



# Agenda

## Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, May 16, 2025**

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

Location: **Red Wing Solid Waste Campus – 1873 Bench St. Red Wing, MN**

Chairperson: **Rita Cole**

Note Keeper: **Jeff Schneider**

| Time         | Information Items                           | Presenter              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>10:00</b> | 1. Call to Order / Introductions            | Rita Cole / All        |
| <b>10:05</b> | 2. Approve Minutes                          | Rita Cole              |
| <b>10:10</b> | 3. Director's Update                        | Sharon Schriever       |
| <b>10:20</b> | 4. Review/Approve Joint Powers Board Agenda | Sharon Schriever       |
| <b>10:25</b> | 5. Brainstorm Regional Partnering Options   | All                    |
| <b>10:55</b> | 6. MPCA Update                              | Ben Crowell/Tim Farnan |
| <b>11:05</b> | 7. Member Updates                           | All Staff              |
| <b>11:55</b> | 8. Next Technical Committee Meeting – July  |                        |
| <b>12:00</b> | 9. Adjourn                                  |                        |

### Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

# SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Blue Earth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

**Present:** Ben Crowell, Sharon Schriever, Mark Goskeson, Rita Cole, Paul Pieper, Scott Martin, Taylor Piotter

**HHW Facility Tour:** Molly Kjellesvig from Blue Earth County toured the group around the HHW facility.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Rita Cole called the meeting to order at 10:35am.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve by Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark. Motion passed.

**Director's Update:** Sharon

- Cardboard prices staying relatively flat at Liberty and OBM. Georgia Pacific had notably higher prices (\$2.50/ton ^)
- Tariffs do not seem to have a significant impact on our metal and other recycling markets yet. Aluminum prices up, steel up \$30/ton.
- Plastic prices had a slight increase (\$10/ton).
- 9-Dragons unshuttering their facility in Byron (liner board and paper).
- Strategic purchased by another company, unsure of the ramifications of that purchase at this time.
- Total revenue slightly down from last year, short material (81 tons). Seems that more businesses are doing their own cardboard marketing given good prices.

**Olmsted County Mattress Recycling:** Scott

7-Rivers Contract with Olmsted County needs to be changed given continued closure/issues with 7-Rivers. Procurement policy at Olmsted limits their capacity to send mattresses to another facility without a bid process.

Olmsted proposed that they use SEMREX as a broker for mattresses to help expedite the process after receiving approval from their Board. Other counties would be welcome to follow suit should the need arise.

Sharon noted that the Joint Powers Board granted her approval, as Executive Director, to set fees for SEMREX as needed, but she would like the support of the Technical Committee, and will update the Joint Powers Board of any changes at the June meeting.

A motion was made by Paul to “approve the sale of mattresses through SEMREX for a fee of \$60/load with all recycling charges and transportation paid for by the member”. Taylor seconded the motion.

A vote was taken: All members in favor. No opposition.

Members had a brief discussion of current mattress marketing/capacity of existing markets at 7-Rivers, Second Chance, and Evergreen (Pine City). Noting that capacity is limited across the state, may want to consider the possibility of a regional recycling system for mattresses (discussion to continue).

### **MPCA & Legislative Updates: Ben**

Legislatively, a player in the metro area has been challenging the statutory guideline of “cannot charge more for folks who recycle vs. those who do not” on the basis of making curbside organics collection feasible. MPCA does not support this change.

Solid Waste Management Tax and the status of legislative actions to increase the % of tax going to SCORE was discussed. Seems to be in a holding pattern currently, no indication whether it will move forward at this time. (Existing structure for SWMT allocation is 70% to Env't. Fund, 27% to General Fund, 3% to SCORE (following the previous increase)).

Ben is still working on the SCORE report information from big box stores. The information should be provided to counties soon. The 2023 SCORE report finally went out on 3/12/25 after a lengthy review process. Added a few new visuals and longer-term GHG analyses to the report.

Spring SCORE payments are out in April, will not be released until annual reporting is submitted.

Wayne Gerdes and Jennifer Volkmann are retiring very soon. Susan Heffron and Michele Carter taking over for these positions moving forward.

### **Member Updates:**

- **Freeborn:** Mark is working on tire cleanup throughout the county. Issues with enforcement on select properties.
- **Olmsted:** End of year reporting in full force, lots of work on MRF and final application for CAP funding (anticipated dig time is April of 2026). Olmsted is seeking letters of support for an additional \$5 million direct appropriation from the State to maintain accessory programs/office space in the new MRF due to increasing costs of construction. Gearing up for a new year with a new forklift and skidloader.
- **Blue Earth:** Working on end-of-year reporting, SWMP, certificate of need for the Ponderosa. Blue Earth is seeking letters of support for a direct appropriation from the State for an expansion to the landfill building. Facility will improve the county's capacity for reuse, recycling, and ongoing waste management.
- **Rice:** Currently using a rental loader for recycling activities, the existing loader is down for unplanned maintenance. Leasing a dozer until next year due to a fire in the old unit. Putting in litter control fence in select areas around the facility to reduce windblown litter. Working on annual reporting for SCORE and HHW.

- **Dodge:** The Reuse building is making great progress. The road in front of the building should be happening this year. Despite challenges at the facility, things are coming together. Breaking ground April 2<sup>nd</sup> for a new building.

**Additional Discussion:** Discussing actionable results from our monthly meetings, especially regarding multi-county programming and coordination. The suggestion was made to take a few minutes at each meeting to discuss multi-county efforts and pitch ideas for collaborative efforts, given the State's preference for regional planning and regional projects. Discussion to continue.

**Next Meeting:** April 25<sup>th</sup>?

**Motion to Adjourn:** Paul motioned to adjourn, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.