

**ANOKA COUNTY
SOLID WASTE ABATEMENT ADVISORY TEAM (SWAAT)
MEETING AGENDA**

**February 26, 2020
2:00 p.m. Field Operations Building
1530 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover MN 55304**

1. Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Look
2. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Look
3. Approval of December 18, 2019 meeting notes – Commissioner Look
4. Minnesota Waste Wise (MWW) – Jon Klapperich, Program Manager
 - Jon Klapperich will present a three-year summary of the work MWW has been doing with the businesses in Anoka County. Discussion will take place on the possible connection between MWW assistance and community development programs.
 - Jon will also touch on how the work MWW is doing can be applied to multi-unit assistance.
 - A presentation on the Recycling Education Toolkit and demonstration of the new label/sign maker.
5. Updates – Members are encouraged to provide a written update to the county prior to the meeting and highlight any program changes that may have occurred since the group last met. If time allows, members can share anything new or changes to the program.
 - a. Cities/Townships

Andover	Columbus	Lino Lakes
Anoka	Coon Rapids	Linwood
Bethel	East Bethel	Nowthen
Blaine	Fridley	Oak Grove
Centerville	Ham Lake	Ramsey
Circle Pines	Hilltop	St. Francis
Columbia Heights	Lexington	Spring Lake Park
 - b. Industry Representatives
 - c. County
 - d. MPCA/Other
8. Adjournment

<p>Our next meeting will be held on April 22, 2020. If you have any questions or comments on the agenda, call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400.</p>
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COMING EVENTS

April 1, 2020

Anoka County Compost Sites

April through November Hours

Bunker Hills, Coon Rapids

M – F 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sun 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Rice Creek, Lino Lakes

T & Th 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sun 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

April 1, 2020

Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

April through October

Wed 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Mon, Fri & Sat 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

April 22, 2020

Earth Day

Marks 50th year of Earth Day!

April 24, 2020

Arbor Day

April 25, 2020

Wargo Earth Day Event

12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wargo Nature Center

**ANOKA COUNTY
SOLID WASTE ABATEMENT ADVISORY TEAM (SWAAT)**

December 18, 2019
Three hundred seventy-sixth meeting

Team Members and Municipal Representatives Present: Lorie Spangler, City of Columbus; Colleen Sinclair, City of Coon Rapids; Rachel Workin, City of Fridley; Jennifer Bohr, City of Ham Lake; Andrew Nelson and Connor Kvendru, City of Lino Lakes; Paul Deuth, Linwood Township; Kathy Nielsen, City of Oak Grove; Chris Anderson, City of Ramsey; Wanda Brown, City of Spring Lake Park; Tom Koep, City of St. Francis

Anoka County Representatives Present: Sue Doll, Karla Risvold, Katie Stelzner, Amy Ulbricht, Robin Wodziak, Maggie Yauk and Karla Risvold with Recycling & Resource Solutions (R&RS)

Industry Representatives and Guests Present: Michelle Peck, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Beverly Mathiasen, Republic Services

1. Co Facilitator Colleen Sinclair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.
2. Approval of Agenda – No requested changes.
3. Approval of August 28, 2019 and October 23, 2019 meeting notes – There were no requested changes to the notes from the August 28, 2019 meeting. A correction was needed on the October 23 tour notes to accurately reflect the list of attendees.
4. Review and share highlights of the following conferences, tours and seminars – Sue Doll and others that attended the events
 - A. RAM/SWANA Conference – October 14-15
One of the organics sessions focused on PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The substances appear in leachate run-off water and contact water from compost sites but also show up in water wherever the state tests for them. A presenter at the conference from APEX Water Solutions SBC, makes a machine designed to filter leachate from landfills or water from wastewater treatment facilities. What they found out was an added benefit is that the reverse-osmosis system also filters PFAS particles from water. The system is expensive, but possibly a joint purchase of the equipment could be used to treat water from sanitary sewer systems, landfill leachate and contact water from compost facilities. If facilities were co-located, that would make the system more cost effective.

Sue attended a session entitled *Plastics in the Environment and The Marketplace*, with Chemistry Professor Elizabeth Minor of the University of Minnesota, Duluth and Large Lakes Observatory. Professor Minor reported on a research project she is conducting in Lake Superior on microplastics. She is taking water samples from various locations around Lake Superior and examining them under a microscope. At first glance, it was found that it can be difficult to determine micro plastics from small pieces of fibers most likely attributed to clothing fiber or dryer lint being discharged in the sewer system. If the fiber is plastic, it will melt which helps her team differentiate the plastics from other materials. The project also involves sampling other water bodies in the state watershed districts. Samples of fish and soil are also taken to add to their research.

At an Organics Collection and Composting session, Tim Goodman reported that NatureWorks LLC has maxed out their production using green innovation and zero waste. Eco Products has a new line of compostable supplies called Vangaard that meets the criteria for BPI certification and is PFAS and fluorine free. New BPI certification will be in effect in January. MPCA representative Michelle Peck stated that for a manufacturer to be included on the State contract, they must provide detailed specifications on the content of the material.

Strategic Materials (SM) provided a glass markets update. The company has the largest footprint in North America. SM values Minnesota glass that is delivered to them, compared to the rest of the nation, since MN haulers have invested in technology to clean up the glass prior to delivery to SM and due to our state's high-quality standards. At their St. Paul plant, over 12 optical sorters are in operation to separate the various colors of glass from other materials. Whatever they produce they sell.

B. SWAAT Tours of SMSC (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community) and SET (Specialized Environmental Technologies) Compost Sites – October 23

Maggie Yauk recently attended a regional meeting where it was noted that the SMSC is looking for a new location and is working with an engineer and a contractor on their permitting process. They have outgrown their current site which is located on tribal property where it is regulated by the EPA. Their new site will be off tribal land and will therefore fall under the operating rules of the MPCA.

Sue Doll noted that the two tours allowed the group to view two different methods of organics and yard waste processing. Attendees viewed both static pile composting and aerated windrow composting; each method calls for different periods of processing time. The SMSC site is paved, while SET's site is not. It was interesting to hear that the mix of the material is adjusted according to the intuitive knowledge of the operators.

C. RAM Glass Recycling Summit and Tour of Strategic Materials (SM) – November 14

Sue Doll provided a presentation that showed the tip floor and close-up views of the material that gets delivered from the mixed recycling facilities.

Because the recycling process can't clean out small or flattened material, lots of small plastics, paper fragments and metals end up in the glass delivered to Strategic Materials. Metal lids are recovered and sent to a steel recycler. No revenue is received from the steel because the steel is mixed with batteries. The three worst contaminants are syringes, stones/ceramics and batteries. *Plastic caps, small plastics and paper fibers are treated as trash.

The process to clean up the glass involves a conveyor that vibrates to spread out the material. Glass falls off the conveyor for further processing. LED lights and cameras detect the glass fragments from other contaminants; a magnet separates the ferrous metals and puffs of air help separate materials. Screens further separate the materials. Additional processing is required to separate the glass into three colors, clear, amber and blue/green. Clear glass is referred to as flint. Anchor Glass is producing only clear (flint) glass bottles and jars so they only buy clear glass. The industry refers to green/blue glass as NGR or Non-Glass Residue.

The best markets for glass are for producing new containers. Anchor purchases flint from Strategic and a brewery in Wisconsin buys the amber glass. Green/blue glass goes to make fiberglass insulation.

- D. Side note: Seeing many small amber pill bottles in the residue at SM, a team member asked where pill bottles are accepted. The Coon Rapids Recycling Center currently accepts them with the caps, but they need to be #1, #2 or #5 plastic. A contact person with the Spring Lake Parks Lions indicated that they accept pill bottles and the Columbus Lions also accept them. Sue Doll asked the municipal coordinators to look for pill bottle reuse opportunities since they shouldn't be put in the curbside programs. They are too small to capture at the MRF's.

5. Review 2019 Year-end Funding Reimbursement Process – Sue Doll

Some headings on the SCORE report forms were changed to clarify which materials are to be entered in each part of the form. This will especially help the newer recycling coordinators. There are no changes to the worksheet. Dollar amounts can be entered. Near the bottom of the form, tonnage information for the individual municipality is provided, including Fix-It Clinic and non-profit volumes, and will be added to the individual municipality's goal. Other fields in the tonnage section need to be manually entered. Contact Robin Wodziak if you have questions (763-324-3475).

As noted on the agenda:

- Municipalities are to start gathering your financial data now.
- Sign up now if you want an appointment with Sue from January 6-17.
- All reimbursements need to be processed by Tuesday, January 21 to meet the county financial deadline. Note that the Martin Luther King holiday is Monday, January 20.

6. Updates

A. Cities/Townships

Anoka – Pam Bowman – Held a successful Fix-It Clinic on November 2; 26 people attended with 27 items (of 33) being repaired for a total weight of 244 lbs.

First Annual Pumpkin Smash (composting) was a great success; 165 people attended; 293 pumpkins were composted for a total weight of 1.57 tons.

Their additional paper shredding events, co-hosted with Ramsey, were not as successful; we are eliminating them in 2020.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Board voted to extend our recycling contract with Republic Services for one more year through March of 2021. Also voted to remove Multi-Family (MF) properties from the contract, effective April 1, 2020. Board members focused on MF contamination issues this year; conducted presentations, dumpster checks, and provided marketing materials.

We are co-hosting a winter recycling event with Ham Lake at Green Lights Recycling on Saturday, January 25.

We are working through details to hopefully add an organics drop-off program, but first concentrating on educating residents in 2020.

Columbus – Lorie Spangler – has received the tonnage information from the fall recycling event, which ran from 9 am to 7 pm. They collected 28.5 tons of material including large furniture items and televisions. Freimuth Enterprises dba All Appliance Disposal, provided the service and filled six dumpsters. It was an expensive event. They also collected 67 bikes. The same number of events are planned for 2020; one in May, a curbside event in July and a September drop-off event at city hall. Christmas lights and pill bottles are being collected at city hall.

Coon Rapids – Colleen Sinclair – Several changes have been in the works at the Recycling Center. Using state grant funding, they are expanding their appliance collection program. Changes are planned for early January which will be detailed in their newsletter. Electronics, appliances and mattresses will be accepted each day they are open. They can run into space and program issues but hope to work through problems as they arise. Six containers will be available with weekly pickup service. Large items are being accepted but residents must plan to unload their items themselves. Year-end tasks are in the works. Colleen noted that Andy Kintop is no longer with the city.

Fridley – Rachel Workin – Over two tons of material was collected at their pumpkin drop off. On the RAM website, Fridley has been listed as a holiday light drop-off location.

Thanks to Lydia Campbell and Katie Stelzner for helping conduct a waste audit of the city's building. Recycling is going well but there was more contamination in the recycling and very little in the organics. Trash cans were placed in better locations. Park operations offered the use of their car wash bay to do the work. The audit was broken out by four locations. Rachel can provide protocols to those that may be interested. Follow-up with city staff was conducted in a friendly manner after the audit. Staff are asked to look in containers periodically to see if guidelines are being followed.

The same number of drop-off events are planned for 2020 as in 2019. In comparing 2017 costs to 2019, the city spent \$1,000 less to process 20 tons more material.

Ham Lake – Jennifer Bohr – noted that lots of contaminants are coming into their drop-off center. New public works people have come in to clean up the area and one of them is working on changing the opening of the container in an attempt to curb the problem. Preparations for next year are in the works. The city had their last Green Lights drop-off event and offered residents a coupon for two free items, which were well utilized.

Lino Lakes – Conner Kvendru – Marty Asleson has now retired. Andrew Nelson (in attendance and introduced) is their new Environmental Coordinator and is taking in a lot of new information in his new role.

The city added a fourth organics drop-off location at Lino Lakes Park on Lake Drive in the northwest part of the city. This is where their Recycling Saturday's take place. The Saturday events are going well, and volumes are consistent with last year. Freimuth Enterprises provides service at these events.

Linwood – Paul Death – recently toured LEI in Chisago City. The facility stamps out egg cartons and is operating 24 hours a day. Linwood brings several materials to the facility. Next to the comingled recyclable container at the Township's drop-off area is a large pallet has been placed for collecting newspaper only for LEI. Glossy ads are accepted, and they are permitted to incorporate office paper. Shredded paper is also being accepted at LEI. Linwood continues to provide the use of a heavy-duty shredder. A sign to the location has been installed at their senior center. About 30 lbs. of material is collected in a day.

Shredded paper side notes: Coon Rapids has a heavy-duty shredder. Nowthen has a secure cart that's available for residents to utilize. Sue Doll will be researching a possible small contract in 2020 for shredding with the county's vendor, Shred Right, to serve interested cities. Information will be provided when available.

At the Coon Rapids Recycling Center, strip-shredded paper can be baled; crosscut cannot. Sue Doll was told that shredded paper with ink is not to go in with organics, although it was previously thought that soy-based ink is compostable.

Ramsey – Chris Anderson – Anoka and Ramsey coordinated four stand-alone paper shredding events this year. Ramsey's two events were in June and October. Combined, the two events collected 2.12 tons of shredded paper. Neither event was well attended so Ramsey will not be offering the stand-alone shredding events in 2020 (Ramsey will still have paper shredding as part of their spring/fall recycling events). Now accepting holiday lights for recycling at our Municipal Center through the end of January.

We have two dumpsters out at our Public Works building where residents can bring extra cardboard over the holidays. They are available to Ramsey residents beginning December 16 and will be available until mid-January.

St. Francis – Tom Koep – Is working on year-end reporting. The leaf drop-off and paper shredding event didn't go well due to wet weather. The shredder carts were filled to the top, but the truck failed to show up. Ramsey will not call on Eco Shred for future events. For 2020, they are planning the same schedule of events as held in 2019.

Spring Lake Park – Wanda Brown – The last Green Lights collection was held last weekend. The October event at City Hall was well attended and there was no event in November. In April and October 2020, their events will be held the fourth Saturday of the month instead of the second Saturday. Yard waste collection containers will be provided.

The new Hy-Vee grocery store on Central Avenue will be open in March or April 2020, but the gas station is now open for business.

Sue noted that three cities have new Green Lights schedules, Lexington, Circle Pines and Centerville. Their drop-off days will be held every other month in 2020 instead of monthly and four items will be accepted free-of-charge instead of 2 the past couple of years. Green Lights costs for electronics are expected to increase in 2020. The company needed to shift some weekend schedules due to staffing limits.

B. Industry Representatives

Republic Services – Bev Mathiasen – is focusing on 2020 and working with Rachel (Fridley). Republic will be able to provide a truck and participate in the annual Environmental Fun Fair. Bev is also working on scheduling 2020 cleanup events for municipalities.

C. County

Katie Stelzner – The Fix-It Clinic schedule for 2020 has been established. New flyers have been prepared and postcards will be mailed to surrounding households prior to each event. The last clinic held in Andover was incredibly busy! Katie is also conducting regularly scheduled waste educator training sessions in 2020.

Sue Doll – Applications for recognizing recycling champions have been sent to the municipalities. The awards program is now part of the county's Public Health and Environment Awards. Please distribute the form to your local organizations that have been active in assisting with municipal recycling and composting programs.

County staff recently attended a joint meeting of the Association of Recycling Managers (ARM) and Counties and Cities Involved in Source Reduction and Recycling (CISSR) at a new Second Harvest Heartland building in Brooklyn Park. It is an amazing facility. One of the many areas the group toured was a hydroponic lettuce growing operation.

Robin Wodziak – Compostable bags will be ordered in smaller batches. Municipalities are to order the amount they need per quarter. Large orders may be shipped directly to your municipality. There are two bag vendors the county works with. Orders take 1-2 weeks to receive from Eco Safe.

Maggie Yauk – Recently attended a regional meeting with the MPCA where quarterly and annual reporting and Restriction on Disposal (ROD) were discussed. The processing facility in Red Wing is near operational capacity. Once it reaches capacity, waste is then allowed to go to a landfill. This addresses compliance concerns for Anoka County. The board of Goodhue County has passed an ordinance requiring waste processing. It was also noted that the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Watertown was at capacity in its first 18 months of operation.

Amy Ulbricht – The county has entered into an agreement for commercial recycling assistance with Minnesota Waste Wise for 2020. An advertising campaign including social media messaging, photo shoots and other promotional activity will begin in January to generate more interest from the businesses.

7. Adjournment – Colleen Sinclair adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.