

Chisago County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2017

Members Attending: Rick Green, Janelle Troupe, Lisa Thibodeau, Kurt Schneider, Monica Kinny, Dave Hoefler, Terry Flor, Randy Triplett, Denise Martin, Eric Brown, John Dreckman, Dale Bergfalk, and Mark Nelson.

- I. Lisa Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- II. Minutes from the meeting held on 6/9/17 were handed out.
- III. Unfinished Business:
- IV. New Business:
 - a. ECSWC Update from Director Janelle Troupe: Janelle created a cheat sheet of business services provided by each hauler and requested each hauler fill it out and return it to her. Normal hours for the Transfer Stations are 8:00 – 4:00 throughout January and February. The Mora and Hinckley stations will be closed on two Saturdays, but Cambridge will be open every Saturday. A reminder: Cambridge stays open late any Saturday after a holiday that they've been closed. All will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
 - b. Discussion continued from last meeting, that some of the waste going through as Municipal Solid Waste, is actually industrial and Demo, and if tracked separately may bring recycling rate up. Discussion on manifesting Industrial waste.
 - c. No rate increase until July 1st; at that time the increase will tentatively be 2%. The end date of the Solid Waste Delivery Agreement is December 31, 2017, (this agreement has been in effect for 3 years). Upcoming questions regarding this agreement: How many years do you want it to be in effect, do you prefer the cash rebate every quarter?
 - d. County Update: Licenses went out a couple of weeks ago, and we will be migrating to an online system of payment via credit card. Online licensing forms will be available soon, but paper will still be acceptable. Statute requires the county to provide at least one site for residents to drop off their recycling, and with WM pulling out of the northern part of the county, have lost one of the drop off sites, ideally the county would like to locate one in each the north, central, southern, and eastern portions of the county and is assessing the options.
 - e. Hauler-Imposed Collection Fees: Billing systems have changed with several haulers. The Minnesota Statute reads: "A licensing authority shall prohibit mixed municipal solid waste collectors from imposing a greater charge on residents who recycle than on residents who do not recycle." Customer charges should be the same whether they recycle or not, recycling fees can/should be broken out into line item, the cost should be the same for customers recycling as for customers not recycling.

- f. The Problem Material quotes were received, and there will be negligible changes in both costs and program offerings. These contracts will be going to County Board next week for approval.
 - g. A forthcoming Environmental Connections Newsletter article concerning what to put in your recycling bin was circulated among meeting attendees for comments and/or revisions.
 - h. Other: MPCA Hauler reporting reminder regarding the ReTrac System: The short form is required for outstate counties, and will be available online beginning January 1st, 2018.
 - i. E-Waste: MPCA is currently finishing up Year 10 reporting. E-waste recycling was down from 36 million pounds in 2015 to 28 million pounds in 2016. Manufacturers are not picking up the tab for e-recycling, though legislators may look into enforcing that during the next legislative session.
 - j. Some of the trash haulers in attendance discussed the possibility of a \$5 increase to the solid waste fee. This may be addressed in the future, though some additional background work would need to be completed first. The fee covers all county disposal programs, not just the hauler subsidy. Beginning in January, China will be cracking down on the recycling it accepts from the United States. It's not certain how this will affect recycling prices or disposal options. The recycling volume of is steady, but weights may be lessening due to lighter weight plastics, more use of plastic vs. glass, etc. Recycling throughout the county is up, but Chisago County's goal is 35%, and we are not there yet.
- V. Next Meeting Date: June 8, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.