



# Agenda

## Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, November 4, 2022**

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

Location: **Steele County –630 Florence Ave, - Owatonna.**

**Room 10 - Lower level at the Administration Building - 2nd door on the right**

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellesvig**

Note Keeper: **Katie Barden**

Time	Information Items	Presenter
<b>10:00</b>	1. Call Technical Committee Meeting to Order & Approve Minutes	Molly Kjellesvig
<b>10:05</b>	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
<b>10:15</b>	3. Review of Reuse Conference	Rita Cole
<b>10:30</b>	4. Joint Powers Board Agenda Review/Approval	All
<b>10:40</b>	5. MPCA Updates	Ben Crowell/Wayne Gjerde
<b>10:55</b>	6. Member Updates	All
<b>11:50</b>	7. Next Meeting – JPB December 2	
<b>11:55</b>	8. Adjourn	

### Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

## SEMREX Technical Committee Meeting

### August 26, 2022

Present: Tammy Bramer, Waseca County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Marcus Thompson, Mower Co; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth Co; Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Scott Martin, Olmsted Co; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County;

Chair Molly called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Motion to Approve the Minutes: Scott motioned approval of the minutes. Tammy seconded.

No Discussion. Motion passed.

Directors Update: No plastic price available. It is quite volatile right now and they don't want to give a price unless there is a load. PET was down 61% in July, it was down 37% in June. HDPE is down 46%. SOP is the only commodity up this month at \$305. Steel is down and they are not holding tight on pricing until there is a load to schedule. Mixed paper is down \$25/ton. The domain name is renewed for SEMREX for the year. Sharon met with ReCollect- some counties are not doing a lot with it. Proposing ways to optimize the use of the program. Go to the "Academy" section there is a promotional toolbox that has items for social media etc. They also have a banner that would work to put up when closed or when prices changes. Anthony would be willing to do a tutorial if requested.

#### Extended Producer Responsibility

Product Stewardship under SWAA. The extended portion is getting the manufacturer to take some responsibility with problem materials. The Product Stewardship Committee is serious about EPR especially in the Metro. The principles are the basis of how product stewardship should be run. The vote will be at the next SWAA Conference in September. We discussed Scott's edits to the EPR Principles. He recommends any legislation should:

- 'Protect the Environment' – change the last option to land filling instead of energy recovery. Options are not always an improvement to the environment.
- 'Promote a Fair Marketplace' – changed to funding instead of fees and clarified the end of life fees. Need to have the option for counties to charge fees – cannot take items for free unless there is financial support.
- 'Provide for Accountability' – Need the state government to have oversight of programs and enforcement statewide.

Scott would like all to review and support the changes at the SWAA Conference and show these edits are supported by the SEMREX Tech Committee.

EPR is getting pushed quickly. We want to end up with a document that we want.

Please go through and get recommendations/changes to Scott or Sharon by Sept 2.

#### MPCA Update

Ben said they create a Solid Waste Matters Newsletter on a Quarterly basis with updates for training and grants etc. Ben will make sure we are all on this list. There is a C & D planning grant available – it is multi-county. Capacity is coming to be an issue very soon and we need to find out what resources are needed to

address this issue. Need to focus more on deconstruction and reuse. Contractors don't want to take the time and there is no incentive at this time. People are taking out the old materials because they are not good materials, need to have end of life/EPR plans. The C & D rule will be changing but it is in a holding pattern currently because there has been no supervisor in that role for a year. However they are looking at some of the comments that have been received.

Discussed Solar panel and electric car battery recycling.

Grants – Ben said he would expect an RFP for the Greater MN Recycling grant to be coming soon.

County Updates –

Freeborn County – They are still receiving \$161.68 as a commodity blended rate while paying \$56. HHW is up and running. They get 35-40 per day /only open on Wednesdays. This includes electronics that are sent to Retrofit. They are thinking about starting to charge for bulbs – they currently do not charge. Taking in some lawn mowers/grills etc and taking motors off the mowers for school-small engine classes to use. They put them in their HHW reuse area. Their Environmental Services office is all at the HHW building so Mark had his staff do certification so they can help people when he is not available. They are phasing out making appointments since they can handle most of it on Wednesdays. Freeborn Solid Waste Plan went through resolution.

Waseca County – HHW collection ends at the end of September. Open Wednesday and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September. Their lot is now covered with bituminous.

Dodge County – Have got a contractor to do the Capping of the demolition landfill. Accepting bids for RFP for the ReUse Center until September 6. Mailed out a flyer in the DCI Advantage to rally support for a new Transfer Station Building through a bonding bill to be presented in 2023.

Mower County – HHW is busy. Recycling at the fair had a good turn out. 500 lbs of plastic/cans and 600-800 lbs. of OCC. There are 160 garbage cans put out at the fair and thinking they need to 1 for 1 on the recycling bins. Pushed vendors to use bottles and cans instead of cups. Mower is wrapping up their Solid Waste Mgmt Plan. They are putting the idea of accepting electronics on hold for now. Recycling Assessment on taxes – may change to be worded as a solid waste fee. The fee is based on a points system so is not the same for everyone.

Olmsted County – Landfill is adding a C & D area to existing C & D/ additional 5 acres. They are waiting on new rules. Trying to process some through the OWEF. Mixed loads are MSW. Ben mentioned DEM-CON does shingle recycling – has to be mixed in with other asphalt to be used. Olmsted doing an Ash Project – they are going to do a landfill road with 30% ash. This is in the testing phase. Long term hopes are to use for roadbeds in Olmsted County. MRF bonding – got delayed with legislature. Going forward with 80% design in 2023 and new residential self-haul facility with some sustainability. Hoping for a sustainability business to utilize the land to the east of Energy Parkway –and use steam from the OWEF.

Still working through the registration process for Junk Haulers - they can now weigh on the OWEF scale and if meet requirements they can go to the landfill. Eventually if they also meet requirements, they will be able to go to the OWEF. Have 4 classes of licenses. Class A – all waste Class B – Organics Class C – roll-off and Class D will be junk haulers. They are still working on their Solid Waste Plan. They had an intern that created a jeopardy game on the OWEF for kids that toured and it was a great learning tool.

Blue Earth County – Annual Business bulb collection is complete. Xcel pays for the Blue Earth County – Annual Business bulb collection is complete. Xcel pays for the event. Will be doing more education – Mankato Zero Waste and BE County will be hosting a Friends of the Environment Event in September. They are currently collecting plastic film. Blue Earth County is turning in their new permit. Moving back into old cell – saddle is full. Will be developing new cell in spring.

Next Meeting set for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

Motion to adjourn – 1<sup>st</sup> by Tammy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcus. Motion approved.