



# THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

cooperative marketing \* market development \* materials exchange

## SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

Friday, June 3, 2022

Conference Room B

Red Wing Solid Waste Campus

1873 Bench Street - Red Wing, MN

Tour - 12:00 P.M – Meeting 12:30 PM

### AGENDA

- 11:40 **Optional Lunch – Pre-Ordered** box lunch **by: May 31** – Cost \$11.00/each  
- please email order to: [SEMREX@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:SEMREX@co.olmsted.mn.us)
- 12:00 Tour Red Wing Materials Recovery Facility
- 12:40 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call and Introductions
- 12:45 Approve December 2021 Minutes
- 12:50 Director's Report– Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
- Market Update
  - Budget Update
- 1:00 Discuss Marketing Fee Change for aluminum beverage containers
- 1:05 MN Model Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging & Paper Products (PPP) - Mallory Anderson, Hennepin County
- 1:35 MPCA and Legislative Update – Ben Crowell
- 1:45 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion - All
- 1:50 Set Next Meeting
- 1:55 Adjourn

**SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting  
Dodge County Government Services Building  
December 3, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Mike Ankeny, Mower County Commissioner; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner; Greg Wright, Olmsted County Commissioner; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County Commissioner; Brian Harguth, Waseca County Commissioner; Jim Purfeerst, Rice County Commissioner; Katie Barden, Steele County; Lauren Cornelius, Dodge County Env Services Director; John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing

**Present via Teams Online:** Tammie Bramer, Waseca County

**Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes:** Mike Ankeny, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Introductions.

Motion to approve minutes from June 4, 2021 meeting by Mark Piepho, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Harguth. Motion passed.

**Director's Update:**

Revenue is up from 2020. However 2020 was not the best year because of COVID-19. So, compared to 2019, revenue is down about 8% and Marketing fee is down 6%. We are expecting lower plastic prices coming. Aluminum pricing is going up due to China. Steel looks good. SEMREX is looking at more marketing options to increase revenue. OCC was the highest we have ever seen at \$200 ton – although it has now dropped \$10/ton.

Commissioner Wright had previously brought to the Joint Powers Board the topic of plastic bags and how do we get people to stop using them. After research and discussion with the technical committee, Sharon mentioned that there is a ban on bag bans in MN and that other states have implemented bans and also some cities are charging a fee in stores and restaurants if a disposal bag is used. Commissioner Wright recommended that we look at it again and suggested alternate options such as the charge for plastic bags and then educate them on the disposal of them. He also mentioned that plastic bottles are a problem and that we should talk with other counties to get a bigger voice to talk to the manufacturers. It also should be put on the legislative agenda for Olmsted County.

**Budget Discussion:**

We took a hit in 2020. Reserve is down. Ways to reduce expenses has been discussed with Olmsted County and the technical committee. The following items have been addressed.

1. The Fiscal Management Agreement with Olmsted County – same agreement with \$100 decrease in fee.
2. The Professional Services Agreement with Olmsted County – lowered the fee by \$6500 due to the ability to do more electronic communications, less frequent auditing, and shift of duties from Sharon to staff.

Cash balance is \$58,200. Interest not accounted for yet.

Increase of \$200 to \$500 to member fees for year 2023 was also proposed. Most counties have the budgets in final stages. Commissioner Allen stated he was willing to find an extra \$500 in the budget to pay for the extra fee in 2022 since the SEMREX budget is below what is needed. A motion was made for Sharon to draft a letter to County Administrations in regards to the additional \$500 to add to the dues for 2022. Commissioner Ankeny stated we could address this again in June if further changes are needed. Jeff Schneider proposed to approve the budget as is and not have to approve it again with the increased revenue.

Motion was made for Sharon to draft a letter to County Administrators by John Allen with John Glynn 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Increasing Marketing Revenue for Old Corrugated Cardboard was presented. Currently the marketing fee for cardboard is \$5/ton at any market price. The proposed increase would come from a 5% market fee only when the market price is over \$100. (i.e. market price of \$150/ton would be \$7.50 marketing fee instead of \$5)

Paul Pieper stated that when market prices go up the cardboard that is received at their facility goes down because businesses keep it and market it themselves.

Motion was made to adjust the market fee by John Glynn with John Allen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the budget as is by John Allen with Jim Purfeerst 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Request approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Olmsted County. This is the same agreement with a reduction in fee by \$6500.

Motion to approve by John Allen with John Glynn 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Request approval of the Fiscal Management Agreement with Olmsted County with a reduction in fee by \$100.

Motion to approve by John Glynn with Brian Harguth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

PCA Update – Ben Crowell.

The Greater MN Recycling Grant is open and due in January.

Looking at the legislative priorities for 2022.

Need to add language to grants to include tribes.

Proposal to increase the CAP funding to \$5 million per county from \$2 million per county.

PCA looking at Anaerobic digestion and creating a food waste hierarchy.

Member Update additions –

City of Red Wing – will be full-staff on the 13<sup>th</sup> for the first time in a year. Jeff would like for the commissioners to see some of the facilities and would like to have them tour the Red Wing

Facility. He offered to have the next JPB meeting. Jeff stated SEMREX should implement a legislative platform to bring priorities before a vote at AMC and MICA.

Rice County- getting a lot of out of county waste – they will be doing more hiring.

Freeborn County – HHW facility will hopefully be up and running soon. Work finishing up this week and just need the sign off from the building inspector.

Steele County – No out of county waste starting January 1, 2022. Also looking at expanding the landfill.

Blue Earth – Triple the waste coming in from last year.

Sharon/Olmsted – asked everyone what they do for junk haulers. Wondering if they are registered or need license. Steele is \$25 for hauler license – if you charge for the service you need to have a hauler license. Blue Earth County charges \$225 for the hauler license and \$100 per vehicle.

Olmsted Commissioner Wright stated the Olmsted County is going for a \$10 million bond request for a sorting facility. The next level will be looking at the feasibility of an anaerobic digester. They would recover biogas from the digester and use for their own equipment and possibly others. They have also received approval from the MPCA to use ash as a road base with 1<sup>st</sup> pilot project starting in the spring. If successful, they would mine the ash landfills and eventually have a marketable product.

Next Meeting is set for Friday June 3, 2021 at the Red Wing Solid Waste Facility.

John Allen motioned and John Glynn 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Adjourned meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Rita Cole.