



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Knappek at 5:02 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knappek (via Zoom), Susan Dergantz (via Zoom) Marijo Hain, Eileen Rathbun, and Vice Chair Vicki Violet, Absent: Jan Call and Leslie Ganser. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HAIN, SECONDED BY DERGANTZ TO APPROVE THE JULY 14TH MEETING MINUTES. 5 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Bowman is ordering 500 flyers for multi-family buildings and will contact various properties to distribute. Chair Knappek asked what residents should do if they do not receive the flyer and Bowman responded the flyers will be distributed to landlords upon request for distribution to their tenants.
- **Organics** – Bowman will be meeting with Public Services personnel on Friday to see if they agree that the proposed location at 7th & Garfield is a good choice. If this works, Public Services will start preparing and lay a slab. Dergantz asked if this was a different location than the community gardens and Bowman responded that Harmony Gardens cannot be used because it is a future redevelopment area. Dergantz expressed an interest in attending this meeting and Bowman said it is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday at 7th & Garfield. Bowman is preparing a database of interested residents in preparation for promotional efforts.
- **Plastics** – Chair Knappek commented that we seem to be overwhelmed with the plastic bags and wrap. Bowman agreed but stated that they made a big dent today with four volunteers working. She reported that we are at about 155 pounds and on track to meet our goal. Better Value Liquors will be delivering their plastic wrap. There is still contamination which makes sorting very time consuming. Bowman stated that we have 1 or 2 people each date but if we could increase that number, it would be beneficial. Bowman will send out a revised schedule. Chair Knappek commented that another benefit of recruiting more volunteers is that they will learn what is recyclable and what is not – and they can share that information with friends and neighbors. Chair Knappek did suggest sending out the schedule more often as people do not always plan ahead. Bowman offered to send it out weekly.

Summer Recycling Event Report – Bowman said 129 city residents attended. Chair Knappek asked if that was comparable to last year. Bowman responded yes, believe it was close to 130 or more last summer. Bowman said the total cost was \$5907.25 which included labor and coupon expenses for appliances, electronics, and mattresses.

While she hasn't received all of the tonnage breakdowns yet, Bowman did learn that 1.205 of electronics tonnage was collected just through the coupons. Additional tonnage for electronics will be added to that amount. Bowman reported

1.205 tons of paper was shredded, 1.23 tons of scrap metal collected and 194 pounds of vehicle batteries.

MN Green Corp Program Assistance Update – no update.

End of Summer Bash Booth – The event will be held August 25th from 6 pm to 8 pm at Riverfront Memorial Park. There will be music and food trucks. At least 2 people are required to work the recycling booth, which will include a recycling game that Bowman ordered from the County. Chair Knapek and VC Violet volunteered to help at the booth. Chair Knapek cannot get there until 6:00 pm and asked if Bowman needed help setting up the booth. Bowman said yes, she could use help setting up. She will bring all the information they will need for the booth but we will not be collecting, just distributing information. Anoka County will be providing volunteers from their Master Recycling Program to monitor recycling and compostable collections at the event.

Bowman also ordered compostable products for the Ice Cream Social and needs volunteers to help pre-scoop ice cream on Tuesday, August 24th at City Hall. Bowman will ask all boards & commissions for volunteers. Dergantz offered to help scoop ice cream and Bowman will let her know the time.

2021 SCORE Report – Bowman submitted reimbursement for the first half of year for \$26,523.17 for expenses incurred. This week and next she will be working on the tonnage report and should have it for the September meeting.

2022 SCORE Funding – Bowman reported that for 2022 the board wanted to request applying the funding as we did for 2021. The total funding is \$76,317.50 which breaks down as follows:

- Base, standard - \$49,475
- Drop Off Grant - \$15,000
- General - \$7895

We will receive final approval in about a month.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Recycling Event - This event will be held Saturday, September 25th from 8 am to noon at 501 Pierce Street. Attachment #3 in the packet is the flyer for April that will be updated with the fall dates. Bowman asked if there were any changes other than the date for this event. Rathbun asked if we will be collecting plastic bags at this event, noting some people aren't able to get to city hall during regular business hours. There was discussion about whether this would be expected year after year and concern that people might drop off plastics when we are not there to man it, since this is a temporary collection program. Chair Knapek commented that if people really want to get to City Hall they can find a way. VC Violet suggested people could use social media to find a volunteer to bring their plastic bags to City Hall. Bowman would prefer that the plastic collection remains consistent in one place and said volunteers are limited at the fall event and suggested instead to do a last minute push at the Pumpkin Smash if needed.

RAW Newsletter – The fall newsletter will come out in October and will include information on organics, last push for plastic bags, curbside info, Pumpkin Smash and book upcycling. Bowman asked for any other items to include. Chair Knapek suggested holiday recycling tips. Maybe identify which wrapping papers are recyclable or how not to use wrapping paper. VC Violet asked about Christmas tree recycling. Bowman said that the private haulers will pick those up and she will include that in the newsletter as well as information on the County compost site which accepts Christmas trees.

COMMUNICATIONS

2021 Meetings and Activities Schedule - The schedule is included in the packet and anything in red is new. Bowman asked if the September meeting could be switched back to September 8th and everyone agreed. Chair Knapek suggested a

reminder should be sent out. Bowman will revise the schedule and email to members.

General Recycling Questions – Chair Knapek asked if there were any topics for discussion. Dergantz shared that she contacted ACE about recycling pill bottles. They can be recycled as long as they have the number 2 or 5 on the bottom and any size.

Rathbun shared that she signed up for Anoka County’s Recycling Ambassador Program. The course consists of 6 weeks of online classes which start the end of September.6. Bowman offered to find the link and send it out to members.

Rathbun noticed there were no recycling containers at the concert on Tuesday night. Bowman responded they do not have them at any of the parks because contamination is just too high. Violet stated that cannot be a problem unique to Anoka and wondered if that is why the Ambassador program was created. Bowman thinks the program is more for special events throughout the county. Chair Knapek inquired about new recycling bins that were proposed for the parks. Bowman will look into that and provide an update at the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. on a MOTION by VC Violet and SECONDED Rathbun.