



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, October 27, 2023**

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

Location: **Steele County Administration Center** – 630 Florence Avenue – Board Room

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellsvig**

Note Keeper: **Katie Barden**

Time	Information Items	Presenter
10:00	1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes	Molly Kjellsvig
10:05	2. Director's Update	Sharon Schriever
10:15	3. Review the Draft SEMREX JPB Legislative Platform	All
10:45	4. Joint Powers Board Agenda Future of SEMREX?	All
11:00	5. MPCA Update	MPCA Staff
11:10	6. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	7. Schedule Next Meeting	
11:59	8. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting
Meeting Held at Waseca County Hwy Department
September 29th, 2023

Present: Scott Martin, Olmsted County; Sharon Schriever, Olmsted County; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Paul Piper, Rice County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; Ben Crowell, MPCA, Brian Harguth, Waseca County; and Jim Kollar, Waseca County

Call Meeting to Order: Molly Kjellesvig called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Rita and seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Director's Update:

- Mixed Paper up.
- Cardboard pricing slight increase
- Plastic Pricing Down.
- Steel leveled out.
- Tin & Aluminum down in September.
- We also had a discussion on paper mills closing and some new ones opening.

Semrex Priorities for 2024 legislation:

- Extended Producer Responsibility #1
 - #1 Batteries
 - #2 E-waste
 - #3 Solar Panels – Bullet Point under E-waste
 - #4 Mattresses
- Marketing groups for commodities #2 (any mandated items must have marketing)
 - #1 Glass
 - #2 Tires
 - #3 Plastic Film
- Cap Assistance Programs #3
- Preserving Waste Management Hierarchy #4

What to Change from SWAA to SEMREX

- State will be more involved in helping bridge the gap between producers and Solid Waste
 - County Indemnification – No Liability to county programs

MPCA Update:

- Greater Minnesota Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting Grants – Applications due by Wednesday, November 15th.
- Ben suggested to review the Metro Policy Plan when working on new Solid Waste Plans for ideas.
- Grants for proper battery storage in the works.

Member Updates:

Dodge

- Gathering Engineering Firm quotes for new transfer station going to board with these soon.
- Working on reuse building and grant to finish building

- Went to SWAA conference the week before.
- Went to one of the hospitals and was able to gather a few things to help stock the reuse center.
- 1st week in October sending out information on the Reuse Center in the tax statements.

Olmsted

- Labor has been difficult to retain still looking for more help
- Been busy working due to lack of personnel
- Having a Legislative tour House and Senate to prioritize the Reuse and Recycling Center
- Working on Organics and Food reuse.
- New MRF should be built by 2025.
 - o Community Drop Off & Reuse Center – 2027
- Potential partnership with Mayo to process their recycling.
- Applied for a Green Corps worker for 2024, none are available.
- Working on organics recycling. Have a Green Corp Worker starting will be working on Food waste and food coalition.

Rice

- Scale house is up and running working out bugs
- Main Offices are gutted have a trailer office
- Thermal event update it is out and liner is getting tested to ensure no damage and can start to refill the cell.
- Mixed Recycling working with Demcon it is working well.
- HHW paint not a lot of reuse but lots of bulbs this year.
- Hired Chipping company Mdewakanton Sioux SMSC Facility
- Staffing is needed
- Rice has a Green Corp member @ the government center for Environmental work

Mower

- Broke ground on attrition it is taking time.
- Starting to collect film and pulling it out of the stream also collecting from Lions Clubs
- Received new fork lift waiting for charger to arrive

Redwing

- City has funding issues and may be some big cuts coming down the line. 16% Levey increase.
- The facility is fee based hoping they will be able to maintain and be okay but could end up with Layoffs in the public works area.
- Will be lots of cuts in the City of Redwing and will impact a large amount of areas.
- Looking to purchase a shredder
- Wanamingo Demo Landfill is closing – they are looking into what they can do to help service the customers locally.

Blue Earth

- Getting started on Solid Waste Plan
- Business collection of bulbs through Demcon
- Recycling Center renewed WM contract for 2 yrs.
- Plans to have Recycle and Reuse at the landfill
- New Cell is permitted and starting on it.

Waseca

- Composting pad is open and working well.
- Drive way and lot resurfaced
- HHW closed for the season

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Next Meeting: The next technical meeting will be held in Steel County Oct. 27th

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Paul, seconded by Marcus. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 pm.