



# Agenda

## Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

**Date: Friday, August 13, 2021**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: In PERSON @** Blue Earth County: **410 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mankato.**

**Second floor conference room 2401.** Park at the very top of the parking ramp on the north side of the government center- located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Come in **door F** all the way at the top of the ramp, go all the way to the end of the hallway, take a left and go all the way down that hallway to the conference room.

**Chairperson: Molly Kjellesvig**

**Note Keeper: ???**

Time	Information Items	Presenter
<b>10:00</b>	1. Call Technical Committee Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes (April 2021)	Molly Kjellesvig
<b>10:05</b>	2. Marketing Update	Sharon Schriever
<b>10:10</b>	3. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
<b>10:20</b>	4. Discuss Interest in Regional MRF	All
<b>10:30</b>	5. Discussion on Commissioner Wright's request interest on bags/packaging	All
<b>10:55</b>	6. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell
<b>11:05</b>	7. Member Updates	All
<b>11:45</b>	8. Set Next Meeting	All
<b>11:50</b>	9. Adjourn	

### Notes:

For anyone who is interested, we will be meeting the SEMREX retirees for **lunch at Pub 500** located at **500 S. Front Street** in **Mankato** at noon following this meeting.

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

# SEMREX Tech Committee

**April 30, 2021**

Present on TEAMS: Tammy Bramer, Waseca County; Katie Barden, Steele Co; Marcus Thompson, Mower Co; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth Co; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted Co; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Rita Cole, Dodge Co.

Chair Molly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to Approve the Minutes by Tammy, Second by Katie. Motion carried.

**Director and Market Update:** - OCC up \$10/ton, SOP up for April, other paper steady, Tin is up \$20 and Aluminum is up \$.04/lb. There has been 6 months of continuous gains. Fiber and plastics – there is more capacity and higher demand.

ReCollect is coming due. Cost is \$5,771/yr. It goes up 1.4% a year- highest cost for each entity will be \$670 per year. All agreed to continue.

**Regional Plan** – Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup> is an Emergency JPB meeting to discuss the options. SEMREX will recommend to the board option 1: to fully fund the project or it is a no go.

**SEMREX Website** – Molly is going to help with getting new info out there. Add social media info and REC information. Olmsted WebMaster helped set it up and we could have it updated but there would be a cost to it. Everyone is ok with keeping it basically for SEMREX – not as much for public. Others can offer info also.

There was discussion on what plastics we should be accepting at our facilities. Marcus was looking for help and info on Plastic recycling – Mower is still taking 1-7. Add to the JPB agenda so Commissioner understand the recycling process and what the MRFs are taking.

Education – Rice Co has large #'s of hit on their WasteWizard – Paul believes it is because they are still taking appts and people are looking up the prices. Checked with everyone to see how everyone was doing their education – mostly social media, newspapers, radio ads, and mailings. Olmsted does press releases a couple times a year and has a quarterly newsletter.

**MPCA Updates** – Ben mentioned that there is a company wanting to create foam glass. They would need 15,000 tons of glass per year. They are trying to site a facility in Minnesota. The 2019 SCORE report has been verified and is out. They are excited to share Reuse/Reduction as a goal and they are tying results back to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for management methods per WARM. The GHG Summary give number of metric tons of CO2 equivalent. The questions was asked if installing Water Machines (to refill water bottles) would be considered Source Reduction because of the number of water bottles being reduced because of refilling. For SCORE- concentrate on REUSE. They want everyone to meet the 35% recycling rate.

We will need to approve the JPB agenda- Sharon will remind us of when our reports are due. Meeting will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> in Dodge.

## **MEMBER Updates:**

Rice Co – Short Staffed. State reports are done. Getting the roof redone on the Recycling Center. They decided to rebuild their baler instead of buying a new one. Things are getting busy – they are trying to keep business to just Rice Co residents.

Blue Earth Co – HHW started the beginning of April. In a couple weeks they will start their leachate recirculation. They are still in negotiations with Waste Mgmt.

Steele Co – Advertised for Earth day. HHW will be opening in May

Waseca Co – Facility closed yesterday for OSHA training. People not so happy about that. HHW opens on Saturday.

Dodge Co – Still looking for seasonal help. Mark will be doing a phased retirement. Going down to 3 days per week starting June 1 and then 10 hrs. per week starting in August. Lauren Cornelius will be the new Environmental Services Direct. Getting busier. Mattresses may have slowed down a little since increasing the price to \$30. Depends on the day.

Olmsted Co – Getting busy. Mattress recycling is going well. Sending a pup load about every other day.

There is some Product Stewardship legislation that is getting some traction. Scott is sitting in on that committee. They are talking about not offering any money but the collectors would be mandated to take them. The money would go to the recyclers and the state.

Olmsted is working on updating the fee schedule – it has been 3-4 years. It will have to go through public notice. They will maintain the 5 days a week schedule at the OCRC. They have seen about a 10% savings by doing this. The MRF- Self Haul Facility feasibility study is coming to a close. The MRF looks like 23 million and the RSHF will be 8 million. It will be taken before the Committee of the Whole sometime in June. Scott believes the MRF will probably get priority. They are also updating their ordinance to allow organics processing and transportation in the county.

Mower Co – Working on getting an additional baler. HHW is busy.

Next meeting is tentatively planned for May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> – Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcus. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

# SEMREX Tech Committee

7/16/2021 Meeting Summary

**Present in person:** Tammy Bramer, Waseca County' Marcus Thompson, Mower Co; Ben Crowell, MPCA' Molly Kjellsvig, Blue Earth Co; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX

Chair Molly called the meeting order at 10:07 a.m.

This is a summary of business discussed. No formal action was taken due to a lack of a quorum.

**Director and Market Update:** The price of oil is up contributing to the increase in plastic prices. The price of lumber remains high contributing to the increased price of fiber. If ND paper from Wisconsin calls, please refer them to Sharon Schriever.

Anchor Glass is not taking separated colors. All glass now goes to Strategic. Overall, tons and prices continue to creep up.

The Waste Wizard contract was signed. Maine just passed an extended producer responsibility bill.

Commissioner Greg Wright asked us to discuss a ban on plastic bags. Mankato Zero Waste is setting up collection spots throughout Mankato. At HHW, Blue Earth accepts plastic bags that people bring in. They are discussing the possibility of accepting bags at their landfill and recycling center. All the bags go to TREX.

Marcus had a group of students tour through his facility. 38 out of the 40 do not recycle. Molly pointed out that Blue Earth County does not currently put out many documents in a second language. This is something Olmsted County intends to do.

Hormel's quality of cardboard has improved. Marcus will look into seeking their OCC.

**Tony Hill:** Looking into the possibility of creating a MRF with the potential regional planning.

- Growth of Olmsted County
- Increasing OWEF Expenses
- Lower OWEF Fuel Efficiency
- Limited OWEF Capacity
- Expansion of OWEF Timing
- Recoverable Material Leaving Region

Discussion of Integrated Solid Waste Management System

One of the goals of the MRF is to preserve the life of the landfill.

Success of OWEF

Extended Landfill Life

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Minimization (reduction in methane)

Metal Recovery

Waste continues to increase with an ever-growing community

2019 Waste Characterization

An anaerobic digester is in the works in Winona County. This presents an opportunity to collect organics at the OWEF in the future.

Tony is asking for letters of support for regional partners. Olmsted's goal is to get organics out of the OWEF. Digestate from anaerobic digestion is certifiable organic. This AD would serve as a manure outlet for large-scale feedlots. Food waste would be a relatively small percentage of the feedstock.

Mower County plans to start promoting their Waste Wizard. Molly suggested Facebook; "Trash Tip: Tuesday."

Molly asked a clarifying question if Olmsted would like recyclables, garbage, or both. Right now, Tony is only looking for recyclables but down the road, the potential exists for waste (mass-burn). We would work rebates into an annual contract. This facility would accept single stream recyclables.

MPCA Updates – Ben does not have anything to report at this time. The main thing he wanted to push is the new SCORE report that went out. The 2019 report is online. This will be a stepping stone for GHG goals for the State of Minnesota in addition to a recycling goal. Ben's intention is to bring in County folks to discuss this initiative. Ben is starting to revise a guidance document for SCORE reporting (by this fall). Retrack is changing, with more emphasis on re-use.

The goal is to track folks who don't have access to garbage service... with the intention of making a point that there is no need to make on-site burning exceptions.

## Member Updates

**Mower** – Marcus – Busy HHW, his new baler is coming soon. In the process of getting a roll-off for every small town just for OCC.

**Blue Earth** – They are working with the Compost Facility to obtain a conditional use permit. Recyclables will soon be sent to DEM-CON. WM will haul materials to DEM-CON. They have separated processing from collection. Mankato has RIB FEST, they will partner with Mankato Zero Waste to ensure that everything is compostable. Volunteers will be present to help separate items accordingly.

**Waseca** – HHW has been extremely busy. Things are going well with Hormel Cardboard. Tammy now reports to a new supervisor. Tammy currently works in the Solid Waste Division of Public Works.

**Olmsted** – We are working on an organics ordinance to allow people to site and haul organics. The Solid Waste Ordinance needs to be updated to license people who want to haul organics (with a class B license). The Zoning Ordinance will be amended to allow siting of organics facilities in Olmsted County.

Next Meeting is tentatively planned for August 13<sup>th</sup> in Mankato.

Molly called the meeting to close at 12:05 p.m.