



# **THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE**

cooperative marketing \* market development \* materials exchange

## **SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING**

Friday, June 7, 2019

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 and Introductions
- 9:35 Approve December 2018 Minutes
- 9:40 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
  - Marketing Report
  - Budget Update –
  - Budget Change – Other Marketing Members
  - Audit Update
- 10:10 SEMREX Regional Activities: Waste Wizard
  - Participation – Approval of Contract with ReCollect
  - Next Steps
- 10:40 MPCA and Legislative Update
- 10:55 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion-All
- 11:10 Set Next Meeting
- 11:15 Adjourn

**SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting  
Dodge County Government Services Building  
December 7, 2018 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Jake Gillan, Rice County Commissioner; Paul Peiper, Rice County; Anna Kerr, MPCA; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Mike Ankeny, Mower County Commissioner; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Mike Lee, Freeborn County Commissioner; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner; Georgette Hanson, Waseca County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Mike Thein, Olmsted County Commissioner; Dave Kronlokken, Blue Earth County; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County Commissioner; Katie Barden, Steele County; John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner. Mike Cook, Burns & McDonnell(observing)

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

Roll Call

Motion to approve minutes by Mike Ankeny and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Lee. Motion passed.

**Director's Update:**

Sharon passed out the Conflict of Interest sheets to be signed for 2019. Prices have dropped and are now starting to flatten out. Mixed paper is at \$0 for most markets but SEMREX has still been able to move higher grade paper for \$65/ton. Sharon mentioned the Chinese restrictions and the purchase of several US fiber mills by Chinese companies. Tons are down by 7% and Revenue is down 43% from this time last year. Planning to adjust fees a little – When the SEMREX fees and transportation create a negative number, there will not be payment to the county – it will remain 0.

Budget – Operating at -\$2,600 right now. Not much change for 2019. We did not have an audit done in 2018 – Sharon recommends we probably should in 2019. Sharon will check to see if an audit is mandatory every other year. Cash balance is still \$125,000.

Motion to approve budget for 2019 – Mark Thein, John Allen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Professional Services Agreement – same as other years with a 3% cost of living increase. Motion to approve – John Allen, Mike Ankeny 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Fiscal Agent Agreement – Olmsted to manage funds for SEMREX. No Increase.

Motion to approve – John Glynn, John Allen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Regional Planning – We have been unable to find grant opportunities and the markets are down so there is no funding for Regional Planning at this time. Members will need to do the resolution portion again. We will re-visit in June.

Tech committee/staff looking to do some regional education/joint outreach. Grants may be available to help with this. Looking at each member being able to set up Waste Wizard and using grant funds to pay Sharon for her time in helping with setup.

Motion to approve applying for grant funds John Glynn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Ankeny.

Anna mentioned ReUseMN.org on a broader spectrum and linking it to our websites.

#### MPCA/Legislative Updates

PCA is looking at revising the due dates of certain Solid Waste Management Plans. They want to be able to spread out the workload and allow for more assistance to the counties. Currently only 1-2 administrators are on board. Not sure how those will change if SEMREX does not do regional planning.

PCA has a new statistician that they are very excited about. She can put numbers together that should help with the Solid Waste Management Planning/Goal Volume Tables etc.

2019 Budgeting year – Session runs from Jan 8 – May 20<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a new governor and new chairs and also a new PCA commissioner.

Solid Waste Policy Report is due at the end of 2019. Anna said they will be seeking external feedback for priorities. (i.e. landfills, E-waste) She is hoping to have a draft done by June meeting.

There were 15 grants awarded from the Greater MN Recycling and Composting Grants. Mentioned Certificate of Need for landfills that are getting close to capacity. Nobles and Cottonwood are 2 of those counties.

Anna mentioned a location change for the Mankato C & D stakeholder meeting on December 10. There will be webinar/online access to the one that is being held in the cities on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

PCA has a new staff member named Jesse that is doing groundwater research on C & D Landfills.

Addition to member updates:

**Blue Earth County:** Adding 4 new programs that have been approved. They will be offering an HHW credit for their VSQG customers. They are purchasing a shredder to offer this service year round – they currently have shredding events. They are dropping their E-waste fee to \$5 for the first 5 units per customer per day. Their price currently is \$26/unit. Molly is having her first event for Christmas lights in January.

**Mower:** New conveyor is now in place. They have a new administrator.

**Rice:** December 21<sup>st</sup> they will take ownership of their new recycling center addition. They are still dealing with aftermath from September 20<sup>th</sup> storm.

**Freeborn:** Looking for ideas/ordinance on cleanup enforcement and how to avoid lawyer fees – possibility of just dropping a box at the needed location and cleaning up then putting it on their taxes instead of doing all the legalities.

**Olmsted:** OWEF is at capacity. They will be limiting their intake of industrial waste from other counties. They are also going to stop mining MSW from the Kalmar Landfill at the end of 2018.

**Dodge:** Informed the group/commissioners more on what the Self Serve Waste Depot is and how it works.

**Waseca:** Have had an influx of solar gardens. Telling people to beware as there is a lot of theft taking place of the aluminum tubing that is at the job sites during construction.

**Steele:** They had a new hauler apply for a license – Kruckeberg. Katie is also looking for new communication ideas.

Next Meeting will be held on June 7, 2019.

Motion to adjourn by Jake Gillan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Glynn.

Submitted by: Rita Cole

# Member Updates: June 2019

## **Blue Earth County**

After founding and directing the Environmental Services Department over the past 30 years, Scott Fichtner retired from Blue Earth County on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our department has seen many transitions over the past few months. In February the County Commissioners decided to merge Environmental Services and Taxpayer Services into one new department, *Property and Environmental Resources*, which is now under the direction of Michael Stalberger. With the addition and remodeling of the Government Center, our department was moved temporarily (one year) over to the Historic Courthouse to join our counterparts—Taxpayer Services.

Alongside those transitions, our landfill has been/will be going through some transitions in the coming months as well. Our landfill manager, Ben Froehlich has stepped down from his position after several years of service. We will be working with our contractor in the coming weeks to fill this position. In April we added a 40-kilowatt solar array to the roof of our Customer Service Center at the landfill. This summer, we also plan on doing cell construction along with stormwater updates. We also hope to be approved by the MPCA to start leachate recirculation in the next year. In the next month, we plan to have our document shredding program running, providing a free shredding service to our residents. Lastly, with Olmsted County no longer accepting our mattresses, we started taking them to Seven Rivers Recycling in Onalaska, Wisconsin where they now recycle the fabric, foam, wood, and metal.

Our recycling center continues to be operated by Waste Management through a contract. In March, we were able to tour their MRF- Recycle America in Minneapolis and gain a better understanding for the materials they do/do not want, which has been able to help us in educating our citizens. In March, I (Molly) ran a contamination campaign on social media in hopes of reducing our residuals in the month of April (which is our highest month for residuals). The campaign resulted in a much lower amount of residual. Blue Earth County has been able to stay steady with a contamination rate of around 3%, our contract states we should stay under 5% with Waste Management. SCORE was completed this year on time, our tonnage of recycling throughout the county has increased immensely.

Lastly, our household hazardous waste season kicked off in April. Though we have been short a few hands during some of our collection dates, we have managed. This season has been really busy already, we see 120 cars on average per day that we are open (4 days a month).

Molly Kjellesvig  
Blue Earth County

## **Dodge County**

Dodge County currently has 66 subscribers to our Self-Serve Waste Depot.

There are improvements in the Recycling Center Drop-off area, including a new fence and bituminous paving that will be completed this summer.

Contracted MRF for single-sort is warning us of potential additional fees for contamination in the recyclables over 10%.

We have increased our education efforts and frequency of reminders for no plastic bags in the recycling.

Rita Cole  
Dodge County

## **Freeborn County**

Freeborn County will hold 15 mobile HHW collections in 2019. Five in the City of Albert Lea and 10 within rural cities. HHW Items are collected at no charge to Freeborn County residents. Still have storage issues with no home (we need a small building to keep lab pack barrel of base and extra carts) with the added stress of MCIT not loving our volunteers, this is even more of a priority.

We will hold 2 E-Waste collection events in 2019. May 31st and Sep 20th. Events are held at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds. Items are collected at a reduced price. \$20 Large TV, \$15 Reg. TV and Computer Monitor, \$3 Small kitchen items, printers and CPU/Laptops. Money collected goes to the TRC (The Retrofit Company)

An average of 226 tons/month of recyclables were collected in 2018 down from 230 tons/month of recyclables in 2017. Commodity average price was down to \$68.74 from \$92.69 in 2017. Down even more in 2019 to \$44.93.

22,154.53 tons of MSW (74% of total waste) went to Landfills in 2018. Waste is collected by Private haulers and transported to Private Landfills.

Mark Goskeson  
Freeborn County

## **Mower County**

We continue to run our Recycling Center in Austin. This October will mark our 30<sup>th</sup> year in operation. We still contract for the collection of recycling and the processing of material at the facility. Our contractors pick up recycling each week for residents in Austin and 5 of the other larger communities in the County. We also contract for the collection of the rural drop off containers located in most of the small communities. Our recent addition to our facility has been a huge success and the public has responded by using the new area for drop-off nearly constantly. We are having a bit more difficulty marketing some of the recyclables as the price for the material is low, especially the corrugated cardboard. The markets are getting fussy

about the quality of OCC and some are not able to accept the material, seems to be a glut in that market.

We have once again partnered with the City of Austin and Retrofit to host a one day electronics collection at the Mower County Fairgrounds. The date was May 11<sup>th</sup> and the collection ran from 9 am until 2 pm. The collection was once again a success! I have not gotten the actual amount of material collected but heard that they filled 6 or 7 semi-trailers with electronics and small appliances. Hopefully I will get the numbers for the SCORE report next year.

The use of the clear stream containers is starting to increase for use at graduation parties. We also use them at the County Fair, community clean-up day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration as well as other outside venues that occur during the year.

Our Household Hazardous Waste Facility is starting to get busy for the spring/summer season. We already have a full load to ship to Veolia. We will once again have HHW collections in two of the smaller communities for 2019; they will be in Grand Meadow on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Adams on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. These collections will be open from 11-2 PM. Freeborn County brings their HHW trailer over to these collections for us and their staff helps with the collections.

Jeff Weaver  
Mower County.

## **Olmsted County**

The Waste-to-Energy Facility is budgeted to burn about 118,000 tons in 2019. This includes 3,000 tons of burnable bulky wastes (non-processibles and clean Demo) that we grind up at our landfill site and 5,000 tons of Industrial Solid Waste. Solid Waste staff are also in the process of doing a feasibility study for a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) that could range from just "Fuel Cleaning" or a "Clean MRF" to a "Dirty MRF" or any combination of these. The goal would be to remove objectionable materials to help the combustion process and reduce maintenance costs at the OWEF and remove recyclables to reduce the amount of waste we generate while obtaining revenue to help with the operational costs.

The Recycling Center Plus facility is on track to recycle about 2,400 tons material in 2019. The recycling markets have been low so far this year. We have had some difficulty marketing low grade paper and magazines the last few months. We have also put an emphasis on preventing as much contamination as possible. On the waste side, this facility will also manage about 5,500 tons/year of self-hauled garbage and a variety of special wastes including appliances and e-waste, all on a fee-for-service. Paying customers are projected at about 73,000 for 2019, while another 48,000 customers drop off recyclables only. Revenues from recycling and self-hauled waste are on track to meet our budget of \$1,850,000.

In 2019, Solid Waste Administrators have prioritized a revamping of the Product Stewardship (PS) Electronics law. There has also been a strong initiative statewide to educate citizens

about what is recyclable and what should not be put in the recycling container (causing contamination).

The Hazardous Waste program in our region (Olmsted, Wabasha, Dodge and Goodhue) is expected to have participation of about 12,000 households generating a total of 220 tons of waste. Another 10,000 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. Lithium based batteries (especially Lithium Polymer types) continue to be a major concern as they are a major fire risk and a great concern for solid waste and recycling programs. There has been a great deal of education over the last couple of years and the management and recycling requirements have become much stricter.

We continue to extract ferrous metals out of our Waste-to-Energy ash and MSW through our mining process and expect to recycle about 2,100 tons in 2019. The bulky waste shredding is projected at 3,000 tons/year of fuel which is delivered to the Waste-to-Energy facility. We continue to the analysis of determining feasibility of mining non-ferrous metals out of the ash. We are also starting the process for the development of a new ash cell in 2020.

The Compost program continues to offer self-haul drop-off services for mostly leaves and grass. Customers can also pick up finished compost, although currently we are producing more than we can give away (we do take donations). We are also interested in food organics composting although we are letting Winona take the lead as they have a grant to study this as a regional approach.

Scott Martin  
Olmsted County

## **Rice County**

As Summer time approaches, the Rice County Landfill, Recycling Center and Hazardous Waste Facilities are getting busy. Again, this summer we will be contracting with "Epic Enterprise" of Dundas to do trash picking, and other projects 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 remains busy. Once spring got here we have seen and are seeing a large increase of volume coming in. In February our new Environmental Tech started at the Landfill. Jacob came to us from inside the Environmental Services Department and is a great asset to the site. Leachate has been an issue this winter/spring with having to pump and ship to water treatment plants. Mid May we were able to start land applying again, so this is a big help and cost savings for the County. In late May we put out to bid for closure of cells 6 - 8. This construction is scheduled for the summer/fall 2019. We expect a busy summer with materials still coming in from last year's fall storm damage.

Recycling remains steady. Special recycling items (tires, electronics, and appliances) are all coming in at very good rates. TV's and computer monitors seem to never end. Last year we started construction of our new transfer/tipping floor building for the packing and shipping out of our mixed recycling. Unfortunately, they were unable to complete the project in November. Construction was resumed back in May with a completion date set for mid-June. With the amount of work being done the completion date will most likely be extended. When it comes to new equipment, the Recycling Center will be getting a new forklift. The new forklift is a G25N-7 Doosan forklift. We expect it to arrive in mid-July.

Household Hazardous Waste numbers are down a littler from this time last year. With the more seasonal weather, we have seen a big pick up in customers, so we should be on track for similar number of drop offs this year. This spring we trained in two new staff to work out in the Hazardous Waste facility. This will bring the number of staff that are trained and can work in Haz-Waste to 6 staff. Reuse remains a very popular service with the shelves being empty all the time. Like Landfill and Recycling business has picked up with the warmer weather.

Paul Pieper  
Rice County

## **Steele County**

The Landfill opened the HHW facility Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and will it remain open till September. Operating hours are from 9am to noon every first and third Saturday of the month. Appointments during non-operating hours can be made as well. So far, the HHW has been busy with large drop-offs. Landfill has seen an increase in tires, appliances and mattresses.

Other news, Earth Day turned into Earth Week for Steele County this year. County employees received weekly emails with helpful tips and educational videos pertaining to a wide variety of environmental topics, including, reducing waste, plastic pollution and recycling. Currently, we are in contact with, Tim Adkins from Recollect, exploring an online collection calendar for county residents. The online collection calendar would replace the annual brochure that is printed and mailed to all county residents.

Katie Barden  
Steele County