



Agenda

Southeast Minnesota Recyclers' Exchange Technical Committee Meeting

Date: **Friday, October 18, 2024**

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

Location: **Red Wing Solid Waste Facility – 1873 Bench Street, Red Wing, MN**

Chairperson: **Molly Kjellsvig**

Note Keeper: **Jeff Schneider**

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. Revenue Share	All
10:25	4. Legislative Platform Discussion	All
10:50	5. SEMREX Vision	All
11:00	6. MPCA Update	Ben Crowell
11:10	7. Member Updates	All Staff
11:55	8. Next Meeting – November 15?	All
12:00	9. Adjourn	

Notes:

If you cannot attend, please contact Sharon.

SEMREX Tech Committee Meeting
September 13th, 2024
Meeting at Mower County Public Works

Present: Marcus Thompson, Mower County; Molly Kjellsvig, Blue Earth County; Taylor Poitter, Blue Earth County; Scott Martin, Olmsted County; and Sharon Schriever, SEMREX Tim Farnen, MPCA; Gabi Rosenthal, MPCA Mark Goskeson, Freeborn County; Rita Cole, Dodge County; Tammie Bramer, Waseca County; Jeff Schneider, City of Red Wing.

Call Meeting To Order: Chair Molly Kjellsvig called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Marcus and 2nd by Rita. The motion passed at 10:01 a.m.

Director's Update:

OCC prices are down \$5/ton but have been flat for the past six months negotiating with LDI for better pricing. They are about double compared to 2023. Other fibers remained flat. Mixed plastics were down \$30/ton to \$160/ton. Plastic prices are up \$5/ton for September. This is up over \$65/ton from last year. Tin prices are up a bit from the last couple of months. Aluminum (UBC) prices have been inching down since June. Myplas will be reopening soon. Anchor Glass had a thermal event from a liquid spill. Sharon will be gone from October 8-11 of October for recycling conference in Kansas.

Web Page Revamp: looking for input on website ideas.

Legislative Platform Discussion:

Discussion: Producers / Manufacturers should be obligated to fully fund (collection, transportation, & disposal) the expense of the program and must not rely on local government/citizen financing. By making it the manufacturers' responsibility they will make products with less packaging and are easily recyclable.

Better clarification of what is considered E-Waste.

BATTERIES: Consolidate existing statutes on battery management under a comprehensive battery product stewardship system that ensures proper management of all batteries and products containing non-removable batteries, prioritizing rechargeable batteries, lithium batteries, and battery technologies and applications that pose health and safety risks.

A lot of discussion about embedded batteries.

SEMREX supports maintaining Minnesota's Waste Management Hierarchy as currently constituted in MN Statute §115A.02. Although SEMREX's primary focus is on waste reduction and recycling efforts, our organization understands the importance and realities of managing waste to effectively protect human health and the environment. SEMREX supports the preservation of the current waste management hierarchy to retain the renewable energy designation. Waste-to-energy facilities are a critical component of waste management in southern Minnesota with three of the remaining facilities in the state located in the region.

Market Development

SEMREX supports coordinated statewide market development for recyclable and problem materials. Market development efforts should: strengthen existing and establish new commodity markets, develop

and support high-value uses of recovered materials, and create demand for recycled materials and products.

Capital Assistance Program

SEMREX supports fully funding the bonding requests for proposed solid waste management projects as a partial match to the funds that counties invest in infrastructure for safe and environmentally sound management of solid waste in response to state mandates and goals. Prioritizing Greater Minnesota.

Introductions

MPCA Update

- Funding now available for waste reduction, reuse, recycling or composting projects in Greater MN.
- Wood waste grant will be released soon.
- 2nd round of product reuse grant.
- Score money will be disbursed soon with an increase.
- Received Funding from EPA for waste composition study
- Federal funding CPRG of 2 million.

County Updates:

Olmsted:

- 136 people participating in the new organics drop-off collecting 4000 lbs. of food.
- Starting food rescue pilot, connecting vendors and food service and food pantry organizations, through an app.
- HHW is going smoothly, finished up mobile collection
- Recycling Center has had a very good financial year
- A lot of planning going on for the new MRF (60 ton an hour for MSW)
 - 50,000 Sq ft.

Dodge:

- Transfer station has been approved
- Reuse room has gone from 2 times a month to every Monday- Diverting over 14 tons
- Recycling is down with the new haulers and collecting a rebate

Freeborn:

- Commodity value is up to \$110 a ton
- Compost bin sign up at the fair over 200 signed up
- Working with Mower County to deliver E-waste to dynamic saving big money
- Scale was stolen

Redwing:

- Doing awesome
- Up 25% sending material to Excel
- shredder is awesome
- pilot project for compostable bags

Waseca:

- working on SW plan
- HHW is closing for the winter

- Looking at pulling stuff out of the garbage for reuse
- Composting is going well

Blue Earth:

- Welcome Taylor and is working on SW management plan
- Mankato zero waste put on a fix-it clinic
 - Very well received
- Looking at hosting an Electronics collection event
- 28 tons pulled from the tipping floor and sent to reuse

Mower:

- New business making apple pies, looking for options for food to animals or SSO
- Looking into back yard composting
- Electronics Collection has been a huge success
- Have put in for another FTE to help with HHW and Recycling Education

Set Next Meeting: The next Technical Meeting was set for October 18th at Redwing

Motion to End Meeting: Motion by Retia, 2nd by Tammie. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.m.