



THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

Cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange

SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

Friday, December 4, 2015

Location:

*Steele County Government Services Building – Board Room
630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN*

AGENDA

- 9:00 Coffee and Rolls
- 9:30 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call & Introductions
- 9:35 Approve June 5, 2015 Minutes
- 9:40 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
 - Marketing Report
- 9:55 Professional Services Agreement with Olmsted County
- 10:10 Fiscal Agent Agreement with Olmsted County
- 10:25 2016 Budget
- 10:40 Product Stewardship Discussion – Mark Gamm, Dodge County
- 11:00 Recycling & Solid Waste Infrastructure Analysis & Update – MPCA Staff
- 11:30 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion – All
- 11:55 Set Next Meeting
- 12:00 Adjourn

If you cannot attend or cannot get an alternate, please notify Sharon Schriever at (507) 328-7022 or by e-mail at schriever.sharon@co.olmsted.mn.us.

**Minutes of SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting
held at Dodge County Government Center
on June 5, 2015.**

Board Members Present: Tim Tjosaas, Dodge County; Mike Ankeny, Mower County; Mike Lee, Freeborn County; Jake Gillen, Rice County; and John Glynn, Steele County.

Tech Committee Members Present: Jean Lundquist, Blue Earth County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn/Steele Counties; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Paul Piper, Rice County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; and Mark Gamm, Dodge County.

Others Present: Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Executive Director and Anna Kerr, MPCA.

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Chairperson, Jake Gillen.

Minutes from December 5, 2014 JPB meeting: Commissioner Ankeny motioned to approve minutes as written, second by Commissioner Lee; motion passed unanimously.

Directors Report: Schriever presented Market Update Report dated June 2015. Sharon summarized key points including an increase of 475 tons shipped this year compared to the same time period in 2014.

Budget: Schriever presented 2015 Budget report as of 5/31/15. Sharon summarized key observations including net income of \$74,658 through May. Sharon mentioned that the line item for “office rental/fiscal agent” reflects 5 years of back pay for Olmsted services that were not billed to SEMREX in any of the previous 6 years.

Collaborative Health and Safety Training Report: Jeff Weaver provided overview of collaborative training and said that it was a success. Jean Lundquist mentioned that the Recycling Association of MN also found the training collaborative to be worth their time.

MPCA Update: Anna Kerr presented “MPCA Solid Waste Updates for Counties” and “Solid Waste Policy Report, Stakeholder Discussion”. Members discussed Metro Restriction on Disposal, yard waste composting defined as recycling and proposal to eliminate the MPCA Citizen Board.

Member Updates: written summaries were provided in the agenda packet.

Next Meeting: The Board agreed to schedule the next JPB meeting on December 4, 2015. Dodge County agreed to host meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Commissioner Tjosaas to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Ankeny; motion passed unanimously at 11:15 AM.

Minutes prepared by Mark Gamm

SEMREX MEMBER UPDATES

December 2015

Blue Earth County

The Public Service Building at the Ponderosa Landfill is progressing. It will be ready for use in 2016. It will mean only large garbage trucks will be going down into the bowl of the landfill, and they will not have to compete with self-haulers. It will be much safer, and will result in fewer flat tires for self-haulers. It will feature an area for reusable items (such as bicycles) and also some space for recyclables. It will have a conference/meeting room, and will serve as a storm shelter.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility ended another successful season. There was just a skeleton staff this year, with no letup in participants who drop waste off, but it was efficient and successful.

A new cell was completed at the Ponderosa landfill this summer, and the required layer of waste to act as insulation was achieved in time.

The Recycling Education Committee (community volunteers appointed by the County Board) has been active. They sponsored a booth at a recent crafter's expo, giving away boxed water and other, more traditional things. The water is distributed by Bernick's Pepsi in St. Cloud, and is just making its way into Minnesota. The packaging is better for the environment, and better for the people drinking the water. It was a hit.

Jean Lundquist

Dodge County

Dodge County will install new a software program at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center site. The software program is called "Waste Works."

The Transfer Station/Recycling Center will be doubling their waste water/sewage disposal system to handle the volume of runoff water.

Staff is looking at installing a new self- service compactor system for 2016 – 2017. A grant was recieved from the State.

We are close to capping phase two in our Demo Landfill and opening part of phase three in 2016.

We are still hauling organics and food waste to Full Circle Organics, in Good Thunder.

A new 650 Bobcat skid loader was purchased in September.

Paint Care: The County is planning to accept paint for Paint Care in early 2016.

Terry Selthun

FREEBORN COUNTY

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - There were 15 HHW events held in 2015 (20 events in 2014)

A total of 636 households participated (730 participates in 2014).

Solvent totals were down from 7 barrels in 2014 to 2 barrels in 2015

Oil base totals were also down 4 barrels.

SSRY - Year over year recycling tons are up from 2014. Rural Drop sites were switched to FEL containers. We have had 5 complaints come into our office in regard to large lids being hard to open. Have not had a litter complaint since the switch.

In 2014, we averaged 197.29 tons and in 2015 we averaged 222.19 tons per month

Organic collection will be starting in area schools and restaurants.

Hauling and Facility Permits – The mailing for the 2016 permits is being put together.

Mark Goskeson

Mower County

Our recycling tonnage has been relatively stable the last couple years. So far this year we have collected and processed about 1,370 tons of recyclables. We are on track to collect and recycle about 1,700 tons of material and bring in about \$160,000 for the sale of materials. We have had a lot of tours of our Recycling Facility this year, mostly from the public schools and scout groups in the county.

Our Household Hazardous Waste Facility has been quite busy so far this year. Our facility is open year round on Wednesdays. We generally have approximately 1,000 customers and generate about 25 tons of HHW.

Earlier this year the County decided to send out an RFP for the collection and processing of single sort recycling. The plan was to have the recycling picked up by a contractor from all residents in the County, not just the city residents. After months of meetings and discussions the County Board decided not to continue to pursue this type of recycling program. One of the major reasons that the plan was scrapped is because the costs to the residents would have nearly tripled, but even more important was that Cedar Valley Services (handicapped facility) employees would have lost 10 to 14 jobs as they are contracted to sort and process the material at our current facility. We are in the process of trying to improve our recycling program spurred by the comments from the public during the single sort discussions.

Jeff Weaver

Olmsted County

Waste-to-Energy: The Waste-to-Energy facility will burn about 107,000 tons in 2015. This includes 4,000 tons of MSW delivered from mining our landfill and 7,000 tons of burnable bulky wastes (non-processibles and clean Demo) that we also grind up at our landfill site. This still leaves us at about 17,000 tons per year excess capacity. We are actively researching certain waste streams to fill this excess capacity.

Recycling: The Recycling Center Plus facility will recycle about 2,200 tons material in 2015. Financially, the recycling market prices have dropped significantly this year. We will realize about \$300,000 in recycling revenue, which is 20% lower than budgeted this year. This facility also will manage about 4,800 tons/year of self-hauled garbage and a variety of special wastes including appliances and e-waste, all on a fee-for-service. Revenues from these services will increase about 6% from last year and total about \$900,000 for the year.

On the recycling front, we may see beverage container recycling refund system proposals again in 2016 that contain container deposits with redemption centers. The goal would be to attain higher recycling rates. There may also be Product Stewardship (PS) legislation proposals for certain materials, although these have been dampened by the problems being experienced in the Electronics and Paint PS programs.

Hazardous Waste: The Hazardous Waste program in our region (Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge and Goodhue) is expected to have about the same participation with about 11,000 households dropping off waste generating a total of 200 tons of waste. Another 2,000 customers drop off special wastes only. Our HHW mobile system completed 23 one-day collections this year in small towns throughout our region. Our VSQG program continues to serve 60-100 businesses per year.

A big development this was that the state HHW programs finally implemented the Paint Product Stewardship program law that was passed in 2013 with the development of a successful contract with the paint manufacturer's representative, PaintCare, Inc. Financial reimbursement was obtained for some of the county expenses as part of the agreement. We are expected to realize about \$90,000 in revenue for 2015.

Landfill: We continue to extract ferrous metals out of our Waste-to-Energy ash through our mining process and will realize revenues of \$250,000 for 2015, which is about 17% below our budgeted amount of \$300,000. We are also exploring the feasibility of mining non-ferrous metals out of the ash. The bulky waste shredding/landfill MSW mining project is providing about 11,000 tons/year of fuel to utilize excess capacity at the Waste-to-Energy facility, along with saving landfill space.

Designation Plan: We have an approve MPCA Designation Plan. We are still working on a Designation Ordinance, which hopefully will be implemented in 2016.

Scott Martin

CITY OF RED WING

The City of Red Wing is in the middle of a major transition moving from a former Mass Burn Waste to Energy operation to a full time waste processing operation. Since making the decision to close the City's WTE operation the City has been continue processing waste for use as an engineered fuel currently being disposed of at Xcel Energy's Steam plant located in the City of Red Wing and at Olmsted County's Energy from Waste Facility. The City is currently working with Stantec Engineering to complete the decontamination and decommissioning of the City's Solid Waste Boiler Operations and will soon be accepting bids to begin the deconstruction process. This project is expected to take up to 10 months to complete.

This project is a phased project so concurrently the City is involved in a Front End Loading Study to develop the necessary information to determine the feasibility of repurposing the area where the Solid Waste Boiler operations are located for the purposes of putting in permanent waste processing operations. These operations will be proposed to Council for approval into the phased development plan in January of 2016. The project phases will be funded through a combination of appropriations and grant funding. Additionally, the City is in discussions with State regulators and waste haulers regarding waste designation and waste delivery agreements in order to utilize the entirety of the City's waste processing capacity and helping to ensure the economic sustainability of this endeavor.

Finally, the City is in the initial stages of developing an agreement with Xcel Energy and Lab USA to extract ferrous and non-ferrous metals from ash landfills operated by Xcel and the City of Red Wing. This proposal will look at the feasibility of removing metals from the in place ash and refining these metals for sale as commodity. At this time the City has signed a letter of intent to work with Lab USA and Xcel Energy with the goal of signing an exclusivity agreement in the near future. This project would bring a significant amount of capital investment to the City, 6 full time jobs and an on-going revenue stream to the City and Xcel for approximately 10 years from lease fees and recovered materials.

Jeff Schneider

STEELE COUNTY

SSRY - Year over year recycling tons are up from 2014: In 2014, we averaged 285 tons and in 2015 it is at 304 tons per month. Six presentations on recycling and organics will be given to schools in near future

Mark Goskeson

Rice County Update

The Rice County Landfill, Recycling Center, and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities have been very busy since the last time we meet.

Landfill - Landfill received its new Bomag Compacter this year. Like will every new piece of equipment, there is a learning curve to tackle. Along with all ne diesel engines and new requirements, we are finding out about all the different tricks to get the most out of the equipment.

Recycling - Recycling volumes are down about 200 ton so far this year. This is most likely due to business recycling going to Lakeville with Dick's Sanitation to their MRF. Special recycling items (tires, electronics, and appliances) are all coming in at very good rates and we are looking at getting about the same as we collected last year.

This fall the County hosted three separate electronics and appliance collection events in Oct. A total of 773 cars where handled and we are still waiting on the total count of electronics and appliances collected. Comparing to 2014 collection event numbers we would expect to have collected about 107,500 lbs. of electronics and around 600 appliances this year. The three events were in the cities of Faribault, Lonsdale, and Dundas.

Mattress recycling is now being done in Rice County. We are collecting and shipping mattresses to Momentum Enterprises in Minneapolis. We are in the very beginning stages of collecting, packing and shipping of the mattresses, so this is a work in progress. By this next spring we should have the new process down when volumes will surely increase.

Hazardous Waste - Household Hazardous Waste continues to coming with participation number down a little from last year. PaintCare agreements are signed and we are looking forward to receiving payments for all qualifying materials we ship out.

Paul Pieper

Waseca County

Waseca County updates: Not much new, we still are very busy as the weather is holding out and staying nice. Hazardous Waste season over and the facility is pretty much all cleaned out and ready for shipment to Rice County, the numbers for the 2015 Haz season seem right on the mark. So far staff and equipment are doing great. Numbers are up for our electronics shipment/cost. Space becoming tight as we are not able to move textiles and magazines, and they keep coming in. Feeling the crunch as the markets are down, especially having to do with the metals and aluminum prices. Local metal recyclers are turning people away so the folks come to our facility and donate it. That's all we have for updates.

Georgette Hanson