



THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RECYCLERS' EXCHANGE

cooperative marketing * market development * materials exchange

SEMREX JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB) MEETING

Friday, June 7, 2024

Conference Room B

Dodge County Government Services Building (not the courthouse)

721 Main Street North (on the west side of Highway 57)

Mantorville, MN

9:30 A.M.

AGENDA

9:30	Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call and Introductions
9:35	Approve June 2024 Minutes
9:40	Director's Report– Sharon Schriever, SEMREX • Market Update • Budget Report
10:00	2024 Agreements: • Professional Services Agreement • Fiscal Management Agreement
10:10	2025 Budget Review & Approval
10:15	Review & Approve SEMREX 2025 Legislative Priorities - Molly Kjellsvig, Blue Earth County
10:30	MPCA & Legislative Update – Ben Crowell, MPCA
10:40	Member Update Report Questions/Discussion - All
10:55	Set Next Meeting - June 6, 2024
11:00	Adjourn

SEMREX Joint Powers Board Meeting
Friday June 7, 2024

Present: Sharon Schriever, SEMREX; Journey Malacina, Olmsted County Intern; Mike Cook; Olmsted County Associate Env Resources Director; Rita Cole, Dodge County; John Allen, Dodge County Commissioner; Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Nicole Ekstrom, Freeborn County Commissioner; Mike Ankeny, Mower County Commissioner; Paul Pieper, Rice County; Jim Purfeerst, Rice County Commissioner; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing; Greg Wright, Olmsted County Commissioner; Molly Kjellsvig, Blue Earth County; Katie Barden, Steele County; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Jim Kollar, Waseca County Public Works; Brian Harguth, Waseca County; Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County Commissioner;

John Allen-chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 am

Roll Call and introductions.

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion - Greg Wright

2nd – Mike Ankeny

Motion approved.

Director update – Tons are down from last year. May prices on sheet – Paper prices are flat. Up in the \$130-145 for OCC. Last year cardboard was \$40-60/ton. Aluminum is \$.94/lb. Steel is down a little bit.

Total revenue is up 22% but marketing revenue from sales is down 14%. This typically goes up as prices go up.

Budget – Olmsted made some changes to their coding – line items are different.

They combined Professional Services – into the 6298 line item. Same with 6288 under other services – disbursements to others and to government combined. Cash balance is \$80,607. \$30-35,000 coming out of that \$80K. Balance about same as last year. In the middle of an audit – so audit fee will be coming out by the next meeting. This will be around \$5000.

MPCA - Legislative report –

Need to figure out where we are going to get resources for all the renewable energy and batteries. Doing a study. End of life of these materials – need to have the materials to contain the batteries etc and all is very expensive to prevent and contain fire. Task force being created. EPR passed for packaging in MN – producers are partially responsible for the EOL of their packaging. Producers will be charged a fee. Will fund public education and a needs assessment every 5 years.

No additional funding this year for SCORE or solid waste. No Capital funding either.

Routeware/Waste Wizard Agreement- Much better price by combining all entities- \$760 for this year. Olmsted Purchasing staff reviewed the contract.

Motion to approve the Waste Wizard agreement –
Motion – Jim Purfeest
2nd – Nicole Ekstrom
Motion approved.

Olmsted County MRF Update – Mike Cook

The new facility will be a multi-function system to pull out noncombustible and inert material out of the waste – mostly metal. It will also include equipment that will process single-stream material also. Residuals will end up in the OWEF instead of in a landfill in the cities. Looking to the future for processing organic materials. Will be a regional facility. Staff is working through design layouts – waiting for 30% design to start procuring equipment and the building. Construction-ground-breaking beginning of 2025 (March). Commissioning of the facility beginning of 2026. The future recycling building is being tabled for now.

Added about 50% footprint to the original building site. The tipping floor will remain in the same area but MRF will expand the tipping floor. There will be 2 sides – one is MSW the other will be SS then some organics separate.

Organics processing is still in the works – not sure what will happen with it as of yet. Watching Ramsey with their blue bag. Looking at possible outlets – AD or composting etc. Adding education space and office space in the new building as well. Will be able to process 60 tons per hour on garbage – 100,000-110,000 tons/yr current to OWEF. They receive just short of 500 tons per day. Single-stream will process 20 tons per hour 10,000 – 20,000 tons per year. There will be more than 1 shift but less than two. Will have a trommel screen at the beginning. They have 3 different scenarios for MSW. Will determine which way they decide to go. Have a flow chart of what the estimated tonnage would be for processing results. 78-80 % recovery of single-stream and 7.5% recovery from MSW. Olmsted just did a Waste audit. They will spec out trommels and screening equipment within the next month. Jeff Schneider asked if removing organics would make the OWEF burn too hot. Expecting the heat to go up 13-14% - working through that with the operators and change in the ash composition. Cost is now at \$32-33 million. Bonded for 17.5 million. Original project was 24 Million before COVID. Next step will be figuring out realistic numbers for what capacity will be. Figuring that Olmsted County will grow from 160,000 to possibly 200,000 in population over the next few years. They will need to plan for this in the hope of more diversion of organics etc.

Member updates –

Olmsted County – starting pilot program for purchasing 26 compostable bags for organics online. Icart just got going yesterday. GreenRU is picking it up.

Dodge – Has been some turmoil over Hometown Haulers being bought out by WM. Will be waiting to see how this affects our numbers for recycling. Harters and Aspen are new haulers in Dodge. Harters has been pushing hard for the curbside waste. ReUse Center will have their 7th sale June 8th. KM Lions Club will be running the sales for the summer. New scheduled hours of 1st and 3rd Mondays from 1-5 p.m. for drop off only. Otherwise appointments can still be scheduled. There is now concrete in front of the building and a Lions Club bench made from plastic bags. SEMREX members are welcome to come for a tour after the meeting.

Marcus – Mower County – electronics addition has been going for about 5 weeks. 10,000 lbs and \$3500 revenue in these few weeks. Did a soft open – did not advertise. 30-40 more people on Wednesdays than usual.

Molly – Blue Earth County – hiring new waste & recycling planner. Plans to create a solid waste campus in the next 4-5 years. Landfill takeover – able to take 2.5 X more recycling than usual. Reuse area – 24 tons diverted.

Trying to slow down the filling of landfill – within 5 years need to expand.

Waseca County – HHW opened this month- shipped 1st load to 7 rivers. Compost is doing well. They will screen sometime this fall. 25-year-old concrete has been crushed and mixed with asphalt. Recycling is steady. New signs up.

Freeborn County – E-waste was sent with Mower County.

Red Wing – organics feasibility study is in the final stage. Doing a pilot project in some of the neighborhoods – about 50 residents with bags tossed in garbage cans. Will pull bags by hand. Did get a mobile shredder – it is awesome. Using the shredder to shred oversized and bulky items previously going to Olmsted and landfills. Hoping over ½ will be processed. This just started in May. Ended up with a Comtech machine. Has been great service. Have a 30m000 ton contract to Xcel.

Rice County – finally finishing up tin put on the outside of the building office expansion. Added another scale, new gates, and roads are completed. Experiment – Ts building loading from top – have had trouble with the lip over the pit – made some separate pieces that attach to the wall so when one gets bent then they can just replace it instead of one large piece. Paul will send me pictures.

Steele County – working on solid waste plan. They are working on moving the demo pit into the MSW pit. They have Thompson Sanitation for the collection instead of WM.

Next Meeting Friday - December 6th, 2024

Motion to adjourn

Motion – Mike Ankeny

2nd – Nicole Ekstrom

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

Rita Cole

Dodge County