



## THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

Cooperative marketing \* market development \* materials exchange

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### SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

*Friday, June 5, 2015*

**New Location:**

*Dodge County Government Services Building*

**721 Main Street** (located just North and West of the Courthouse)

*Mantorville, MN*

#### AGENDA

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| 9:00  | Coffee and Rolls  |
| 9:30  | Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call & Introductions   |
| 9:35  | Approve December 5, 2014 Minutes  |
| 9:40  | Director's Update – Sharon Schriever, SEMREX <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marketing Report</li><li>• Budget Report</li></ul> |
| 10:10 | Collaborative Health and Safety Training Report – Terry Selthun, Dodge County   |
| 10:30 | MPCA Update, Legislative Update & Policy Report – Anna Kerr, MPCA   |
| 11:00 | Member Update Report Questions/Discussion – All   |
| 11:15 | Set Next Meeting  |
| 11:20 | 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 Courthouse on December 5, 2014**

Board Members Present: Ken Brown, Olmsted County; Tim Tjosaas, Dodge County; Polly Glynn, Mower County; Mike Lee, Freeborn County; Jake Gillen, Rice County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County; and Doug Johnson, 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 Count; Paul Piper, Rice County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; and Mark Gamm, Dodge County.

Others Present: Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Executive Director and Arlene Vee, MPCA.

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Chairperson, Doug Johnson. A quorum was present.

Minutes from June 6, 2014 JPB meeting: Commissioner Tjosaas motioned to approve minutes as written, second by Commissioner Gillen; motion passed unanimously.

Directors Report: Schriever presented Report dated December 2014. Sharon summarized key observations including a 1000-ton increase in tonnage from 2013 and difficulty in predicting future market value of commodities. Commissioner Johnson stated that the Report shows that SEMREX has a good success story to tell; especially considering the steady increase marketed tons over the last 12 years.

Budget: Schriever presented 2014 Budget report as of 11/17/2014. Sharon summarized key observations including cash reserves of approximately \$130,000; Commissioner Johnson mentioned that this amount would cover about 2 years of SEMREX administrative expenses. Motion by Gillen to approve the Directors Report and the 2015 Budget, second by Piepho; motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Management Agreement: Schriever presented proposed 2015 Fiscal Management Agreement; stating that agreement calls for \$2,750 payment to Olmsted County for fiscal services. Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the 2015 Fiscal Management Agreement, second by Commissioner Lee; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update: Arlene Vee presented "MPCA Updates for Counties – November 2014" and provided a "Guide to MN Statutes Related to Solid Waste and Recycling". Board discussion included questions about the potential for a landfill ban on aseptic packaging. Arlene said she would research question and report back to SEMREX.

Collaborative Health and Safety Training Update: Maggie Mattacola of RAM presented PowerPoint entitled "SEMREX Training – How RAM can help with your training needs". Discussion focused on training needs, location, and timing. Maggie said she typically brings together 2 to 3 people to help plan training. Costs for RAM training events typical cost from \$30 to \$100 per participant.

Member Updates: written summaries were provided and members discussed relevant information.

Election of Chairperson: Commissioner Johnson called for nominations; motion by Commissioner Glynn to nominate Commissioner Gillen as SEMRX JPB Chairperson in 2015, second by Commissioner Tjosaas. Chairperson Johnson called for additional nominations, none was offered; ballot was unanimous. Motion by Commissioner Lee to elect Commissioner Jake Gillen as SEMREX JPB Chairperson for 2015, second by Commissioner Piepho; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gillen and other SEMRX members thanked Commissioner Johnson for his excellent and steady leadership.

Next Meeting: Board agreed to schedule the next JPB meeting on June 5, 2015. Dodge County agreed to host meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Gillen; motion passed unanimously at 11:45 AM.

Minutes prepared by Mark Gamm

## **Member Updates**

June 2015

### **Blue Earth County**

- The County Board has approved a new building at the landfill for the general public. This will keep cars and pickups from mingling with packer trucks and semis in the bowl of the landfill, and greatly improve safety for all.
- Nuisance complaints have increased greatly, as they always do in the springtime. Two of the three people who work in enforcement have taken other employment, so the one remaining person is really busy.
- Blue Earth County hosted a Recycling Association of MN rain barrel and compost bin distribution event in early May.
- Work on updating the Solid Waste Ordinance is continuing slowly.
- Medication collection program and sharps collection program are still collecting material with no decrease in weight. We expected we'd see a drop off in participation after the initial glut was brought in. The amount of money wasted on unused pharmaceuticals is staggering.

Jean Lundquist  
Blue Earth County

### **Dodge County**

As of May 2015,

- Spring time slam – garbage and recycling are volumes up!
- Food waste collection and composting is sporadic, but there is interest.
- County Administrative Departments (including Environmental Services Department) are moving to new County Administrative Building in Mantorville.

Mark Gamm  
Dodge County

### **Freeborn County**

- HHW program started again on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. In 2015, we reduced the number of collections from 20 to 15 events. Five events are on Saturday mornings in Albert Lea which is unchanged. Ten events in small cities within Freeborn County eliminating 5 where participation was low. In 2014, we had 730 cars bringing in 14.59 tons of HHW. Still dreams of a permanent facility.
- E-Waste events are planned for May 29<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup> of 2015. The Retro Fit Company will be providing service. No information available from 5R on the 2014 collection.
- Recycling tonnage has continued to grow. In 2014, Single Stream totaled 2,435.11 tons over 75% increases from 2012 (2) sort system. Phone calls for

customers requesting a 2<sup>nd</sup> cart have taken over any calls for missed pickups or questions on day of pick up.

Mark Goskeson  
Freeborn County

### **Mower County**

- Recycling tonnage has been relatively stable the last couple years. So far this year, we have collected and processed about 530 tons of recyclables. We are on track to collect and recycle about 1,800 tons of material and bring in about \$175,000 for the sale of materials. We have had a lot of tours of our Recycling Facility this year, mostly from grade schools and scout groups in the county.
- The 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.
- The City of Austin and Mower County once again offered a collection to the residents for waste electronics. One major change this year is that 5-R Processors is no longer providing these collections. The City has contracted with The Retrofit Companies. They charged \$10.00 for all TV's and monitors. This year we accepted not only waste electronics, but we also accepted appliances. The collection date was May 9<sup>th</sup>. We have not gotten the total amount of wastes collected from TRC. But the number of customers seemed to be down from the last couple years; however, we still filled about 3.5 semi-trailers.
- The County has decided to send out an RFP for the collection and processing of single sort recycling. The plan is to collect recycling curbside from all residents in the County, not just the city residents. If the switch is made to single sort recycling, we would close the current facility in Austin and have a contractor collect, ship and process the material.

Jeff Weaver  
Mower County

### **Olmsted County**

- Waste-to-Energy: The Waste-to-Energy facility is budgeted to burn about 110,000 tons in 2015. This includes 16,000 tons of MSW delivered from mining our landfill and 6,000 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 14,000 tons per year excess capacity. We are actively researching certain waste streams to fill this excess capacity.
- Recycling: The Recycling Center Plus facility is on track to recycle about 2,200 tons of material in 2015. Financially, the recycling markets have been trending down from last year. Financially, we have budgeted \$375,000 in recycling revenue. This facility is also expected to manage about 4,700 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 are expected to be \$805,000.
- On the recycling front, we have not seen any new Product Stewardship (PS) legislation proposals, probably because of the problems being experienced currently in the existing

Electronics and Paint PS programs. This year, the Recycling Center Plus facility obtained a new Stormwater Permit.

- 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 has once again scheduled 23 one-day collections this year in small towns throughout our region. Our VSQG program continues to serve 60-100 businesses per year.
- We are still in the process of trying to implement the Paint Product Stewardship program law that was passed last July. We are still looking for an approved state Paint Stewardship Plan and the development of a contract with the paint manufacturer's representative, PaintCare, Inc. with the MPCA. Intense negotiations have been ongoing since January with PaintCare, the MPCA and County representatives from the metro and outstate. The public continues to be charged (Since November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014) an upfront fee (sent to PaintCare) for every ½ pint - quart (\$0.35), gallon (\$0.75) and 5 gallon (\$1.60) container that is sold in MN.
- Landfill: We continue to extract metals out of our Waste-to-Energy ash through our mining process and have budgeted revenue of \$420,000 for 2015. The bulky waste shredding/landfill MSW reclamation project is budgeted to provide 22,000 tons/year of fuel to utilize excess capacity at the Waste-to-Energy facility, along with saving landfill space.
- Designation Plan: We have an approved MPCA Designation Plan. We continue to work on a Designation Ordinance, which hopefully will be implemented in 2015.

Scott Martin  
Olmsted County

### **City of Red Wing**

The City of Red Wing has been very busy and is in the midst of determining the feasibility of a multi-million dollar project that entails the decontamination and deconstruction of the former WTE mass burn operations and the subsequent refurbishment and retrofitting of this space in coordination with the City's existing front end fuel cleaning facility for the purposes of generating Refuse Derived Fuel. The feasibility is largely dependent upon the City's ability to secure financing for the expected \$3-\$5 million dollar project and the potential for securing waste at the City of Red Wing's facility over the long term.

There are currently two avenues being explored for waste assurance. The first being securing waste from Goodhue County, this option would entail Goodhue County mandating waste deliveries to the City of Red Wing's operations in exchange for the Bench Street Landfill being allowed to enter the Closed Landfill Program. The second option would be the City receiving waste as part of the State's enforcement of MN Statute 473.848 which restricts the landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste generated within the Metro County region if there is processing capacity available. Both options are currently being viewed as opportunities to fill available resource recovery capacity at the City of Red Wing.

The City recently held its 3<sup>rd</sup> electronics recycling event within the last 16 months through a joint cooperative event between the City of Red Wing, Red Wing Computer and Tech Dump. Again the City event attracted over 650 residents and businesses to the 6 hour event collecting approximately 80 tons of electronics and household appliances. In the 3 events total there has

been over 200 tons of material collected and nearly 2,000 residents and businesses who have participated in the E-Waste collection.

The City of Red Wing approached Olmsted County back in February of 2015 to request Olmsted's consideration of a pilot project in which waste processed at the Red Wing Waste Campus would be delivered to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility (OWEF). The scope of this project entailed the delivery of up to 1,000 tons of "processed waste" meaning waste that has gone through both mechanical and manual measures to remove valuable commodities and undesirable materials from the waste stream for the purposes of cleaning the waste prior to incineration. The resulting processed waste provides a much more consistent BTU fuel source with reduced metal content and increased recycling.

Initially, the pilot project was proposed as an excellent short term alternative for Red Wing's processed waste being taken to a landfill during the Red Wing Xcel Energy Steam Plant's month long planned outage. The City would deliver up to 1,000 tons of processed waste to the OWEF to achieve the following mutually beneficial outcomes:

- Red Wing is able to divert processed waste from the landfill during Xcel Energy's planned outage.
- Olmsted receives a significant source of high BTU feedstock to use in its daily operations at OWEF.
- Provide the ability to determine the feasibility of future waste deliveries to OWEF from the City's Operations.

The City and Olmsted County both felt the pilot project was a significant success in terms of keeping waste out of the landfill and providing additional needed tonnages at the OWEF. The City requested Olmsted's consideration of continuing the program until the end of the year and this request was reviewed and accepted by the County last week. The City intends to study the feasibility of continuing this arrangement and propose a longer term agreement for consideration should this option be available after the end of 2015.

Recycling tonnages have increased significantly for the City in 2014 and continuing into 2015 so far. 2014 saw an increase of over 1,000 tons of additional recycling over 2013. This is due in large part to the City's acceptance of single stream recycling from local haulers and the City's ability to secure significant volumes of cardboard from the waste stream and local waste haulers.

Finally, the City recently began offering "screened compost" for sale to the public. This compost is the result of the City's yard waste composting program but was previously never screened. This screened material has been very popular and is expected to be in much higher demand as the word gets out on the street that the City is selling "black gold" for dirt cheap!

Jeff Schneider  
City of Red Wing

### **Rice County**

As Summer time approaches, the Rice County Landfill, Recycling Center, Hazardous Waste Facilities are getting busy. This summer we have contracted with "Epic Enterprise" of Dundas

to do trash picking, and other project at the Landfill and Recycling sites. This will be a great help for us in dealing with blowing trash and other project at the Solid Waste site.

- Landfill  
Landfill remains busy, with volumes of garbage being about the same as they were at this time last year. In 2014, we received 41,375 tons of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste). We will be replacing our Garbage Compactor this late spring/early summer, but are not scheduled for any other major purchases or construction this year. Wind has and is an issue, but with Epic Enterprise scheduled to work, we are looking forward to the extra assistance.
- Recycling  
Recycling remains steady. We have seen a decrease in Business Cardboard (OCC) in the last year. This is mostly due to that many of the commercial haulers are no longer picking up OCC separately from their smaller accounts, but are picking up the OCC with the other mixed recycling in a single stream loads. Special recycling items (tires, electronics, and appliances) are all coming in at very good rates. Warmer weather means more traffic from both public and commercial. In 2014, Rice County had a recycling rate 65%. We will be replacing one of the Recycling Center's forklifts this summer. The old one was made in 1993! Hopefully we can get 22 years out of the new one.
- Hazardous Waste  
Household Hazardous Waste continues to be busy with participation 24% above last year's numbers at this time. Reuse remains a very popular service with the shelves being empty all the time. We have never seen the shelves so empty these last few years. When it comes to Paint Care, we are still waiting see what the agreements will reveal. This spring we sent one of the current employees to Hazardous Waste Training and are now using him as one of the worker in the HHW Facility.

Paul Pieper  
Rice County

### **Steele County**

- HHW program started May 2<sup>nd</sup> for 2015 season, located at the landfill. Collections are every Thursday from 9-3 and on the first and third Saturdays from 9-noon. In 2014, we had 501 participants bring 12.70 tons of HHW.
- E-Waste 2 Special Events put on by The Retrofit Company. Also collected at WM Recycling facility and Steele Co. Landfill.
- Recycling tonnage was 3,420.89 tons in 2014, up 14%. Recycling Hotline calls have changed, from missed picks to requests for a second cart. Calls for "how to recycle" other materials that are not collected by the curbside container program have increased.

Mark Goskeson  
Steele County

## **Waseca County**

- The new John Deere loader came in just in time for the season getting busy. Two new Bobcat skid loaders are on order and due to come in by the end of May.
- Started going thru applications for a vacancy at the facility.
- HHW season starts May 5<sup>th</sup>, the HHW staff already has a backlog of materials. People are just setting it down and disappearing! So, we are off to a busy start there.
- Met with a small Waseca recycling establishment. In the past they have done recycling with a facility out of Mankato, they have chosen to keep the materials local, so we have a temporary schedule in place to test the waters and see how things work. Hopefully, all goes well and we can keep in the partnership with the local business to keep the recyclable materials out of the waste stream.
- The last stage for the Solid Waste Management Plan is in process. MPCA has received the final copy and all seems to be in place and acceptable, just waiting on final approval and release of funds.
- Renewed agreement with URT for electronics for up- coming PY9, only a slight increase in pound price, but no transport charges or supply charges. Still a great deal for Waseca County's outlet for the e-waste.
- The City of Waseca is having a free brush pick up in the city limits, in addition to individuals hauling their own, so the brush area is getting filled up. It is the same with leaves disposal - spring clean- up.

Georgette Hanson  
Waseca County