



# Agenda

## Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

**Date:** Friday, February 26, 2021

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

**Location:** Via Teams

**Chairperson:** Molly Kjellesvig

**Note Keeper:** To be determined

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call Technical Committee Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes	Molly Kjellsevig
10:05	2. Marketing Update	Sharon Schriever
10:10	3. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:25	4. Grant Application for Regional Planning Update	Sharon Schriever
10:35	5. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
10:45	6. Member Updates	All
11:45	7. Next Meeting	
11:50	8. Adjourn	

### Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

## **SEMREX TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 29, 2021

Members present via Teams; Scott Martin, Olmsted County, Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County, Rita Cole, Dodge County, Tammy Bramer, Waseca County, Katie Barden, Steele County, Jeff Weaver, Mower County, Paul Pieper, Rice County and Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County

Hosting the meeting; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Director  
Ben Crowell, MPCA.

Scott M. called the SEMREX meeting to order at 10:03 AM, asked if everyone had a chance to look at the minutes and whether there needed to be any changes made, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Molly made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rita, motion passed by roll call.

Scott explained that he has been the chair for the last 4 years or more and asked the group for nominations for a new chair. After considerable quiet he asked again. Mark made a nomination for Molly, Molly then made the nomination for Mark. Since Molly was nominated first, Sharon did a roll call for each member in attendance. Molly was unanimously voted in for Chair.

Molly as new chair then deferred to Sharon for the Directors update. Sharon had not emailed the update because she found a mistake in the numbers; she will email the corrected update next week. Some of the market prices are increasing such as paper, OCC, tin, aluminum and plastic. The plastic price is up due to our market making some changes at their facility, not because of market trends. The revenue from marketing was down for 2020 but not nearly as much as was anticipated due to COVID, only about \$1900. The number of tons from marketing was down about 11% from the 2019 numbers. Sharon also explained that the shipping has been troublesome over the last couple months with trucks usually a day or two behind their scheduled days for pick up. Most of the shipping members had noticed and some discussion ensued.

Sharon then told the group briefly about our Regional Planning Meeting and how we are in the process of securing a grant from the MPCA for \$115,000. The group discussed the possible interest in having a presentation from the Carton Council, after much discussion it was decided that we were not interested.

### **MPCA Update;**

Ben told the group that the Regional Planning Grant is now available and SEMREX is in the process of applying. He also told us that the application for the Greater MN Recycling Grant is now available; he noted that Tammy is interested in applying. He told u that the 2019 SCORE Report should be out by the middle of February, they are a bit behind but should it done soon. He told us to watch for the greenhouse gas section in the 2020 SCORE report. Sharon asked if they would have a calculation formula for counties, yes they will. He was also asked about the big-box store numbers for the report, looks like all of the regular stores will have their numbers and he is working on getting numbers from Fleet Farm and another store for 2020 reports. Rita asked about the numbers from HyVee, the group discussed and it was thought that HyVee is picked up by Waste Management who then report those numbers with all of their other customers. We discussed organic recycling since HyVee does that in some of their stores but apparently not in all of their stores.

### **Member updates-**

Freeborn County; Mark told us he is working with Waste Management on a new 7 year contract for recycling services. He said that WM has asked for a few changes from the last contract, one of them being that they want to reduce the number/type of plastic that they accept from 1-7's to 1,2 and 5 plastic. He also told us that they

want to add a fee on the drop sites to cover the cost of illegal/unrecyclable materials at the sites. They have 15 drop sites throughout the County.

Waseca County; Tammy is working on end-of-the-year stuff. They have been moving loads of OCC regularly and have recently sent their first load of newspaper. The new contract for the Hormel OCC is going fine, they are keeping up. She is in the process of hiring a replacement for her former position in the HHW facility. Paul asked her about this as he will do some of the training for the new hire.

Mower County; Jeff told the group that he will be retiring at the end of March. He told the group briefly about his possible replacement and that Mower County is having a hard time finding enough applicants or at least enough qualified applicants. They have moved back the deadline in the hopes of getting a qualified applicant. He said that he hopes to get someone before the end of February so the new person can go through the HHW training in person versus watch a recorded version.

Steele County; Katie discussed their mattress collection. They have not started collecting and she wasn't sure what the holdup is at the landfill, hopefully they can start soon. Their demolition landfill will be expanding in the near future. She has been really digging into her SCORE contacts in Steele County with the hopes of finding more material and having better numbers for her SCORE report.

Dodge County; Rita told us that they are working on getting a permit for outdoor storage for the material that they are sending to SKB, may have it soon. She is also working on her SCORE report. She told us that they have approved the SW hauling license for Skjveland Enterprises after revoking it due to noncompliance at Skjvelands facility. This company has now moved its operation to Owatonna and has cleaned up their old site in Claremont, so they will now be able to haul garbage in Dodge County again. She said that they are working on tires and mattresses. They are sending the mattresses to 7-R's and the cost for disposal/recycling is \$13.50 per mattress, adding in the cost of transportation the County is now charging \$17 per mattress and may need to go to about \$25 to cover the costs. Dodge County has had their brush pile shredded so now have a large pile of mulch to get rid of, any takers?

Olmsted County; Scott explained that they survived COVID! He had to deal with serving 125,000 Recycling Center Plus customers along with over 20,000 HHW customers during a pandemic, quite a challenge. And with all of that he only was 1-2% below projected revenues. He said that they did manage to reduce expenses by about 10% mostly from reducing the number of days open from 6 to 5 (they cut out Mondays). Some of the public of course complained, but are now working around the reduced open times. He also is sending his mattresses to 7-R's due to the fact that they have been banned from landfilling and the cost of a new shredder is over \$800,000. He said that 7-R's wants each county to sign a contract for services. He is in the process of signing a 3 year contract with (2) one year extensions. He told us about a possible new facility that they are planning. It would include a new MRF attached to the WTE facility along with a new residential self-haul facility but at a cost (for both) of nearly \$31 million. He is working with the consultant to get the price down as much as possible but still have a quality facility.

Rice County; Paul said that the landfill is still open by appointment only and the public needs to pay in advance because of COVID. It has not been as busy due to winter, but will again get busy come spring. He is also working on his SCORE report and stated that most of the recycling in Rice County is brought to him so reporting is made easier. He told us that he also charges \$25 per mattress, but his are going to Second Chance in the cities, the cost for disposal is a bit more but the transportation costs are lower for Rice. He said that his recycling and HHW numbers were down for 2020, about 1,000 less HHW customers. His brush pile is larger than normal. They will be purchasing a new loader for the landfill and just bought a new compactor last year.

Blue Earth County: Molly told the group that they had their annual Christmas lights collection again this year but due to COVID only had one collection point at the landfill, they only received about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton vs. the usual 1 ton of lights. She said that on December 31<sup>st</sup> they received a letter from Waste Management that WM would not continue the contract for recycling for 2021 unless they are paid for the contaminated loads. Surprisingly WM did not want the costs to be borne by the County, they would rather that the haulers be held accountable so they will be installing cameras on all trucks/facilities and having a picture taken of each load, the contamination noted will be billed to the hauler/contractor and that is where the bill will be sent. The hauler will then have to take care of the problem or charge back to the customer or the city where the material came from. They are still having some problems with the compost facility, even though the name has changed it looks like it will be the same people running the facility. Last year the facility closed and had some major problems, during closure they cleaned it up a bit and are now trying to reopen, hopefully their new operation will work out and not have the number of complaints from the neighbors.

The next meeting was set via Teams for February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Molly called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was made by Paul and seconded by Mark, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Respectively submitted,

Jeffrey Weaver

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