



# Agenda

## Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, September 29, 2023**

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

Location: **Waseca County** – Highway Department: 1495 5<sup>th</sup> ST SE, Waseca

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellsvig**

Note Keeper: **Tammy Bramer**

| Time         | Information Items  | Presenter        |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| <b>10:00</b> | 1. Call to Order & Approve Minutes   | Molly Kjellsvig  |
| <b>10:05</b> | 2. Director's Update   | Sharon Schriever |
| <b>10:15</b> | 3. Review the SWAA Platform and Develop JPB Legislative Product Stewardship Platform   | All              |
| <b>10:45</b> | 4. Discuss Thoughts on the Future of SEMREX  | All              |
| <b>11:00</b> | 5. MPCA Update   | MPCA Staff       |
| <b>11:10</b> | 6. Member Updates  | All Staff        |
| <b>11:55</b> | 7. Schedule Next Meetings – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tech Committee October 20 or 26</li><li>• Others to finalize legislative platform?</li></ul> |                  |
| <b>11:59</b> | 8. Adjourn   |                  |

### Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

**SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Held at Ponderosa Landfill**  
**August 25<sup>th</sup>, 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; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Mark Manderfeld, Blue Earth County; Molly Kjellesvig, Blue Earth County; and Ben Crowell, MPCA.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Molly Kjellesvig called the meeting to order at 9:59 am.

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

**Director's Update:**

- Fibers down.
- Fibers plant opening in Texas, one closing in Iowa.
- Blue Earth County shipped their first load to LDI.
  - Extra time for getting loading patterns down were waived our first time.
- Cardboard pricing flat since June. OCC - \$62.50
- Red Wing won't be shipping fibers through SEMREX.
- Plastic Exports down 7%

**Legislative Priorities:**

- Olmsted County has a position statement on EPR that SEMREX agrees with.
- Product Stewardship for PPE is priority for 2024 legislative session.
- Bottle Bill Discussion
  - Product stewardship model better than bottle bill.
  - Bottle bill incorporates language for MN only redemption.
  - State should have a universal model for EPR.
- SEMREX JPB Commissioner's have requested we gather each county's priorities by our December meeting.
  - Review & Update Olmsted County Position Statement
  - Each county for the September meeting should have their county's legislative priorities / position outlines for us to create a SEMREX position statement.
  - Need to find out who initiated the Bottle Bill.
  - Review SWAA 2024 Legislative Priorities.
- SEMREX should have lithium-ion battery EPR as a priority due to the number of thermal events we have had occur at our facilities.

**MPCA Update:**

- Greater Minnesota Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting Grants – Applications due by Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Cannabis Legislation – many counties have passed moratoriums.
  - Can review new regulations & sign up for legislative updates on the Office of Cannabis Management's website.

- Hauler Reporting – guidance document being provided by State, will show your compliance level with haulers utilizing your waste system.

### **Member Updates:**

#### Olmsted

- Labor has been difficult to retain.
- 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.
- Scott informed us that October 31<sup>st</sup> – hazardous waste fees are increasing. Try to get your load outs done by then.

#### Mower

- Breaking ground on recycling center addition for electronics.
- Already been paid for Q2 of their Paint Care report.

#### Rice

- Starting construction on new scale house.
- Currently averaging a thermal event a week due to lithium-ion batteries.

#### Dodge

- Having a difficult time finding a staff person for the product reuse center. They are currently using drop-off appointments for residents to bring their reusable items. Costs \$5 per load.
- Currently applying for funding for a new transfer station.

#### Waseca

- Composting pad opening soon, Ben will do a walk through.

#### Freeborn

- Shipped out hazardous and electronic waste recently.

#### Blue Earth

- Small thermal event at HHW occurred from a lithium-ion battery.
- Finished our second hazardous waste load out of the season.
- MFS Recycling Compost Facility (privately owned) will officially close the week of Thanksgiving.
- Recycling contract & facility running status quo.
- New product reuse area in customer service building of landfill.
- Recycled total amount of cardboard collected at landfill last year in 2 months. First load of cardboard shipped out.

**Next Meeting:** The next technical meeting will be held in Waseca Co. on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting by Paul, seconded by Tammie. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 pm.