composting site. They want to start accepting diapers for composting. Blue Earth County is nervous about this situation. Their contact water from the facility currently goes to a city waste water treatment facility and they want to have the waste water land applied instead. The county wants to offer paper shredding at their landfill and either recycle or create into RDF. Also discussing taking electronics for free and have decided to increase the HHW facility to accepting material by appointment during their off season days.

Red Wing: Jeff S. has applied for a grant (\$250,000) to change his facility for taking single sort material and transporting to a MRF for processing. Hopefully the changes can be finished by 2019. He is still working with MCIT on the insurance claim for the fire last year, they have changed their minds on what they will cover and what they won't, quite a fight to get the facility back up and running. After completion he will only sort/process garbage to RDF and transport all recycling to single sort facility.

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Mower County; Jeff told the group he is also working on the SCORE report. He is finished with the HHW and Facility reports. Talked about how the new addition at facility is working great and the public loves new drop off. He explained about the new compactor at the recycling center. The HHW is getting busier with the warmer weather.

Olmsted County; Scott is also working on the SCORE and HHW reports. He told us that they are in the process of putting in a new heating system at the recycling center along with new lighting. They are going to LED's He told us that since Best Buy stopped accepting TV's that his numbers of TV's are up from 370,000 lbs. to 580,000 lbs. per year. They charge .25 per pound which covers the true cost of handling, storing and disposal. Sharon added that they are having a rain barrel sale.

Paul asked if anyone is still shipping textiles or at least has a market for them, discussion took place.

The next meeting was set for April 27th to be held in Blue Earth County.
Rita made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff S., motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jeffrey Weaver
