



Date Thursday, February 10, 2021
Time 1:30-3:30 PM Central Time
Location Virtual, WebEx

Attendees:

Alex	Hennepin County
Ally Sutherland	City of Inver Grove Heights
Ali Vandercook	Dakota County
Alison Cameron	MPCA
Ally Sutherland	Inver Grove Heights
Amanda Erickson	City of Elk River
Amy Ulbricht	Anoka County
Annika Bergen	Anoka County
Bill Keegan	Dem Con
Caleb	Ridwell
Carolyn Wieland	ReUSE Minnesota
Cassidy Carlisle	Dakota Valley Recycling
Claire Pardubsky	MN GreenCorps, Burnsville
Colleen Hetzel	MPCA
Dan Donkers	Ramsey County
Dustin Heidinger	Carver County
EJ Toso	Ridwell
Emily Barker	ReUSE MN
Ethan Kehrberg	MN GreenCorps, Golden Valley
Gena Gerard	Dakota County
Heidi Quinn	Woodbury
Jane Peuser	MN GreenCorps, Bloomington
Jeannie Given	MPCA
Jennifer Nguyen Moore	Ramsey County
Jenny Kedward	Dakota County
Joel Anderson	Ramsey County
Jon Klapperich	MN Waste Wise
Julia J	Anoka County
Julie Mooney	Anoka County
Julie Moore	Shorewood
Kaitlin Steinberg	Hennepin County
Kala Fisher	City of St. Louis Park
Katie Stelzner	City of St. Louis Park
Kayla Walsh	MPCA
Keely Schultz	MN Waste Wise

Kellie Kish	City of Minneapolis
Kira Berglund	Hennepin County
Kristen Wahlberg	Dakota County
Laura Horner	City of Bloomington
Lauren Rogers	MN Waste Wise
Leigh Behrens	MSP Metropolitan Airports Commission
Lianna Goldstein	Hennepin County
Lydia Campbell	Saint Paul
Maggie Yauk	Anoka County
Mallory Anderson	Hennepin County
Max Dalton	Washington County
Michelle Palm	MN Waste Wise
Nathan Reinbold	Pope/Douglas Counties
Nick Reishus	Scott County
Peter Sandhei	MPCA
Phillip Davis	City of Lino Lakes
Rachel Lindholm	Richfield
Rob Friend	MN Waste Wise
Roxanne Nelson	Richfield
Sarah Haas	Saint Paul
Solvei Wilmot	Edina
Susan	MPCA
Susan Young	City of Saint Paul
Syd Trimble	Illinois
Tara Roffler	Ramsey County
Tim Farnan	MPCA
Tim Pratt	Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Newport
Twila Singh	Edina
Zitali Ayala	Ramsey County
612-8**-**17	Unknown

ARM Updates

- If you have an opinion on the workshop, whether it's in-person or not, please email ARM. Also, if you'd like to be part of the planning committee, please reach out.
- ARM wrote a letter of support for the Right to Repair bill. The legislature passed a motion to adopt it. Emily Barker will keep us updated. If you are interested in testifying, please reach out to Emily. Emily will also share a list of districts that need public support. If you live in those districts and are interested/willing, please reach out. Laura plans to testify on behalf of ARM.
- There will be elections at the April ARM meeting. The Vice Chair position is open. The role entails coming to the board meetings every other month. The Chair position will also be open; Laura is running for this position. She is the incumbent.

Ridwell

EJ Tso, General Manager and Caleb, Other Ridwell Employee

Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos, the planned speaker, was unable to attend.

Ridwell is a waste reduction service that attempts to fill in the gap to collect items that aren't collected at the curb. They were founded when the co-founder was looking for things in their house that they wanted to recycle, but, to do so, they had to drive to a drop-off center. Since they had room in their car, they asked neighbors if there was anything they wanted them to pick up as well. There was a huge response that, yes! Many neighbors had the same items that they wanted to drop off.

How the membership works:

- When you join as a member, you receive a metal tin and a reusable cloth bag.
- You fill the bags/tins with whatever is noted on the outside.
- Items are picked up every other week.
- It costs between \$12-16 per month. There are scholarship programs to help reduce cost.
- There is a rotating featured category that includes things like holiday lights, corks, etc.
- There are sometimes optional add-ons for an additional fee for things like styrofoam and latex paint.

How the process works:

- The categories of service are reusable and hard to recycle items (light bulbs, batteries, and plastic film).
- Ridwell has an app that provides information for members showing how much is recycled/reused and what happened to it.
- They work with pre-identified partners. They try to stay local. In Minnesota, this includes:
 - Goodwill, Loaves and Fishes, The Prop Shop, Free Geek, Bridging, ReStore, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and Neighborhood House
- Ridwell does not run specific routes. They only stop at houses that have notified them that they have items out. And they only drive through one neighborhood every two weeks.
- They use a van for hauling, not a truck.
- Items are consolidated in a warehouse. The only processing that happens beyond consolidation is baling the plastic bags and removing contamination.
- Members have access to a list of the items that came through as contamination and were thrown away.
- Members can also see what business their recyclables were sent to.

Questions:

- What are you doing with non-usable textiles?
 - This is the responsibility of the business that the textiles go to.
- Who are the current Twin Cities partners for textiles?
 - Goodwill
- Are you looking for partners outside of Goodwill? There are concerns about what actually happens to their materials.
 - Yes. They are always open to expanding this.
- Can community groups or households sign up together?
 - Yes, they can fill out a request form online.

- How does Ridwell function at apartments?
 - They will still collect from them even though they do often present issues, for example, what location to pick up from.
- What kind of batteries do you take?
 - Only alkaline.
- Are you licensed as a MN hauler/City of Saint Paul hauler, specifically for HHW?
 - Yes, they are going through the process with the state and the counties.
- When will you be starting pickups in the Twin Cities?
 - They already have started their first round in Minneapolis.
- Loaves and Fishes is on the partner list. What are they collecting?
 - This is for the feature category which is non-perishable foods.
- How much contamination do you get?
 - They don't have exact numbers, but don't think it's a lot. They tell members the amounts and what it was as the program goes along.
- What types of light bulbs do you take?
 - CFLs and incandescents. Staff are trained on how to handle breaks.
- How far is your reach for pickups in the Twin Cities currently?
 - They only begin service in an area if it can be efficiently done, so they don't launch until there is a certain amount of people in that neighborhood interested. They are also trying to start small, so they don't want to expand too quickly in the area until they feel stable.
- Who is your current partner for battery recycling in Minnesota?
 - Call2Recycle
- When the bags come back to your facility, are they washed?
 - They are generally sanitized, but they are washed if they are noticeably dirty. The presenters were unsure on what the specific sanitization process is.
- What things will you be landfilling if you're unable to recycle them?
 - Clothing (textile partner would handle this). If it's non-recyclable plastic film, it will be pulled out and thrown away.

Legislative Updates & Platforms

Dan Donkers

Partnership on Waste & Energy is a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties. Their legislative platform is on their website: <https://recyclingandenergy.org/legislative-platform/>. The document online gives an outline of their vision: Seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy, and enhance

These are boiled down to three main items:

1. Support initiatives to build a sustainable, circular economy.
2. Make solid waste financing a robust, equitable tool for achieving environment, and public health goals.

3. Build on Waste Management Act goals.

In 2022, the legislative platform is on their website and it includes policy positions and written testimonies. They include things like EAB, Product Stewardship, and SCORE.

The key 2022 issues are:

1. SCORE – pull money from the general fund that was generated by the solid waste tax and redirect it to counties for waste initiatives.
2. Product Stewardship – mattresses and mattress recycling is the focus.
3. They wrote a letter in support of Right to Repair.
4. They have supported the MPCA's effort to address caps on what Capital Assistance Grants.
5. They supported the MPCA's compost labeling bill.
6. They support the renewable fuels act, the coalition work is led by Great Plains, looking at clean fuel standards.
7. They are leading a push to plan ahead on ways to handle wood waste caused by Emerald Ash Borer.

Tim Farnan and Jeannie Gibbon, MPCA

The MPCA is focusing on certain key issues for the 2022 session. It can all be found on the MPCA's website. Here are the links:

- The MPCA's legislative fact sheets:
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/legislative-priorities>
- The Governor's bonding proposals associated with MPCA for the session:
<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/capital-budget/final-capital-budget/2022/pollution-control.pdf>.
- The Governor's supplemental budget proposal (PCA content begins on page 62):
<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/operating-budget/gov-rec/jan22/gov22rec-budget-agency-item.pdf>

Proposed CAP Projects:

- 35.7 million proposed on the Governor's Bonding Budget Proposal:
 - Statewide - \$10,000,000 for Organics Capacity
 - Build infrastructure, RFQ will be put out
 - Pope/Douglas Counties - \$,953,000 for MRF expansion, install processing equipment
 - Dakota/Scott Counties- \$3,800,000 for HHW
 - Build a new facility
 - Olmsted County - 10,000,000 for SW Management
 - Fund a MRF
 - Polk County - \$2,400,000 for SW Management
 - AI Robots for QC on sort lines
 - Chisago County - \$281,000 for HHW
 - Expand facility because they're at capacity
 - Cass County - \$2,000,000 for HHW

- Combine buildings on campus: scale house and HHW
- Program established in 1985 and the cap has been at \$2 million per project since then. They are asking to raise that cap to \$5 million. It would require that applicants have to assess community input on their projects.

There is a surplus anticipated for the next state budget that we're currently in. How that money will be spent is to be determined. There is \$19.5 million proposed for waste prevention and recycling out of that fund. Some of the specific hopes for this money include C&D recycling/reuse, sustainable building, and A&D facilities.

Twila asked if the MPCA was aware that the City of Silas acquired a former ash landfill

Kellie Kish, MNCC

The Compostable Products labeling bill passed in the house. They are working with a senator to get it into the senate. There is a factsheet on their website. There are a few opponents for the bill, but not many. If you want to write a letter of support, there is draft language for it on their website.

There are 3 new PFAs prohibition bills that have been introduced: cosmetics, cookware, and ski wax. This connects to compost because there is often makeup on tissues and there is evidence that PFAs can be transferred into food from cookware. Because of this, the MNCC wrote letters of support for these. There was little opposition to this.

The MNCC looked at the surplus budget for potential overlap with compost importance, messaging, and use. The two they saw were for healthy soils and drought mitigation.

The MNCC has not updated their 2022 platform document fully yet, so it is not live. That said, they have made some 2022 headway that is not posted. One of these was in support of the MPCA waste hierarchy and another was on the PFAs issues mentioned above.

Jenny Kedward bragged on Kellie's behalf saying that Kellie was nominated and selected as the 2022 Compost Volunteer of the year.

Mallory Anderson, Hennepin County

Partnership on Waste and Energy is partnering with the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) to facilitate and guide the process of drafting an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products bill. Contact at PSI who focuses solely on packaging and has been leading the work here in MN is Sydney Harris. More information about EPR for PPP can be found in this [report](#) published by PSI. EPR shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of products and packaging upstream to producers— rather than the public sector – and creates incentives for producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.

The definition of packaging is broad. There are three main types:

1. Primary: material that contains the product you use (shampoo bottles)

2. Secondary: secures the product for shipment
3. Tertiary: protects the product during distribution (shrink wrap, pallets)

The controversial addition they are asking for is expanding to make it “Packaging and Paper Products (PPP)” which would include all paper products other than books.

There would be cost incentives for manufacturers to use recycled content and use less toxic products, both for creation and in the materials themselves.

The places where EPR has been successful (Europe and Canada) have had close to 70% success. There is a struggle, however, to obtain accurate data on both the way that these programs are introduced and the success after implementation. The goal is to have a group formed by 2023 to really push it forward.

Reach out to Sydney Harris or Mallory Anderson for more information. Laura has been attending the stakeholder meetings for this on behalf of ARM. Information hasn’t been widely disseminated since a bill is not fully written. Right now, the best information that exists is a fact sheet that Mallory can share. Spring of 2022 is when the information will be advertised. Representative Jordan is going to introduce an EPR for PPP bill in this legislative session (NOT the bill that PWE and PSI are working on). Two EPR bills have passed nationally (Oregon and Maine). There are 13 active EPR bills in 9 states currently.

Member Updates

Lydia Campbell, Saint Paul

The City of Saint Paul 2022 MUD and SUD guides hit mailboxes. Our composition study showed that residuals went down and tonnage also went down. They are going to continue communications using Story Strolls with the new additions of 2 stories translated into Hmong and 1 new story on compost that they will partner with libraries to rotate around their locations. If we didn’t mention last meeting, there is a new 24 hour composting drop-off site that was added in the Highland Park neighborhood. We are working to add 2 more in 2022 on the East side and downtown.

Tim Farnan, MPCA

GreenCorps applications are due March 22.

Jenny Kedward, Dakota County and ReUSE MN

If you haven’t realized, an updated ordinance was passed 2 years ago saying that haulers have to offer weekly recycling to residents, but could be exempt if they met a certain standard of recycling. That grace period ended and none of the haulers that weren’t offering it met the guideline, so they now have to start offering the weekly service. There was, surprisingly, a positive response from the public on this.

ReUSE MN has a task force that they’ve put together to talk about changes that can be put in place via public policy to promote reuse.

Emily Barker, ReUSE MN

They have hired Caroline Weeland as a new communications employee. ReUSE MN is in the midst of a website overhaul. There is also a reuse/swap informative meeting on Feb 24, see the ARM email for a link to register.

Caroline Leeland, ReUSE MN

Joined organization in December. She is working on making the site a lot more modern and user-friendly. It is designed with members and the public in mind. ReUSE MN meeting registration link (Feb 23):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/mtgkz1z9pce6rpzltGdVG3y4c8QtH8Mtcp5EtZawx>

Jennifer Ngyugen Moore, Ramsey County

Working on final pieces for the food scraps DCB program. They are putting together a focus group and hoping to connect with the BIPOC community and residents who have never utilized food scraps programs before. They are also working on creating a large waste facility that would take e-waste, HHW, and other materials. There is no timeline for this.

Heidi Quinn, Woodbury

Heidi was recently hired in the same position as Jenn McGaucklin. Her background is in water management.

Michelle, MN Waste Wise

They recently hired two new members and are still hiring. Applications are open, so spread the word. They are also working with properties that are in Hennepin County, so if you are a city in Hennepin County that needs assistance with their multi-unit dwellings, reach out to Waste Wise!

Laura Horner,

The first collection week for curbside organics is in March. There are 17% of households already signed up for the program. A starter kit will be delivered to these households. They are also working on making products easily available for residents to pick up. Their GreenCorps member, Jane, is going to be working on reuse/swap events later this year.

Rachel Lindholm, Richfield

The recycling participation rate has increased. It is around 25% and they're hoping that it will increase. They are still getting their footing with organized collection.