

Chisago County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: December 10, 2015

Members Attending: Mike Robinson, Rick Green, Janelle Troupe, Lisa Thibodeau, Kurt Schneider, Monica Kinny, Ralph Carlson, Dave Hoefler, Terry Flor, Wayne Gjerde, Kristy Dreckman, Dale Bergfalk, Rick Prah, Rick Olseen.

- I. Lisa Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- II. Minutes from the meeting held on 6/11/15 were handed out.
- III. Unfinished Business:

- a. None

- IV. New Business:

- a. ECSWC: Janelle Troupe, Director – Update

Janelle Troupe presented a report that was prepared with the intent of improving congestion and increasing efficiency at the transfer station. The report states that to build additional structures or extend the existing building would involve new rules for collecting runoff as leachate. An additional staff member was added on Mon. and Fri., as well as another trailer. Congestion issues generally arise when an employee misses work or things break down.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) stated that the Solid Waste Management Plan is basically complete with a few minor changes. The entire process has taken 3 years. Approval will require a 30 day review and public comment period. The County Board needs to approve the plan and then it will go for approval by the MPCA commissioner. Private parties are charged \$15 for the scale fee, which discourages private hauling and encourages residents to utilize a waste hauler. Wayne Gjerde stated that there may be opportunities to sell or dispose of pallets for recycling, and he will provide Lisa Thibodeau with a list of 25 - 28 pallet recyclers in the state.

- b. MPCA: Wayne Gjerde, Recycling Market Development Coordinator - Update

Wayne Gjerde has been reviewing the value of materials that were thrown away since 1992. Much of what is thrown away today is plastic film and bags. Ag plastics meeting took place in St. Cloud at the end of November. RotoChop has developed a blade to chop Ag film for processing, and Master Mark makes lawn edging out of plastic film. Semrex is a joint powers group marketing \$650,000 worth of material, OCC \$80/ton, and old magazines \$90/ton. Mixed paper is not worth much now due to quality and contamination, though some of it gets used as insulation. Aluminum is currently worth 46 cents/pound. Not enough PT is collected to make an efficient recycling process. The technology for optical sorting of comingled 3-7 plastics is progressing. An opportunity exists for textiles to be turned into *respin*, and then into new materials. This can be used for rags, and old jeans can be made into insulation. Both are areas with opportunities for future expansion. China is dumping a lot of paper into the U.S. markets. Not much money has been invested in end markets since 2002. Consolidation and joint marketing is becoming the trend. Prices are stabilizing: not as high as they were but are more sustainable at current levels. One interesting trend is that Amazon Prime is generating lots of cardboard, so they are considering bypassing FEDEX and getting their own delivery

fleet. Maybe they will retrieve their own packaging? There has been an unfortunate trend of companies moving away from using recyclable materials. In 2016 recyclable prices may rise – the market may have bottomed out and could level off this year.

Office of Representative Rick Nolan: Rick Olseen, Staff - Steel Markets Update
Globally, an Australian company is mining iron ore and dumping it into U.S. markets, making recycled steel prices drop. 1700 miners were laid off in northern Minnesota as a result. Congressman Nolan introduced a bill to ban importing steel for 5 years. In the past, tariffs have been imposed on steel imports with same the effect. A tariff would happen much more quickly than a bill. Reagan and Bush both imposed a tariff on steel and it could happen again.

The Solid Waste tax goes to a variety of places. Wayne Gjerde will send the breakdown to Lisa and she can disperse to interested parties. Lisa Thibodeau suggested that the East Central haulers get together and contact legislators to recommend subsidies for recycling. Currently there is no state association for waste haulers, which would make coordination more efficient. Under current statutes, haulers are mandated to collect recyclables but are losing money in the process because they are not allowed to charge for the service. Some counties in Minnesota charge a per parcel fee for recycling. It was recommended to have Ann Morris from Winona (County?) attend the next meeting to discuss their county's parcel fee and hauler tax to help with recycling costs. In an effort to make recycling more feasible for haulers, it would seem reasonable to subsidize the plastics market up to a certain break-even price. Perhaps haulers could look into other MURFs for recycling, for example: Eureka NE.

- c. County Update:
 - i. Chisago County: Kurt Schneider, Environmental Services/Zoning Director - Recycling Contracts Update
The base subsidy of \$50,000 will remain and a bonus incentive will be offered with a 10% increase in recycling rates. The suggestion was made to award a 1% bonus for a 1% increase on up, in addition to the 10% incentive. Problem materials are currently at \$60,000, and the county would be offering another \$15,000 as incentive. The state legislature mandated a 35% recycling rate from our county, the increase being measured by weight.
- V. Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2016, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- VI. Adjourn at 3:24 p.m.