



MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020

Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting:

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99136777287?pwd=S1hHTes0VWt0cVk2V1A3U0NpY3N1QT09>

Meeting ID: 991 3677 7287 | **Passcode:** 277524 | **Phone:** +1 651-372-8299

The Chair of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declared state and local emergencies. Commissioners will participate by telephone or other electronic means and the Board meeting will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021 and 13D.04 Subd. 3. Members of the public will be able to watch the public meeting live online.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| 1. Call to Order, Introductions, Commissioner Roll Call | | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | Action | Page 1 |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2020 | Action | Page 2 |
| 4. Business | | |
| a. Legislative Platform Review | Information | Page 7 |
| 5. Other | | |
| 6. Adjourn | | |

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 1:00-2:30 PM | Zoom Meeting



A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) was held as a virtual Zoom meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020. Staff participants met at the Ramsey County Environmental Health Office, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Suite 350, Maplewood, Minnesota. Other participants joined through Zoom.

The Chair of the Partnership on Waste and Energy has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declared state and local emergencies. Commissioners will participate by telephone or other electronic means and the Board meeting will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021 and 13D.04 Subd. 3. Members of the public will be able to watch the public meeting live online.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Debbie Goettel – Hennepin County
Commissioner Fran Miron – Washington County
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt – Ramsey County

IN ATTENDANCE AT RAMSEY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Leigh Behrens, Zack Hansen, Katie Keller, John Ristad, Nikki Stewart, Jody Tharp, Jordan Thone, Kris Wehlage

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Zitlali Chavez Ayala, Dave Benke, Katelyn Bocklund, Shannon Conk, Dan Donkers, Rae Eden Frank, Jamie Giesen, Tony Hainault, Sam Hanson, Sam Holl, Filsan Ibrahim, Brendan Jordan, Kevin Magnuson, Leslie McCollam, Dave McNary, Leo Moreno, Emily Schommer Neuharth, Logan O'Grady, Michael Reed, Sam Richie, Afriani Rohim, Ken Smith, John Springman, Tim Steinbeck, Mindy Stepnick, Britta Torkelson, Jeff Travis, Rob Vanasek, Margaret Vesel, Kevin Walli, Sam Walseth

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Goettel called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. The statement regarding conduct of a remote meeting was read by Chair Goettel.

Roll Call	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
	Goettel	X	
	Miron	X	
	Reinhardt	X	

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA / APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 23, 2020 MINUTES

Chair Goettel asked for a motion to vote on both the approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes.



Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve the agenda and the January 23, 2020 minutes.

Roll Call	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
	Goettel	X	
	Miron	X	
	Reinhardt	X	

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Legislative Session Review

Sam Richie, Fryberger Law Firm, presented an update on efforts for the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Miron testified at an Oversight Hearing on behalf of the Partnership, focusing on securing funds to address emerald ash borer. Prospects of that funding are dampened by the COVID-19 pandemic impact on state revenue. Attention shifted to alternate funding sources such as the Environmental Trust Fund. Neither the Trust Fund Bill nor the Omnibus Bonding Bill have been enacted. There may be some hope for allocation in special session.

Activity in the House Climate and Energy Committee and Senate Energy Utilities Committee was monitored. Only one energy bill was enacted.

- *Renewable Development Account*. Proposal passed in the 2020 Session. Four projects were approved:
 - Solar Rewards Program
 - Prairie Island Net Zero Emissions Project
 - Granite Falls Hydropower Turbine Grant
 - DEED Host Community Grant Program
- *Natural Gas Innovation Act*. Center Point Energy has taken a leadership role in crafting this act. Richie and Kevin Walli are tracking this closely. It passed in the Senate but did not pass on the House side before the close of session.
- *Energy Conservation and Optimization Act*. It appeared there was bi-partisan support throughout the session; however, there was controversy with a fuel-switching proposal, and it did not make it out of the Senate.
- *Clean Energy First Act*. This was heard and passed by both the House and Senate Energy Committees in somewhat different versions, but didn't pass in regular or special session.

Richie indicated that the focus of the first special session was CARES Act funding and the use of executive powers.

Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates, provided an update on the work being done by their group. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state is now in a projected \$4 billion budget deficit that must be resolved by June 30, 2021. Bills and issues of interest to the PWE that are being watched and advocated for include:



- *Clean Energy First Act and Waste-To-Energy (WTE)*. A quarter of the legislature was lobbied defending WTE and educating legislators on the benefits of these facilities in their communities. An effort is being made locally to work against WTE, particularly in Hennepin County. Capitol Hill worked to preempt three of the most anti-WTE bills from progressing this year, although these issues will continue in 2021:
 - Removing processing of MSW generated in the county at a resource recovery facility as an allowable use of SCORE funds.
 - Removing an energy recovery facility as a technology that contributes to a utility's renewable energy standard.
 - Requiring incinerators to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030.
- *SCORE Dollars*. County associations testified in favor of this Senate bill that would restructure the Solid Waste Management Tax. It was never introduced in the House.
- *Wood Waste, St. Paul District Energy*. A bill was introduced in the closing days of the session representing agreement between Evergreen Energy and Xcel, allowing Xcel to pursue automatic cost recovery outside of a general rate case.
- *Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Bill*. Two bills passed off the floors of the House and Senate, but were not taken up by the opposite chamber.
- *Reversing the prohibition of local bag bans*. Attempting to lift the ban on local bag/packaging bans currently in place, this effort did not make it past a second reading on the House floor.
- *Product Stewardship*. The House bill passed out of House Judiciary Finance but stalled on the House floor.

Commissioner Goettel asked what other information has been shared with the community by PWE about the amount of pollution by cars or other pollution emitters compared to WTE facilities. Vanasek stated that Capitol Hill has put together materials for various legislators and has discussed compiling something more comprehensive. They had partnered with MN Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) in that effort prior to COVID, at which point it stalled.

Commissioner Goettel stated that a fact sheet would be helpful for discussing these issues with the community. There is a public lack of understanding regarding how much has been invested into WTE facilities to improve performance far beyond compliance.

Commissioner Miron agreed that having that information available would be useful.

Vanasek shared that there was conversation at MRRA about hiring an organizer and getting out into the community, but budget constraints prevented this. Other than legislative efforts, there is no information that has been shared with the community.

BUSINESS

Zack Hansen asked that, as a point of order, in compliance with Statute 13.D, introductions of participants present at Maplewood be made. Introductions were made.



PWE Budget Update

Kris Wehlage, R&E Accounting Manager, presented a status report on the 2020 PWE budget.

Amendment to the Great Plains Institute (GPI) Agreement

Leigh Behrens, R&E Planning Specialist, introduced the amendment and resolution. GPI has been working with PWE since 2018 on multiple areas of evaluation and engagement with the public, stakeholders and state entities on the topic of anaerobic digestion. The proposed amendment extends this work to December 2020. Behrens reviewed the primary work that will be done during that timeframe.

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt to approve the resolution amending the GPI Agreement. The PWE Board:

- Approves the Amendment to the Agreement with Great Plains Institute with a term of June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, increasing the not to exceed amount of the agreement by \$25,000.
- Authorizes the Chair to execute the agreement upon approval as to form by the county attorney.

Roll Call	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
	Goettel	X	
	Miron	X	
	Reinhardt	X	

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Hazardous Waste Training Video

Zack Hansen, Ramsey County, discussed the growing interest from hazardous waste generators in all three counties for online training. The need has been emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic, where face-to-face training is not feasible. All three counties are required by state law to license, inspect and regulate the generation and handling of hazardous waste; there are thousands of businesses that the three counties engage with. Proper training is important, and the program is a risk reduction effort for both the environment and public health. Hennepin County has a well-established online training program; the information is transferable to Ramsey and Washington counties. PWE staff has collaborated and is proposing a project that would expand the existing Hennepin County program, allowing it to be used in all three counties. In an additional phase, the program would be translated into Spanish; other languages would be added in a later phase. Funding is requested to retain the firm Hennepin engaged to develop their online training.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Miron to approve the resolution for hazardous waste online training. The PWE Board:

- Authorizes the Partnership leadership team to select one or more vendors to develop the co-branded online training for commercial hazardous waste generators.



- Authorizes the Partnership leadership team to execute the agreement(s) upon approval as to form by the county attorney.
- Authorizes the Partnership leadership team to adjust the 2020 Partnership on Waste and Energy budget to fund the development of a co-branded online training for commercial hazardous waste generators.

Roll Call	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
	Goettel	X	
	Miron	X	
	Reinhardt	X	

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Goettel adjourned the meeting at 1:24 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2020 | 12:30 PM | Zoom Meeting

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: _____
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Chair
September 24, 2020

Approved: _____
September 24, 2020



PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		September 24, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		4.a	
SUBJECT:		Legislative Platform Review					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Discuss and provide direction for the 2021 PWE legislative platform					

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2021 Legislative Session will convene in January 2021. As the session approaches, PWE will be finalizing the Partnership platform. The Governing Board will be requested to approve the 2021 PWE platform at its December 10, 2020 meeting. At this meeting, commissioners are requested to review the 2020 platform and discuss changes for the next session.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2020 PWE Legislative Platform

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	DATE
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Hennepin County

Recycling & Energy

PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY
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2020 Partnership Legislative Platform

Topic	Policy Position
Partnership Priorities	
Market Development	<p>The Partnership supports a public/private partnership to identify key steps necessary to assure markets for recyclable materials that are local, reliable and economically stable.</p> <p>The Partnership supports state funding to support market development and businesses that use recycled materials. The Partnership supports an interagency stakeholder group of state and local entities to champion and develop market development efforts.</p>
Solid Waste Financing	The Partnership supports increased capital assistance project funding for county solid waste infrastructure and reasonable state oversight for capital improvement projects when state funds are passed through the Pollution Control Agency or other state entity.
Solid Waste Management Tax	The Partnership supports allocating all revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to waste management activities and increasing SCORE funding.
Food Waste Reduction	The Partnership supports the expansion of food waste reduction initiatives. The Partnership opposes establishing a food waste hierarchy in state statute separate from and redundant with the existing waste hierarchy.
Wood Waste Management through Biomass Energy	The Partnership supports efforts to promote the highest and best use of diseased or damaged trees affected by invasive pests, such as emerald ash borer (EAB), consistent with the statutory waste management hierarchy. The Partnership would prioritize biomass energy when higher value options are not practical or feasible for managing such tree waste. The Partnership supports new funding to manage wood waste through biomass energy production.
Additional Platform Items	
Incentives for Waste Processing Services	The Partnership supports additional state funding or incentives, such as waste processing credits, to counties that process waste.
Inverse Condemnation	The Partnership opposes “inverse condemnation” legislation which would restrict, hinder, or impair local government’s ability to carry out waste management responsibilities.
Legislative Solid Waste Committee	The Partnership supports the establishment of a bi-partisan, bicameral committee to address solid waste related issues.
Lithium Ion Batteries	The Partnership supports evaluating end-of-life management systems for lithium ion batteries and advancing any changes necessary to ensure full compliance with the Minnesota rechargeable battery statute, provide for full cost recovery from manufacturers, and ensure safe collection and transportation in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations.
New Technologies for Waste Processing	The Partnership supports financial incentives by the state, as well as reduced barriers, for the development and permitting of new or alternative technologies for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, beneficial reuse, and waste processing, including use of new technology and methods to recover materials, energy and biofuels from waste.
Opposing preemption of local control	The Partnership opposes limiting, prohibiting or interfering with the ability of local government to implement any component of a solid waste master plan, required by Minnesota Statutes Chapters 115a and 473. It further opposes preemption of local control and unfunded mandates that restrict, hinder or impair the ability of local government to implement solid waste plans.



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Product Stewardship	<p>The Partnership supports product stewardship programs, particularly an Extended Producer Responsibility framework that provides environmental protection, indemnification of counties from product liability, county cost recovery, and measurable and enforceable goals. It also supports manufacturer incentives that reduce waste packaging from consumer products.</p> <p>The Partnership supports maximizing the collection and environmentally sound disposal of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines via an internalized pharmaceutical manufacturer financing mechanism that covers collection, transportation and hazardous waste disposal costs, and that does not rely upon taxpayer subsidies. It further supports flexibility for current collection infrastructure and requirements on the pharmaceutical industry to implement public education and outreach about collection systems and that covers all administrative and support costs incurred by local government involved in collection activities.</p> <p>The Partnership supports efforts to make improvements that would maximize the state's electronic waste recycling program, including the use of manufacturer payments to fully reimburse county collection and recycling costs and reducing end-of-life costs to consumers.</p> <p>The Partnership supports manufacturer financing mechanisms that cover the cost to collect, transport and safely dispose of sharps.</p> <p>The Partnership supports a statewide program implemented and financed by manufacturers that manages carpet by reducing waste generated from carpet, promoting its reuse and recycling, and providing for collection, transport and processing of carpet for end-of-life recycling and reuse in ways that do not rely upon end-of-life fees or local government funding.</p>
Sales Tax Rebates for Processing Facilities	The Partnership supports aligning solid waste management tax rebates to those entities that recover, recycle, or reuse material.
Solid Waste as a Renewable Fuel	The Partnership supports continued state and federal recognition of solid waste as a renewable fuel, as well as state and federal financial support for waste and energy industries to use public and private solid waste facilities as a part of their sustainable, renewable energy resource programs, including production of biofuels.
Solid Waste Roles and Responsibilities	<p>The Partnership supports the Waste Management Act, under which counties are the entities accountable for meeting state goals and requirements related to solid waste. Locally elected officials are in the best position to make decisions for their counties, within broad guidance from the state. This role is appropriate since elected county commissioners make decisions locally.</p> <p>The Partnership supports robust public engagement to develop county solid waste plans.</p>
Waste Hierarchy Goals and Measurement	The Partnership supports implementation of a waste hierarchy goal that identifies progress in meeting solid waste system performance by measuring the volume and characteristics of waste managed by land disposal, and also monitoring the policy goals of the Waste Management Act such as reducing the toxicity of waste, separating materials and energy, reducing greenhouse gases, promoting beneficial use, and orderly development of the system.
Waste Management Act Goals	The Partnership supports the waste management goal of the state and the integrity of the order of preferred waste management practices, known as the solid waste management hierarchy.

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