



THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange

SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

Friday, December 3, 2021

Conference Room B

Dodge County Government Services Building (not the courthouse)

721 Main Street North (on the west side of Highway 57)

Mantorville, MN

9:30 A.M.

AGENDA

- 9:30 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call and Introductions
- 9:35 Approve June 2021 Minutes
- 9:45 Director's Report– Sharon Schriever, SEMREX
- Market Update
 - Follow-up on Plastic Bag/Bottle Reduction Request
 - Budget Report
- 10:05 Renew/Approve Professional Services Agreement with Olmsted County
- 10:10 Renew/Approve Fiscal Management Agreement with Olmsted County
- 10:15 Review/Approve 2022 Budget
- 10:25 MPCA and Legislative Update – Ben Crowell
- 10:35 Member Update Report Questions/Discussion - All
- 10:50 Set Next Meeting
- 10:55 Adjourn

**SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting
Dodge County Government Services Building
June 4, 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; Jaiden Venen, intern for Freeborn County

Present via Teams Online: Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County Commissioner; Brian Harguth, Waseca County Commissioner; Jim Purfeerst, Rice County Commissioner; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Ted Herman, Freeborn County Commissioner; Katie Barden, Steele County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County.

Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes: Mike Ankeny, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call.

Motion to approve minutes from December 4, 2020 meeting by John Allen and 2nd by Greg Wright. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes from Emergency SEMREX JPB meeting from February 22, 2021. Motion made by John Allen and 2nd by Greg Wright. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes from Emergency SEMREX JPB meeting from May 3, 2021. Motion made by Mark Piepho and 2nd by Greg Wright. Motion passed.

Director's Update:

May prices ended well. Cardboard prices have been increasing in \$5-\$10 increments. Currently up \$30 /ton since the beginning of the year. Markets are expected to keep rising because of the demand in the domestic markets.

White office paper is up \$40/ton since January 1, 2021. Plastic is also up \$35/ton. Tin is down \$20/ton. Exports have increased for paper and plastic. India is the biggest importer for paper right now.

Budget Discussion: Revenue is "Back in Black".

SEMREX took a hit in 2020. Tonnage is a little low but doing OK. In the budget worksheet 2020 shows \$1400 – Sharon will check on that. CM Disbursements are no longer on the budget because of the way the accounting is done now. We only have to do an audit every 5 years now. Market revenue is up 14% from last year. The reserve balance is down to \$77,000.

Commissioner Wright had some questions on cardboard – How do we know we are capturing all OCC. Sharon stated it is hard to know. Paul Pieper said there are different incentives, facilities do things differently, and education all make a difference. Mike Ankeny said some hauler will give incentives to big businesses such as free hauling of OCC. Ben Crowell said he would talk about capture rates in his report.

ReCollect /Waste Wizard– Sharon stated that the Olmsted County Attorney has some concerns in the wording of the ReCollect agreement regarding ability to sue. This contract is a 3-year contract instead of 2 years. Total cost for the year will be \$5,771 - \$641 per member per year. There will be an additional \$9 for each member per additional year. There was some discussion. The board agreed to renew the contract pending review of concerns by Olmsted County Attorney. Motion was made John Allen with Greg Wright 2nd. Roll Call. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Recycling Education Committee

Sharon is on the Recycling Education Committee that is working for a more uniform educational message on recycling. We need to go back to basics. They have created a guide of all materials that can and can't be recycled through Minnesota materials recovery facilities. They are working on an updated version. There is a consensus on certain items such as tin/steel, aluminum beverage cans, paper, glass, plastics 1,2, and 5 and cardboard. Sharon explained some of the markets used and what the material are made into. The list also indicates what should not go in a curbside bin such as batteries, plastic bags, egg cartons.

There was a discussion started by Greg Wright regarding a deposit on plastic bags and bottles. Thinking there should maybe be a multi-county effort on this. The tech committee will do some research on this and find out what other places are doing and pros and cons for each.

MPCA Update – Ben Crowell.

Per the previous conversation, Ben mentioned that the US does not have mandated laws on EPR like some other countries.

The Metro CON public notice is on the website for comments.

The 2019 SCORE Report is now on the MPCA website. With this information they are wanting to quantify environmental impacts and measure GHG emissions. In 2019, MN saved 4.1 million metric tons and there was a 43.5 statewide recycling rate. Ben showed us how to navigate the website to find the statewide and each county numbers.

Information on Waste to Energy - GRE closed and the restrictions on Metro disposal requirements were met for the first time in 2019.

Capture rates – They measure the amount of recycling in garbage at MRF's and landfills and add that to the rates in SCORE reports to get the totals for the capture rate percentage. The study has not been done for a while so they want to do more studies for up to date information. With the capture rate info – we could target education to what needs to be captured and also on contamination. Future SCORE reports might include talking to counties about adding GHG emissions to the Recycling rate or replace the recycling rate.

Katie Barden, Steele County wanted to know where we find the numbers for what is recycled and being used in new materials Where do manufacturers get their 1% (ex.) of recycled content.

MPCA is working on reduction guidance also – we need to figure out how to measure the reuse portion for future SCORE reports if that is going to be a bigger part of the mix.

Greg Wright – mentioned a Waste to Energy study that has come out. Sharon will send it to Ben. He also questioned how we can get a burning permit to burn wood waste but we cannot burn it in a Waste to Energy Facility.

Member Update additions –

Freeborn County – Added an e-waste collection this year. The new HHW facility was visited by Teresa Gilbertson from MPCA – next will be the Fire Department.

Rice County- starting to accept people into the facility without appointments.

Olmsted – looking at a different process for handling concrete. C & D prices are going up starting Sept 1st. It was mentioned that Veit in Rochester is no longer taking concrete for crushing.

Next Meeting is set for Friday December 3, 2021 at the Dodge County Government Services Building. John Allen motioned and Mark Piepho, second. Motion passed.

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Rita Cole.