



THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange

SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

Friday, December 4, 2020

Conference Room B

Dodge County Government Services Building (not the courthouse)

721 Main Street North (on the west side of Highway 57)

Mantorville, MN

9:30 A.M.

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Masks are required for anyone attending in person

AGENDA

- 9:30 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call and Introductions
- 9:35 Elect Chair Pro Tem and Chairperson for 2021
- 9:40 Approve August 2020 Minutes
- 9:45 Director's Report– Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
 - Market Update
 - Regional Planning Update
 - Budget Report
- 10:10 Review/Approve 2021 Budget
- 10:20 MPCA and Legislative Update – Ben Crowell
- 10:30 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion - All
- 10:40 Set Next Meeting
- 10:45 Adjourn

**SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting
Dodge County Government Services Building
August 7, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.**

Present: Jake Gillen, Rice County Commissioner; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Tim Gabrielson, Mower County Commissioner; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County; Brian Harguth, Waseca County Commissioner.

Joining by SKYPE: Ben Crowell, MPCA; Heidi Ringhoefer, MPCA; Mike Lee, Freeborn County Commissioner; Ken Brown, Olmsted County Commissioner; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Dave Kronnlokken, Blue Earth County; Katie Barden, Steele County; John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner;

Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes: Jake Gillen, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Motion to approve minutes by John Allen and 2nd by Tim Gabrielson. Roll Call - Motion passed.

Approval of COVID-19 Resolution –

The Joint Powers Board reviewed a resolution allowing the SEMREX Joint Powers Board and tech committee to meet by way of online, phone and in-person during the COVID 19 pandemic. Motion to approve the resolution by John Allen and 2nd by John Glynn. Roll Call – Motion Passed.

Director’s Update:

Due to COVID-19 and the toilet paper shortage – prices have gone up for paper. This peaked in May and has since slowly gone down. With everyone ordering online – the same is true for cardboard. Sharon stated she heard prices are likely to dip again in August. Previous paper mill investments that were taking place have since idled due to COVID. Steel and Aluminum prices are down. Plastic is also down because of low demand for petroleum.

Member revenue is down. Waste Wizard is complete for all members – Mower County is not online yet because of a website change they are making.

AUDIT: Audit report done for 2017-2018 – completed with no findings. Revenues are low enough that our next audit will be in 5 years.

BUDGET: Market revenue is up lately because of the May peak. Hoping to make it with use of 0 reserves. Marketing fee change for Glass – The technical committee decided to implement a \$5/ton rate for glass instead of the % used in other commodities except OCC.

SEMREX future planning – will have discussions on how and if to move forward with so many unknowns. Tri-County Membership was discussed – Al Christensen has stated they are not going to pursue membership at this time.

REGIONAL PLANNING- There may be some funding for regional planning in the form of a PCA grant. RFP has yet to be unveiled. Sharon asked the Commissioners to give the Tech committee the ability to apply for the grant. Motion by John Glynn and 2nd by John Allen. Roll Call – Motion Carried.

Ben Crowell stated MPCA is hoping to have an RFP out soon for the grant that may have \$140,000 in funding available for Regional Planning. Tim Gabrielson, asked if there would be a possibility of using some of the COVID CARES act money for regional planning. This may be a possibility. Ben said it would be a good idea to put an Emergency Management Contingency in the plan. Heidi stated they have a draft RFP but not sure of all the specifics. It is contingent on the legislature. Capital Assistance is on hold for now.

MPCA Update –

Ben stated that not a lot to report on the legislature. A note for counties with landfills – Metro CON process is open. If your landfill is taking Metro Waste you should talk to Peder Sandhei.

Heidi Ringhoefer introduced herself. She is the Greater MN Planning Coordinator and works a lot with Ben. Her goal was to get to each of the counties in 2020 – she got to 10-15 of them then COVID hit. Heidi said there will be webinar series brought to you by RAM/SWANA/PCA that starts September 10th and will be every Thursday for 8 weeks. There will be a variety of topics. Also the \$1 million EA grant round for composting/recycling has just closed – applications are being reviewed and hoping for mid-September results. Another round will be coming this fall for the same amount and topic.

Member Updates –

Mower County – Had a recycling sorting contract with an organization to utilize handicap workers – lost a lot of them due to COVID but some are starting to return. HHW re-opened May 4th – The reuse room has been open since June with limits of 10 items in 10 minutes and limiting the # of people in at once.

Rice County – HHW reuse room opened again in July – limit 1 person/group at a time. Their landfill is only taking public by appointment and they are prepaid. HHW numbers are down.

Waseca County – They had a walk-through of their newly built facility- have a little tweeking to do and hoping to be opening within the next couple of weeks. They are breaking ground on a solar garden on September 1st. Their Waste Wizard is up and running. Georgette will be retiring on October 20th.

Blue Earth County – HHW facility is open now without having to make an appt. They have expanded their days to help keep the flow spread out. They are also working on a plan to reopen the reuse room with restrictions. The use of their Public Facility has increased- possibly due to no city cleanups etc. They are constructing a Leachate Recirculation System that they hope will be in use in the fall. Declined a study of testing leachate evaporation and PFAS contamination. Waste Mgmt runs the Recycling Center for the county and they will be having discussions in regards to being able to charge customers for excessive contamination.

Freeborn County – The contract is up with Waste Mgmt in Oct/Nov. Will be sending out RFP's. All mobile collections have been cancelled for this year. They are looking at a building to be used as their HHW facility. Demolition has been busy.

City of Red Wing – Their facility is currently receiving 3400 + tons a month to process.

Goodhue has created a designation ordinance and voting should take place in the next week or 2. Then there will be 60 days before it will go into effect. This could create an additional 6-8000 tons per year for the facility. They are in the final stage of a landfill closure. Hoping to get it accepted into the state closed landfill program.

Olmsted County – All facilities are open and operating with outside service. They are working on a program to be able to take credit cards again with Wi-Fi. HHW has a limit of 10 items per day. Suspended all mobile collections this year. Going through a feasibility of what system will work best for a Residential Self Haul Facility/Front End Fuel cleaning system. Reports should be in from the 2 companies by October 1st – then a decision will be made.

Steele County – Working on Mattress recycling information – how they can make it happen. Their facility is not open on Saturdays as of yet. Some issues have come up with contamination at a couple of their drop off sites that they have had to address. Online Calendar and Waste Wizard are going well.

Dodge County – Working on being able to open on Saturdays with a mobile device with the WasteWorks program so that they can maintain 6-foot social distancing.

Sharon mentioned we may need input from the commissioners if the Grant RFP comes out for Regional Planning.

Next Meeting is set for Friday December 4, 2020 at the Dodge County Government Services Building. Meeting adjourned by Jake Gillen at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Rita Cole.