



**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE**

*Cooperative marketing \* market development \* materials exchange*

507-328-7022

**SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting**

Friday, July 14, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Government Services Building - Conference Room 3A

320 Third Street NW

Faribault, MN 55021

**AGENDA**

-  10:00 Call Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes
  
-  10:05 Director's Update – Sharon Schriever
  
-  10:20 Regional Planning Discussion – All
  - Next Steps
  
-  10:50 MPCA Updates
  
-  11:00 Member Updates – All
  
-  12:00 Adjourn

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon

SEMREX Technical Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 19, 2017  
Blue Earth County Library, Mankato

Present: Mark Goskeson – Freeborn County, Scott Martin – Olmsted County, Ben Crowell – MPCA, Jeff Schneider – City of Red Wing, Rita Cole – Dodge County, Sharon Schriever – SEMREX, Jean Lundquist – Blue Earth County, Georgette Hanson, Waseca County, Jeff Weaver – Mower County

Meeting called to order by Scott Martin. Minutes approved on a motion by Goskeson, second by Cole.

Schriever reported that tons of material marketed is down, but revenue is only 76-cents different from last year at this time. There has been a bit of a bidding war for companies wanting #1 and #2 plastics.

Agendas for the JPB went out this morning. Everyone had their update in to be included in the packet.

#### Regional Planning Discussion

Crowell reported that since the last meeting, a couple of SEMREX members are leaning toward “no,” or are a hard “no.” He and Anna Kerr want to meet with the decision makers in those counties. A meeting has been set in Rice County, but not yet in Blue Earth County.

Weaver reported Mower is uncommitted. Olmsted is in favor, as is Steele.

Discussion of what would happen to SEMREX if not everyone want to go in a new direction. Discussion of how to pay for the planning process – SEMREX money? Payment by individual counties? A State grant? Crowell pointed out that State grants require matching funds. This money could be in-kind matching, depending on the grant applied for. A new JPB might be required to make decisions for the new group of not everyone joins in.

The current JPB needs to give the OK before individual counties are asked for a resolution. All decision-makers will be invited to attend the next JPB meeting. Crowell and Schneider will make presentation to JPB.

Crowell said in the 12-county plan in southwestern MN, each county has its own goal volume table, and each county maintains control of its own waste. There are 4 MSW landfills in the SEMREX area, and two counties plus Red Wing use the Olmsted incinerator. Regional planning will affect CON at landfills.

#### MPCA Update

CAP grant interest forms are due May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Revolution Plastics is moving into MN from WI. Cole has been involved with the program, and gave an update.

In NE MN, most waste goes to Superior Landfill, which is filling up. There are three companies that want to take the waste, but without a regional plan, and no assurances from existing county plans, no CON likely to be issued.

#### Member Updates

Red Wing: Waiting for County and/or State to ensure enough waste to operate an updated processing facility. Already spent \$1.1 million to remove boilers, \$2.7 million to update the building. It will cost \$600 thousand to get

the design, and \$4.6 million to implement the design. Waiting to see State enforce ROD, see how the lawsuit be metro county landfills proceeds, etc.

Mower: New facility is up and running – working great, including the sprinklers. HHW is busy.

Waseca: Final FT staff has been hired. He seems like a good fit – started last Monday. HHW off to a good start. Found a litter of kittens in one of the boxes. Will rent asphalt crusher space to Highway 13 project next year. \$2.00 for 4 weeks. Fire in compost last week while burning brush. There was no wind, but sparks flew into the compost and ignited it.

Dodge: The new self-serve waste depot should be ready this fall. Residents will have an access card to get into the building and dispose of waste in pre-paid bags. Cameras will be everywhere. Most people with small waste amounts self-haul rather than hire a service. Road construction will be in front of the facility, but access will be maintained.

Freeborn: HHW started and all barrels are filled, along with the building and trailers. There have been a lot of pickup loads, including a load of taped fluorescent bulbs. No intern has been hired yet. First e-waste collection is tomorrow. Recycling tons are up. Working with the city on an E.A. grant.

Blue Earth: A fire was discovered in the old cell at the landfill, in the same area as a fire about 20 years ago. The County is looking at taking over the operation of the landfill, doing away with the contract with the Ponderosa Management Company owned by Larry Biederman.

Olmsted: Recycling Center is really busy. Still open 8 – 5 on Saturdays, but this time of year, it's a money maker. They can make \$11K a day on Saturdays. They had 80,000 customer visits last year.

Currently updating the rain garden to meet storm water requirements. Doing design work for the stand-alone customer convenience building. Visited several other such facilities, and is combining the best of all of them. This will still be a residential service only building, as they still will accept only source separated materials - no commercial.

300 people visited the open house at the incinerator, and 90 people attended the shredding event, bringing 2,100 pounds of paper.

Motion to adjourn by Hanson, second by Weaver.

Submitted by

Jean Lundquist  
Blue Earth County