



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange

Technical Committee Meeting

Date: February 15, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

**Location: Blue Earth County Courthouse
204 S 5th Street - Mankato, MN**

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: Molly Kjellesvig

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Sharon Schriever
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:15	3. Regional Waste Wizard Demo -Discussion -	Sharon Schriever All
10:45	4. Olmsted County Internal Recycling Program	Sharon Schriever
11:00	5. MPCA Update	MPCA Staff
11:10	6. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	7. Other/Next Meeting	
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Meeting
Mower County (Highway Dept.)

Members present; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn, Scott Martin, Olmsted County, Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County, Rita Cole, Dodge County, Jeff Weaver, Mower County, Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing, Katie Barden, Steele County.
Also present Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Director.

January 18, 2019

Scott M. called the SEMREX meeting to order at 10:06 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 Mark, motion passed.

Scott then deferred to Sharon, for the marketing update. Sharon passed out the update. All markets have been slowly declining; possible reason is the loss of China market. Group discussed whether the news of China purchasing quite a few shuttered paper recycling plants is going to affect long term paper markets, did not seem to be any answers. See update for more information.

Sharon told us that Anne Morse from Winona County has recently contacted her in regards to organics composting. Winona County has received a \$93,000 grant from the MPCA to do a feasibility study with possible work plan in regards to a composting facility. The State is expecting this to be a regional program, so Winona is looking at either the East side of the County (with LaCrosse, WI) or the West Side of the County (with Olmsted County). Sharon/Olmsted County may take this up with a group made up of Mayo Clinic, DMC, the City of Rochester and the University of MN as this group has been discussing composting, may be a good fit with Winona County's study.

Sharon was planning on showing the group the Waste Wizard presentation but due to technical difficulties she was not able to get internet hook-up. She will try again next month.

Sharon then discussed the Regional Education Committee meeting she attended. She is on the board working on this statewide plan to try to get the recycling message to all h.h. in the State of MN. One of the major challenges is to have all Minnesotans get the same message. Since all programs are different they have come up with a list of acceptable materials that fit almost all programs. They are trying to have a unified message to get to the residents to make it less confusing to the public.

The group discussed our glass disposal problem, as it stands Envirlastech is closed but recently has been purchased by a new company with investors/funding. They will have a new name and should be re-opening this year.

MPCA UPDATE;

Due to the weather Ben was not able to attend the meeting but had emailed the information to Sharon who reported for Ben. He will be emailing the SCORE report

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information to Counties very soon. He said that Counties would again need to get their licensed hauler information to the State and would need to report the Solid Waste tonnages for the 2018 year report.

Member updates-

Olmsted County; Scott said that Olmsted has hired a replacement for John Helmers, they promoted an existing employee. Their Recycling Center Plus facility had a good year with nearly \$1.8 million in revenue, this is made up of fees on MSW and Special Wastes and the sale of recyclables. There may be some financial changes in the future as the City of Rochester is considering pursuing organized garbage collection. If the City goes through with this it would drastically reduce the amount of material brought into his facility, they would have to look at options.

Olmsted County is finished with mining the MSW landfill and have removed over 34,000 tons of ferrous which saved approximately 70,000 cubic yards of space and or gave them an additional 20 years of space in the landfill. They are now considering mining the ash landfill for non-ferrous materials.

Steele County; Katie passed around her annual recycling pamphlet which includes the recycling schedule, drop-off locations and all contact information for the recycling program, she had it printed and is currently mailing them to residents of the County. Waste Management paid for the printing and Steele County is paying for the mailing cost. She recently met with educators from River Bend Nature Center. She may hire them to do the recycling education at all of the public schools in the County for \$7,500, sounds like a good deal and will certainly get the word out to the students of the County.

Blue Earth County; Molly told the group that Scott F. has retired and the County Board may not replace him; instead may move the department under the Taxpayer Services Dept. She told us that there are a few changes going on, one is the VSQG customers will not be charged for their waste delivered to the facility, the HHW facility will now be open during the winter but only by appointment (all appointments are filled). Electronics will be accepted for \$5 each for the first five and \$15 for each one after. She will soon be attending a tour of Waste Management's facility; she will be grilling them in regards to acceptable materials as she goes through the facility and making sure that what is on her list is really being recycled!

Dodge County; Rita said that the amount of garbage and or recycling coming in has slowed down; they have 52 customers using the new self-serve garbage compactor unit. They sell the 42 gallon garbage bags for \$3.50 each, most thought that is a very reasonable price. They recently were fined for having too much garbage mixed into their recyclables when delivered to Allied MRF in the twin cities. Hopefully with the changes that they have made this will not happen again. Recently Geno from ARCA has visited them promoting ARCA's appliance processing plant.

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Red Wing: Jeff S. told us that they are no longer processing recyclables except OCC and a small amount that they may remove from the MSW. After completion of the construction possibly this October they should be at capacity. Still working with MCIT

on settlement after fire, may be about \$1.5 million. The City Council has approved the bids for new building and equipment for processing the MSW. City of Red Wing is also looking into pursuing waste assurance/ designation of the waste stream.

Mower County; Jeff W. talked about how the new addition at facility is working great and the public loves new drop off. He explained about the new conveyor that he recently had delivered and the reason why it has not been installed at his facility.

Freeborn County; Mark told the group that Freeborn County currently pays \$37,000 per month to Waste Management for the single sort recycling, he is currently paid \$41.84 per ton as a rebate, which is just taken off of the monthly fee from WM. They may have a self-OSHA audit at the Court House and or other County buildings. He said that they are sure to complain about all of his HHW scattered about the buildings and or the unsafe conditions that they create. This may be enough to get the Board to see the wisdom of building a HHW facility (he hopes).

The next meeting was set for February 15th to be held in Blue Earth County.
Rita made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff W., motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jeffrey Weaver
