



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: May 25, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Red Wing Solid Waste Campus – 1873 Bench Street

Chairperson: Scott Martin

Note Keeper: Jeff Schneider

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 Planning Update	Sharon/Jeff Schneider
10:35	4. Joint Powers Board Presentation	All
10:50	5. MPCA Update	MPCA Staff
11:00	6. County Updates	All Staff
11:50	7. Other/Next Meeting	All Staff
12:00	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

**SEMREX Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 27, 2018
Blue Earth County Library, Mankato**

Present: Katie Barden, Waseca County; Rita Cole and Mark Gamm, Dodge County; Jeff Weaver, Mower County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Georgette Hansen, Waseca County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Jean Lundquist, Blue Earth County

Scott called the meeting to order at 10:04.

Sharon commented on the new format of the agenda – it is 508 compliant, meaning a reading device for a blind person can read it.

She reported that the China Sword is expanding. Prices and tons are both down, and these are challenging times. Sharon is tracking the budget, and will report on it to the JPB meeting in June.

Envirolastech is still taking glass, but they are only getting colored glass, not clear, as they are slow to pay.

Jeff S. talked to folks at Dem Con who say they only recycle plastics #1, 2, and 5, but they say they take

1 – 7 to avoid confusion. Discussion on film plastic and bags, with the consensus that messaging is important to keep them out of the recycling bin.

It is expected the JPB meeting will center on the regional planning update and discussion. Sharon and John Helmers have been in contact with Mark Rust at the MPCA, who has offered to talk to the Commissioner about SEMREX. He is hopeful about either State funding or EPA funding coming to SEMREX. Ben said there is a lot of support at the Agency for this project.

Discussion of the timeline for the project. Sharon had a consultant offer to come and talk to the group for free to make a pitch and get information. Mark G suggested interviewing 3 or 4 consultants (Wenk, Foth, Burns and McDonnell, and SEH were mentioned). Getting at least an unofficial budget is important before applying for a grant.

Ben reported more haulers are reporting numbers to the state this year. Hope to get to the point where counties no longer have to report hauler numbers for either waste or recycling.

He went to Tennessee for a Measurement Matters conference. He came back with a lot of information and some ideas for collecting and using data, including citing a difference between capture rates and recycling rates.

Waseca County

Georgette reported they are getting busier, due at least in part to an influx of out of county waste, including “mattresses by the trailer-load,” and lots of tires. She will be working on a way to charge out-of-county waste a higher price. Highway 13 construction should be finished by August. Her facility is fully staffed.

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Dodge County

Rita reported Gibson Sanitation has been sold to Waste management, so the county has only six haulers now. Craigslist provided a link to a crane and hoist they now use to move large screen TVs about. The new self-serve facility should be operational by mid-June. Their compactor came from Canada.

Steele County

Katie reported she just returned to work on Monday after a two-month maternity leave. Recycling rebates from WMI are down.

Mower County

City is having an e-waste collection in May using Retrofit and volunteers. Recycling tonnage is down, but the volume is up. Garbage volume has gone down by almost half.

Rice County

In April, summer hours mean they are open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. In the winter, only one Saturday per month. Recycling Center was at full-staff, but now one guy is off for a month. Bids were opened for a new building for recyclables, and they were lower than had been expected. A larger loader is needed for recycling. Their "art gallery" is growing – they pull pictures out and hang them on a wall. People can take what they like. Electronics and mattresses are up.

City of Red Wing

Jeff is still dealing with insurance after the fire at his facility last June 7th. A lot of revenue has been lost. Forensic accountant says \$72k, he thinks it's closer to \$400k. He is also still paying for fire watch every night. MSW is overwhelming him – his usual 120 TPD was 240 TPD last week.

Freeborn County

Mark reported they had great weather for their first HHW collection. Randy Tuchtenhagen came to the event with his new dog. Freeborn County is going truly paperless. An intern has been hired to scan 12 file cabinets of documents. The county had the last sit-down mediation with I-90. He was making bio-diesel and getting old mayo and butter by the pallet-load. With dozens of tanks for water and oil, he dumped the water into a ditch that feeds directly into the river.

Olmsted County

Scott reported he will be hiring a six-month seasonal employee for the recycling center. Recycling manager has hinted he is retiring at the end of the year, and Scott would like to get someone to shadow him. After getting lots of ammonia-based appliances, Olmsted has stopped taking them. They are too expensive to dispose of, and too dangerous. First HHW mobile collection is May 1 in Oronoco. Product Stewardship Council is tabulating matrix information from the three regional meetings it held. Early May meeting will be held to discuss.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Paul, a second by Georgette at 12:10 p.m..