



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, July 23, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Skype –

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: To be determined

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Sharon Schriever
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:20	3. Marketing Fees for Glass Discussion	All
10:40	4. MPCA/Legislative Update/Grants	Ben Crowell
11:00	5. Joint Powers Board Agenda	All
11:10	6. Member Updates	All
11:55	7. Next Meeting	
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting

May 15, 2020

(Skype meeting)

Members present by Skype; Scott Martin, Olmsted County, Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County, Rita Cole, Dodge County, Jeff Weaver, Mower County, Paul Pieper, Rice County and Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County

Also on Skype were Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Director and Ben Crowell, MPCA.

Scott M. called the SEMREX meeting to order at 10:01 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. Rita made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Molly, motion passed by roll call.

Scott then deferred to Sharon, for the marketing update. Sharon emailed the update. Some of the markets are slowly increasing such as paper products. The metal markets have dropped as there is no manufacturing being done. Some of the deposit States have suspended rebates on the cans and bottles. Looks like it might be awhile for these markets to improve. Plastic is down in relation to the lower fuel prices. We had a discussion regarding markets. See the update from Sharon for further information. She told us that the audit for 2018 and 2019 is complete. The Audit was changed a few years back to make it every two years instead of each year. The Waste Wizard is up in running in all counties except Waseca.

Sharon told us that Rita Sailer emailed her some information regarding Ag Bag recycling going on in the State of MN; we didn't have any discussion as Sharon told us that she would forward the email to all of us.

Next on the agenda was the discussion regarding Tri-County joining SEMREX. AI from Tri-County had called Sharon to let her know that they are not interested in joining at this time as their budget has been cut due to tax issues relating to COVID19. They may look at this again, but probably not for a couple years or so.

Sharon then discussed the upcoming JPB meeting agenda. The meeting is set for June 5th and more than likely will be done via video conference. Sharon asked the group whether or not their County Commissioner would be able to Skype for the meeting. After much discussion it was decided to try the Go-To-Meeting format. Molly has had success with using this type of meeting and will work with Sharon to make it happen. It may need to be done through Blue Earth County as it may require having a license to have this type of meeting. Molly will email the needed information out to all participants in order to join the meeting, might have to talk to our individual commissioners beforehand to get them set up. Sharon asked if we should invite Wayne G. (MPCA) to discuss what is happening with markets during this pandemic, the group agreed, Ben thought it would be a good idea.

Sharon then discussed the possible agenda for the meeting which included; Budget update, Audit Report, Tri-County update (not joining), MPCA update from Ben and possibly an update from each county in regards to what is happening in each county regarding changes due to COVID19.

Scott then deferred to Ben to have him give a MPCA update if he had one, which he did! Ben told the group that the application for the Greater MN Recycling Grant is due on July 7th. We discussed what the rules are regarding this grant. Must be a County or City outside the Metro and have a population less than 45,000. The grant has a limit on how much each participant can receive, but I did not get that information. Ben also discussed what the MPCA has been doing for counties during this time. He said that there is a website put out jointly by Recycle MN, SWAA and the MPCA. It has all of the facilities on the map of MN that can be updated (should be updated) by the counties to list any and all changes that have been made due to the pandemic. He will forward the link to all of us after the meeting.

Member updates-

Freeborn County; Mark told us that their recycling numbers were lower than usual, which didn't make sense to him as he was getting a lot of extra from Mower County when they were shut down. He has been working on the problem of animal carcasses because of the problem at meat packing places. He has had a lot of calls in regards to the electronic wastes since they are not having a collection this year. He is not planning on having the HHW collections for Albert Lea this year because of social distancing and not being able to use volunteers. He has taken a few customers on a call in basis for HHW.

Dodge County; Rita told us that they have been very busy over the last couple weeks and have changed their hours to deal with the changes that were made after March 18th. They are no longer working Saturdays as they need two people to run the facility and Saturdays did not work for this. Some of the changes being made are no one from the public can enter the building meaning everything is being done outside. Their self-serve garbage has been increasing and they have increased the number of customers using the service by nearly 100 more.

Rice County; Paul was not on camera so he emailed his update. The landfill is open by appointment only and they are trying to encourage the public to use garbage haulers instead of bringing the garbage to the landfill. During the first week of the shutdown their scale at the landfill went down, luckily they could get a new one in before they reopened. They are using some type of payment program from their P and Z Department for the payment for garbage disposal from their customers, Paul said it was not working that great. Their HHW facility is open for drop-off of material; they are not opening the reuse room yet.

Blue Earth County: Molly told the group that they have had long lines at their landfill, but have made a few changes that have helped. They opened up a line for customers that have only bags of garbage, this line then can move much faster as they charge per bag and the customer does not need to go over the scale.

Olmsted County; Scott told us that they have been pushing social distancing and basically no touch at all of their facilities. The HHW facility is open with a few changes, everything is done outside and the customer is told to stay in their vehicle as the staff removes the material from the trunk or back of truck. The reuse room is open but has been moved to another building next to the regular facility. They have signs up to try to keep people at least 6 feet apart. The self-haul garbage is open and also done outside; payment is made by check or cash by using a money basket on a long stick. The customers do not get any change or a receipt. He said the customers are okay with this system. The landfill was closed but is now open along with the compost site and both are very busy. He stated that he never knew how important our programs were.

Mower County; Jeff typed in his update since he doesn't have a camera nor microphone on his computer. He said that the Recycling and HHW facility were closed down for about 8 weeks and is now reopen. He has been very busy along with the staff in recycling. His commissioners said that they received more calls from the public regarding the recycling shutdown than all other departments of the county combined.

Sharon asked if anyone else has had the problem of jumping worms at their compost sites. No one else has, she added that the DNR has told Olmsted County that they must take care of the problem as these types of worms are not native here and should not be given away with any finished compost, also stated that no worms should be in compost as it shows that the compost is not getting hot enough, therefore not finished. Sharon also reminded us that our county updates are due on May 20th so she can get them included in the packets that go out to the commissioners for the June 5th JPB meeting. She will email us another reminder after the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:58.

Respectively submitted by,

Jeffrey Weaver