



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, August 26, 2022**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Location: **Blue Earth County Landfill – 200280 Gooseberry Lane, Mankato**

Please **park behind the customer service building** at the **back of the parking lot**

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellesvig**

Note Keeper: ?

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call Technical Committee Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes	Molly Kjellesvig
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:15	3. Extended Producer Responsibility Discussion	Scott Martin - All
10:45	4. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
10:55	5. Member Updates	All
11:45	6. Next Meeting – September 16, 23, or 30	
11:50	7. Adjourn	
	8. Tour Blue Earth County Landfill Facility	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

July 29, 2022

Present: Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Anthony Wittmer, Olmsted County; Sydney Frank, Olmsted County

Call Meeting To Order & Approve Minutes: Molly Kjellesvig called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Minutes from the August Technical meeting were moved for approval first by Rita Cole, and then seconded by Paul Pieper. They were unanimously approved.

Director's Update: Sharon handed out the update. She went over the update, including pricing trends, recycling statistics, and market prices. In short, current market prices are overall flat over the last couple months with some commodities slightly up or down. Also, a concern was noted that Corrugated Cardboard pricing may be going down significantly in the near future. It looks like a new mill is coming on-line in Wisconsin this year which will give competition to mills in Minnesota. SEMREX marketing revenue for the first half of the year is at the midrange for the last 10 years at about \$400,000

Carton Recycling: There is a push by large MRF's (through the state Recycling Education Committee) to include Carton Recycling as a standard "In the Bin" item. This is a concern for SEMREX members as they currently cannot recycle this material.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Update: Scott presented an update on the current Product Stewardship programs in MN, along with a transitioning timeline Government Responsibility to Full Extended Producer Responsibility. He then went on to discuss the Paper Products and Packaging (PPP) EPR initiative being undertaken by the "Partnership on Waste & Energy" (Hennepin, Ramsey & Washington counties). Paper Products and Packaging is estimated to be 40% of the available waste stream. Scott presented a draft position on the PPP EPR Minnesota Model for group discussion. The group decided this should be an on-going discussion item at subsequent SEMREX meetings.

MPCA Update:

Ben informed the group on the progress of the various Solid Waste Plans that are being developed and submitted by SEMREX counties. He also mentioned some grant opportunities that are coming up that SEMREX can look forward to.

County Updates:

Waseca – Tammie informed the group that it has been almost 50 years since Waseca County first started operating solid waste services in their county. Waseca is keeping busy with planning for a Demo tipping floor area, looking for a composting site and bidding out a contract for hauling MSW from their facility. Tammie also responded that 335 tons of milfoil was removed from Clear Lake in the last couple of months.

Olmsted – Scott mentioned the Recycling Center is a little below budget as garbage volumes are less than the last 3 years. This is an indication that the economy may be slowing down. The commodity recycling revenue is just tracking budget. The Haz Waste Facility is operating as planned and we are doing scheduled regional HHW mobile collections for the first time since 2019. For projects, we are working on licensing Junk Haulers, which includes changing our ordinance and also negotiating new MPCA/PaintCare/County HHW operating agreements. The HHW agreements are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Red Wing – Jeff’s solid waste operation is going well in Red Wing. He is working on optimizing his MRF operations. Jeff is installing a Drum Magnet to obtain more ferrous metal out of his waste stream and provide a better residual at the back end.

Dodge – Rita mentioned her Class 1 Demo Landfill is closing. Future Demo loads will be transferred to the Lansing facility in Mower County. Dodge County is also licensing Junk Haulers and working on ordinance changes to accommodate this. Project wise, Rita is keeping busy developing an RFP for a new Reuse Center (a new building) as a drop-off area to reduce the amount of waste and expense of disposal. All qualifying reusable products will go to the Restore in Rochester for reuse. Another project we will see is a new Transfer Station Building (hopefully funding is in 2023 Bonding Bill) that will accommodate MSW and single stream recycling. Finally, the Solid Waste facility is purchasing a new semi-truck and trailer for their transfer operations.

Mower – There has been personnel movement/desires within the solid waste program. The briefly obtained new help for their HHW program, but that person gave notice after a couple of weeks. Marcus Thompson also now has a new supervisor. Finally, they were unsuccessful in their bid to get a Green Corp person. Mower County is considering starting E-Waste collection and also taking over the transfer station and adding more services to it.

Blue Earth – Molly informed us that a new permit application has been submitted for a new MSW cell (a new “saddle”). This new MSW cell is expected to give enough capacity for 5 years. The county is also working on a clean-up program for problem properties. They have received \$15,000 in funding to operate the program.

Rice – Staffing shortages are an issue Paul is dealing with. This is especially painful as Rice County is seeing an increase in self-hauled waste coming in, especially from the south metro area. Projects Paul is working on include cell construction of a new MSW cell, a new scale house, scale and roadways for customer traffic and purchasing a new skid loader.

Set Next Meeting: The next Technical Meeting will be held on August 26th in Blue Earth County.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Scott Martin and seconded by Tammie Bramer to adjourn the meeting. This was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Martin – Olmsted County