



THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

*Cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange*

SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING
Friday, December 1, 2017
Conference Room B
Government Services Building (not the courthouse)
721 Main Street North (on the west side of Highway 57)
Mantorville, MN
9:30 A.M.

AGENDA

- 9:00 Coffee and Rolls
- 9:30 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call & Introductions
- 9:35 Approve June Minutes
- 9:40 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
- Marketing Report
 - 2017 Budget Update – Budget Change #2
- 9:55 Fiscal Agent Agreement with Olmsted County
- 10:00 2018 Budget Review/Approval
- 10:10 SEMREX Regional Planning Update & Discussion
- Review Scoping Document
 - Recommendation/Resolution
- 10:45 MPCA & Legislative Update
- 10:55 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion – All
- 11:10 Set Next Meeting
- 11:15 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.

SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting
Dodge County Government Services Building
June 2, 2017 - 9:30 a.m.

Present: Jake Gillen, Rice County Commissioner; Paul Peiper, Rice County; Anna Kerr, MPCA; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Jerry Reinertz, Mower County Commissioner; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner (Out at 10:50); Mark Gamm, Dodge County; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Peggy Rehder Red Wing City Council; Jean Lundquist, Blue Earth County; Mark Piepho (in 9:55 a.m.), Blue Earth County Commissioner.

Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes: Jake Gillen, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion to approve minutes by John Glynn and 2nd by Jerry Reinertz. Motion passed.

Director's Update:

SEMREX is doing well. Markets were up early in the year with a downtrend now in fibers. Plastics are in demand - one load was in a bidding war for prices. Current issue with shipping overseas to China comparable to Green Fence – now called the National Sword.

Budget Discussion: Show a working income of \$9,500 for 2016. Cash balance has \$51,000 in queue to be disbursed bringing the cash value down to \$122,000. \$7,000 to the black for 2017 so far.

Recommend a budget change of \$255,000 to (5378) Pass-through to members and \$70,000 (6259) CM disbursements to government and \$185,000 to (6300) CM disbursement to others. Motion to approve recommended budget changes by John Allen and 2nd by John Glynn. Motion carried.

Future of SEMREX: Discussion

- Jeff Schneider presented a power point to inform the group of Regional Planning ideas.
- The presentation included:
 - o Expected Benefits: networking, promotion and grant opportunities
 - o Evolving Issues of decreasing landfill capacity, utilize MRF capacity, provide more services, help small haulers in the marketplace, development on recycling new materials that may be hard to recycle.
 - o Prep/Plan: Reduce costs, increase environmental benefits, standardize message, compare contracts, leverage for commodity pricing, transport costs, maximize waste disposal capacity.
- Ben Crowell, MPCA, stated the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) supports regional planning to promote the highest and best use of materials and mentioned the need to move materials up the hierarchy. Other benefits of regional planning could be cost savings, education and to broaden the scope of opportunities.
- A plan is needed to bring awareness of resources/opportunities that are out there. SEMREX could expand the Joint Powers Board to include other counties and use the regional organization of this many counties/cities to lobby for beneficial legislation.

- To move forward – Look for grant opportunities to help pay for hiring a consultant to help create the plan.
- MPCA stated that there are no grants available at this time for planning but they could help us to look for funding. If grants come available, they would likely have 25% match that can be in-kind.
- Discussed Pros/Cons of regional planning. Pros outweigh the cons.

Other discussion:

Every county maintains control of their waste.

With a regional plan, the counties/cities can pick and choose which part of the regional plan they would want to have in their Solid Waste Management Plan or they could adopt it as is.

Need to look to the future.

Leverage the number of counties that we have with legislation and markets. Look at the different contracts that each county has to see where it may benefit everyone.

MPCA – would possibly be able to extend the deadline for a plan if they know we are working on it and have support and commitment of participation.

Discussed use of SEMREX funds to help pay for the plan with help from grants or appropriations. The question was asked if it bothered any county/city that does not opt in for the regional plan, if they mind that SEMREX funds are being used and there were no objections noted.

It was consensus that we need to have a meeting before the next December JPB meeting in order to get consensus of the counties/cities to get the ball rolling on possible monies. Peggy from Red Wing stated that you may not get funded the first time you ask so good to have something put together to present a second time.

Jake Gillen asked for a vote that a resolution be put together for the County Boards. Sharon Schriever and Ben Crowell will work on this for members to bring to the County Boards and ask for their support for the regional planning process. Motion passed.

Special Meeting scheduled for August 25, 2017 8:30 a.m. at the Steele County

Government Center. (this is a tentative meeting as it may not be needed if the resolutions are sent in before then, however there may be other decisions to be made at this time.)

MPCA Update: Anna Kerr

No open grants at this time. PCA does not typically provide funds for planning, but would assist in any way they can.

2019 may be the next opportunity to receive funds. The MPCA would need a commitment from the region by having a designated person to participate in the creating of the plan.

MPCA can help the SEMREX members with trying to get support from the county boards. A lot of their material was covered in with the regional planning discussion.

County Updates:

Jeff Schneider from Red Wing stated that Lab USA is mining ash and taking out all non-ferrous metals from their landfill.

Next Meeting:

Next regular JPB Meeting is set for Friday December 1, 2017 at the Dodge County Government Services Building.

Adjourned meeting at 11:09 a.m.

MEMBER UPDATES

Blue Earth County

- Two new cells were completed at the Ponderosa Landfill in 2017. Although the County had been considering taking over the management of the landfill, an agreement was reached with Ponderosa Management Company, and a contract was signed late in the year.
- The County's arrangement with Olmsted County for mattress recycling has been very successful. An average of 150 mattresses per month have been diverted from the landfill.
- The third shredding event was held on a cold, wet, windy Saturday morning in November, and only 44 cars came through, compared to 153 last spring. Still 2,400 pounds of paper were recycled.
- Time for a lot of year-end reports now.

Jean Lundquist
Blue Earth County

Dodge County

- Construction has started on the Self-Serve Waste Depot (earth work) – pole shed to be completed by Jan 1, 2018 (weather permitting)
- Solar Panels installed at Recycling Center generating about \$2500 of electricity each year
- Purchased grapple rake as loader attachment to increase density of demolition debris prior to transfer to landfill.
- Propose raising fee to accept street sweepings to \$12/yard in 2018 to cover required screening and handling.
- Considering camera surveillance at problem recyclables drop-off location

Mark Gamm
Dodge County

Freeborn County

- Freeborn County held 15 mobile collections in 2017. Five in the City of Albert Lea and 10 within rural cities.
- Items were collected at no charge to Freeborn County residents. There were 624 households that participated.
- Permanent facility is in beginning planning stage. Site is planned for Freeborn County Fairgrounds. Fair Board would like to see the bathroom and showers open to Fair goers and campers.

- Freeborn County held 2 E-Waste collection events in 2017. May 20th, 30,746 pounds collected. Sep 22nd, 64,971 pounds collected. Events were held at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds.
- Proposed plans for a Regional Solid Waste Plan
- An average of 232 tons/mo of recyclables were collected. Average flat or up slightly. Commodity price down to \$89.87 from \$116.41/ton. Reduce bill of over \$38,000 in 2017
- Containers ordered for Public Recycling with help from MPCA EA grant.
- 2 Public (City Aquatic Center and City Arena) units to collect recyclables, organics and trash.



Mark Goskeson
Freeborn County

Mower County

- Our recycling tonnage has been relatively stable the last couple years. We have now been collecting and processing plastic containers 1-7's for one full year and have seen an increase of approximately 20% over previous year's plastic volumes.
- We have also been offering weekly curbside recycling for one full year and have noticed an increase in the number of customers putting their material out on the curb vs. dropping the material off at our facility. We do not have any hard numbers on the increase for the curbside collection increase.
- Mower County has recently adopted the new Solid Waste Ordinance and we are in the process of making all the changes to our operating procedures to meet the new rules set forth in the ordinance.
- We are also trying to bring all privately-run facilities into compliance with the new rules and regulations.
- Our Household Hazardous Waste Facility has been quite busy so far this year. Our facility in Austin is open year-round on Wednesdays. We generally have approximately 1,000 customers and generate about 25 tons of HHW.
- We had quite a few customers use our event recycling containers this year, in fact there were a couple weeks where all our containers were out during graduation time. We used

the event containers at the County Fair, 4th of July festivities, Art Festival, Austin Clean-up day, the Annual Barbecue Cook-off and the Barrow Show.

Jeff Weaver
Mower County

Olmsted County

- The Waste-to-Energy facility will burn about 110,000 tons in 2017. This includes 5,300 tons of MSW delivered from mining our landfill, 3,000 tons of burnable bulky wastes (non-processibles and clean Demo) that we also grind up at our landfill site and 1,500 tons of Industrial Solid Waste. This still leaves us at about 7,000 tons per year excess capacity. We are actively researching certain waste streams to fill this excess capacity.
- The Recycling Center Plus facility will recycle about 2,200 tons material in 2017. Financially, the recycling market prices started good this year, but have been significantly lower in the second half. We will still realize about \$400,000 in recycling revenue, which is \$80,000 above budgeted this year. This facility also will manage about 5,200 tons/year of self-hauled garbage and a variety of special wastes, all on a fee-for-service. Revenues from these services will total about \$1,200,000, which is about \$150,000 above budget for the year.
- In 2018, we may see Product Stewardship (PS) legislation proposals for certain materials, although PS efforts have been dampened by the problems still being experienced in the Electronics and Paint PS programs.
- 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.
- The Paint Product Stewardship program revenues are expected to realize about \$130,000 in revenue for 2017, an increase of \$30,000 over budget. An emerging issue this year is how to manage Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries. These are being used in drones and offer high energy and low weight characteristics. The problem is that they can catch on fire easily and burn very hot (2,000+ degrees) and so are of great concern for solid waste systems. There have been a couple of major fires in transportation vehicles and recycling facilities already and these batteries are also suspected to be a problem causing landfill fires.
- We continue to extract ferrous metals out of our Waste-to-Energy ash through our mining process and although prices are not great, will realize revenues of \$180,000 for 2017, which is \$15,000 above our budgeted amount of \$165,000. We continue to explore the feasibility of mining non-ferrous metals out of the ash, but determined it is still not

economically feasible. The bulky waste shredding/landfill MSW mining project is providing about 8,300 tons/year of fuel to utilize excess capacity at the Waste-to-Energy facility, along with saving landfill space.

- Our Compost facility got an upgrade that expanded the facility footprint. We now have a separate entrance and exit, which provides for much better traffic flow and an area off the main street for customers waiting their turn to drop off leaves and grass.

Scott Martin
Olmsted County

City of Red Wing

- The City of Red Wing is still working through the fire we experienced on June 7, of 2017. There are many issues yet to be resolved but we seem to be making progress slowly on many of the outstanding problems. The City is still taking in waste and has not experienced any decrease in our ability to manage waste but we are currently bypassing some of our existing processing functions until we are able to reconfigure our operations and make necessary repairs to the MRF. The MRF will need a new roof and we will need to do some cleaning of fire impacted equipment but this should be completed in the next 2-3 months. What the fire has done is presented a unique opportunity to modify our old tipping floor area in order to consolidate aspects of our operations to achieve significant improvements to efficiency and material flow. At this time, the Council has approved preliminary designs and has instructed staff to continue to proceed with the necessary improvements to modify our operations to become sustainable into the foreseeable future.

Jeff Schneider
City of Red Wing

Rice County Update

- The Rice County Landfill, Recycling Center, and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities have been busy since the last time we met.
- We have been busy this second half of the year at the Landfill. Construction of the new landfill cell/landfill expansion is almost complete as of Nov. 15th. It will be close, but we should be able to get the 5 ft. of fluff MSW on the new cell before it is too cold!
- There is some sad news to report from the Recycling Center this year. One of our employees, Bob Kack passed away in October. Bob had worked for the Department for about 13 years and in the last year Bob had been struggling with a prolonged health issue. After an absence in the winter and spring, Bob had returned to full time duties, but

in August health issues returned to which he never returned. Bob will be missed by all of us at the Department.

- In the last year and a half, we have lost two recycling staff, but fortunately we have replaced one position with a permanent part-time position. Dave, who started out with us as a part-time seasonal employee, is now on permanent part-time staff. When it comes to the latest vacancy, we have interview and pending back ground checks we will be back to full strength soon!
- Mixed Recycling volumes have increased slightly from last year this time. Special recycling items (tires, electronics, and appliances) are all coming in at very good rates with volumes being down slightly for electronics and appliances, but up for tires.
- Mattress recycling continues with no issues. The number of mattresses we recycle continues to increase every year. We are seeing an increase of 100 mattresses over what we took in at this time last year. The mattresses are shipped and processed at Momentum Enterprises in Minneapolis for recycling.
- Household Hazardous Waste continues to grow with participation numbers up from last year. We are seeing an increase in drop offs with about 500 additional drop offs so far this year. The PaintCare program continues along with no big issues on our end. Reuse program continues to be a very popular program. The amount of waste placed for reuse is about the same as past years, but it does not stay on the shelves for too long any more.

Paul Pieper
Rice County

Steele County

- A transition plan and reorganization for the Environmental Services Department is being developed as Scott Golberg was recently hired as the new County Administrator.
- Waste delivery contracts are out for 2018, and will be executed by the end of the year. They will be charging \$4/ton more for out-of-county waste in 2018, and \$6/ton in 2019. The goal is to maintain site life by capping the amount of out-of-county waste and disposing of only the quantity generated in Steele County.
- The 5-year recycling contract was recently awarded to Waste Management.

Scott Golberg
Steele County

Waseca County

- Busy trying to keep up with brush and compost customers.
- Staff issues, yet again. October new hire got a better job offer so I am recruiting again.

- Had some illegal dumping a couple of weeks ago, so had a meeting with local authorities and the County attorney for the correct wording for new signage. Also, we revamped our gates at both entrances.
- Said good bye to our textiles baler, got a very fair price for it and it was picked up at no charge to me.
- Partnership with the DAV is going great as the outlet of our textiles that we get from residential customers.
- Union negotiations have begun, and our HR and Admin departments are doing a compensation study for all positions within the County.

Georgette Hanson
Waseca County