



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange

Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, August 28, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Skype –

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
10:20	3. Member Updates	All
10:50	4. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
11:00	5. Regional Planning	All
	-Discuss interest/Scope/Process/Timeline	All
11:55	6. Next Meeting	
12:00	7. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday July 23, 2020

Via Skype

Members present: Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing, Ben Crowell, MPCA.

Scott Martin called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Approve minutes. With no discussion or corrections, Molly made motion, 2nd by Georgette, minutes from the May 15, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Director's Update: Sharon distributed the July 2020 newsletter/update. Prices are not good, struggles continue. Some holding but are weak. Tons are down as are revenues. Sharon showed presentation of revenues and expenses. Although revenues are down, expenses are not up by much. Budgetary, we are still in the black so far. Discussion forthcoming regarding the future of SEMREX. Markets are variable and no crystal ball predictions are available, economy turnaround is our best hope. If SEMREX would disband, any \$'s left would be at the discretion of the board. Using our reserves was the discussion of our group. Need to check into the by-laws of JPB. Also, if disband occurs, we would also need to check out our contract obligations. The subject will be discussed further at our September 2020 meeting. Ag bag in Olmsted County, distributors will be picking materials up at the farmer's site instead of leaving containers to be filled. Jeff with Red Wing will be looking into this also. Waste Wizard is all good, Mower County has some hiccups, but they are getting there. **Marketing, fees for glass:** Sharon reported on the 6% fee impact on the marketing fee and the money to the Counties. Scott Martin states a break-even point with colored and clear. Looking at a flat rate for ship costs, discussion was, doing the calculations of 6% versus \$5 per ton. To the group this made the most sense. Motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Rita to have the market fee for glass shipments changed from 6% to a flat \$5 per ton. Motion passed.

Ben Crowell: MPCA updates, not a lot to report on the legislative level. The special session did NOT pass the bonding bill. This year's SCORE reporting is in review process. Taking a look at the numbers from 6 years back to get a projection of GVT. Soon will have emails coming from MPCA with any questions that may arise. Also, a grant for regional planning will be available. \$140,000.00 or so. Jeff says "are we doing that?" RFP coming out in the next months. Some groups are looking at it. The deadline will be somewhere around 60 days to submit applications!! Scott will relay info to others with Olmsted County to see where this goes. Ben says he has hi hopes and confidence for our Regional Plan to succeed and really want us to apply for it. Looking like we may have to start over again with the commitment of Counties process as some time has passed on this topic. There is a match involved, Ben was thinking it was about 25%. Scott suggested to digest this and take it to the JPB meeting. Sharon now added that to the agenda for the JPB meeting on August 7th, 2020.

JPB Agenda: Group discussed meeting live or viral. Will be checking with attorneys about this. All present at today's meeting decided that, during this pandemic, a live/viral combination meeting might be possible. Rita states the room is big enough for safe social distancing and WiFi is available in that area for viral access as well. So far meeting is scheduled in Dodge County on August 7th, 2020 @ 9:30am. Sharon asked for member updates today so she can get them on the agenda.

Member Updates:

Dodge: Rita reports Dodge is really busy. March thru June 2020 has been busier than it was for the same period in 2019. As of now they are not open on Saturdays. Have implemented mobile access for garbage & scale for credit cards, working slow but at least working. Transfer station might be opening up for Saturdays the first of August. Lots of tonnage, CRAZY.

Freeborn County: Mark reports no e-waste collection. Recycling at a 70.48 rate, this is the highest since 2018. Waste wizard is up and running. The courthouse is accepting folks by appointment only. Many still working from home or periodically on location. Possible by May of 2021, there will be a permanent facility for HHW.

Waseca County: Target date for moving into the new facility is end of July, looking like it might make it. Equipment has been delivered and installed. Should be able to begin processing materials in the next few weeks. Have been busy in the recycling, MSW and demo areas of the facility.

Blue Earth County: Molly reports recycling facility is now open, HHW opened this week with certain hours. Was very busy the 1st day, the reuse room is not open yet, maybe after the elections, by appointment only and masks will be required. Working on rewriting their Solid Waste ordinance.

City of Red Wing: Jeff was very excited, finally, an ordinance that was started in 2005 is in place stating that his facility is the designated destination for all MSW in the City of Red Wing. Confident that they will be able to handle it. The system is doing well. Had to hire temp staff as he lost the inmate help. Looks like better results with the hired help versus the inmates. Fuel to Xcel and Olmsted going great.

Olmsted County: Scott says they are busy like everyone else. Performing all outside operations, no touch, practicing social distancing. Olmsted County has reuse room open to customers at a distant location (old building) and Scott is providing masks to be worn. Revenues look good, are able to keep the lights on and they are paying the bills, so all is ok. They are taking checks and cash, using a basket with a long handle to obtain payment and customers do not get out the vehicle. Will be soon accepting credit cards. Road construction will begin soon that will be challenging for operations. Working on MRF for fuel clean & residential self-haul. Looking to get rid of self-haul and be a standalone setting. Considering OWEF or two other facilities (RRT & TSP) for this process. Hopeful to have these scoped out by end of 2020 or early 2021.

Next meeting: September 2020. Location TBD

Motion to adjourn made by Georgette, 2nd by Rita.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22am.

Respectfully submitted

Georgette Hanson