



MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Ramsey County Environmental Health
2785 White Bear Ave. N. | Maplewood, MN 55109 | 2nd Floor Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda Action Page 1
3. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2019 Action Page 2
4. Reports
 - a. Legislative Session Preview Information Page 5
 - b. Emerald Ash Borer and Wood Waste Management Action Page 6
 - c. Clean Fuels Update Information Page 10
 - d. MPCA Legislative Update Information Page 11
5. Business
 - a. 2020 Meeting Schedule Action Page 12
6. Other
7. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 12:30 PM
Ramsey County Environmental Health, Maplewood, MN



**Wednesday, December 18, 2019
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) was held at 10:30 am on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center, 100 Red Rock Road, Newport, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ALSO ATTENDING

Caroline Arkestyn, Leigh Behrens, Dan Donkers, Tony Hainault, Zack Hansen, Sam Hanson, Sam Holl, Grady Horn, Kevin Magnuson, Dave McNary, Sam Richie, John Ristad, Ken Smith, Nikki Stewart, Jody Tharp, Jeff Travis, Rob Vanasek, Kevin Walli, Sam Walseth, Kris Wehlage, Margaret Zuckweiler

Introductions were made.

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Miron called the meeting to order. Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Goettel, to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2019 MINUTES

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve the October 9, 2019 minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

BUSINESS

2020 Budget

Kris Wehlage provided an overview of the proposed 2020 PWE budget, which closely follows the past two years' budgets. Highlights include:

- Less staff and administration cost, which is based on actual staff time from the past two years.
- A new line item is added for policy development related to biofuels, including renewable natural gas, and potential consultant work regarding Xcel Energy's proposed resource plan as it relates to resource recovery and recyclable energy.

- Remaining Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) funds received in 2018 for maintenance of the Rethink Recycling website, which no longer exists, and the Business Recycling Guide will be used to maintain the Business Recycling Guide to the benefit of PWE and other counties that link to it.
- Contributions for R&E and Hennepin County remain the same as in 2019.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Goettel, to approve the 2020 Budget.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Contract Renewal – Fryberger Law Firm

Sam Holl presented information on renewal of the contract between PWE and Fryberger Law Firm for provision of lobbying services through December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Goettel, to approve the Contract Renewal with Fryberger Law Firm.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

2020 Legislative Platform

Dave McNary summarized updates to the proposed 2020 PWE legislative platform.

- Product Stewardship – Changes were made based on recommendations from Commissioner Reinhardt at the October 9, 2019 meeting. Language about carpet and pharmaceuticals was added.
- Food Waste Reduction – Language was expanded, with a broad statement of support for food waste reduction initiatives and a statement of opposition to state statute changes to the existing waste hierarchy.
- Lithium Ion Batteries – A broad statement has been added regarding management of lithium ion batteries, including the responsibility of manufacturers to cover full cost of recovery and safe collection and transportation.
- Wood Waste Management through Biomass Energy – Additional language of support for new funding to manage wood waste through biomass energy production is included.

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve the 2020 Legislative Platform.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

Nicole Stewart noted that, per the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on rotation of board positions, Commissioner Goettel will become chair on January 1, 2020, Commissioner Reinhardt will continue as vice chair, and Commissioner Miron becomes a member at large.

The JPA also stipulates a minimum of three meetings of the board per year. PWE is recommending four meetings, to be held in the months of January, June, September and December. Specific dates will be presented for adoption at the January 23, 2020 PWE board meeting.

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve the 2020 meeting schedule as proposed for January, June, September and December.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

OTHER

Kevin Walli provided information regarding a recently-published Environmental Quality Board (EQB) report on emerald ash borer (EAB) which was shared at an EQB meeting. Ken Smith noted that the EQB meeting was productive, well-attended and that EQB staff have been tasked with creating an action plan on the handling of EAB waste.

Ken Smith presented an update on the status of the contract between District Energy and Xcel Energy, and on current volumes and origins of tree waste and EAB impact.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Ramsey County Environmental Health, Maplewood, MN.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Commissioner Miron adjourned the meeting.

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: _____
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Chair
January 23, 2020

Approved: _____
January 23, 2020



**PARTNERSHIP ON
WASTE AND ENERGY**
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		January 23, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		4.a.	
SUBJECT:		Legislative Session Preview					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Informational Item					

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Minnesota Legislative Session begins February 11, 2020. Kevin Walli of Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., contract lobbyist on energy issues to the Partnership, will provide a comprehensive update on activities leading up to Session and issues that may be anticipated to be addressed in the months ahead. Contract lobbyists on waste issues cannot attend the January 23rd Partnership meeting and have briefed Mr. Walli on their issues in advance. The state Constitution requires the legislature to conclude business by no later than May 18, 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:




NONE

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
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STAFF

Hennepin County		1/21/2020
Ramsey County		1/21/2020
Washington County		1/21/2020

PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

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**PARTNERSHIP ON
WASTE AND ENERGY**
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		January 23, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		4.b	
SUBJECT:		Emerald Ash Borer and Wood Waste Management					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Adopt resolution in support for state funding for EAB management.					

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its October 9, 2019 meeting, the Partnership received an update from staff and Saint Paul Cogeneration on efforts to maintain the Saint Paul biomass energy facility as viable outlet for wood waste as biomass fuel, particularly with the growing volume of diseased wood waste due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other invasive pests. Without this biomass project, there is no reliable place to dispose of wood waste in the region.

The Partnership subsequently adopted its 2020 Legislative Platform at its December 18, 2019 meeting. The platform includes a policy position on wood waste management through biomass energy, which prioritizes biomass energy as a management option for wood waste, including wood waste resulting from EAB infestation, and calls for new funding to manage wood waste through biomass energy production.

At this meeting, commissioners are requested to consider a resolution acknowledging the critical function Saint Paul Cogeneration performs as a management option for wood waste. The resolution calls for new state funding to assist local governments in addressing the EAB issue and to stabilize markets for biomass energy production from waste wood. The resolution encourages counties, cities and others to join the Partnership in supporting these positions.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:



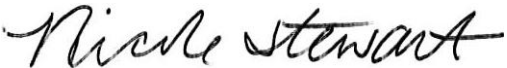
None.

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**PARTNERSHIP ON
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HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
STAFF		
Hennepin County		1/15/2020
Ramsey County		1/15/2020
Washington County		1/15/2020

RESOLUTION PWE-2020-01

Emerald Ash Borer and Wood Waste Management

WHEREAS, the Partnership on Waste and Energy (the Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties collaborating on solid waste programs, policy and planning to meet county waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery goals set forth by the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect first found in Minnesota in 2009, is now established in at least 21 counties in the state and is expected to affect all Minnesota counties in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, ash trees represent approximately one out of every five trees in Minnesota community forests, and up to 60% of the tree canopy in some communities; and

WHEREAS, EAB is expected to result in over 1.67 million tons of wood waste requiring disposal in the seven-county metro area alone; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to local government to plan for and manage EAB infestations, including treating infected ash trees or removing, managing and replacing ash trees, currently exceeds \$8 million per year and is increasing as the problem grows; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes prohibit the landfilling of tree waste, and very limited options exist for managing waste from trees affected by EAB; and

WHEREAS, large-scale burning of ash wood, even when permitted by the Department of Natural Resources, presents forest fire risks and negatively impacts air quality; and

WHEREAS, without a secure market for waste wood, large wood debris yards are prone to rodent and insect infestations, may inadvertently turn into unpermitted and unsafe compost heaps, and are susceptible to fire, as experienced in previous years with the onset of Dutch elm disease; and

WHEREAS, the combined heat and power facility operated by St. Paul Cogeneration, an affiliate of St. Paul District Energy, serves a critical role in managing waste wood through biomass energy production, providing renewable energy to Xcel Energy under a power purchase agreement set to expire in 2023; and

WHEREAS, St Paul Cogeneration has accepted wood waste from approximately 750 businesses and public entities, including at least 22 counties and 171 communities in Minnesota, over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the amount of wood waste managed by St. Paul Cogeneration has consistently approached 250,000 tons per year, with EAB-infected wood waste as an increasingly large percentage of the total; and

WHEREAS, the ability of St Paul Cogeneration to continue to accept wood waste to assist local governments in managing the growing volumes of dead and dying ash trees is uncertain given the upcoming expiration of the power purchase agreement with Xcel Energy; and

Draft Resolution: EAB and Wood Waste Management

WHEREAS, the loss of St. Paul District Energy as a wood waste management facility would create extreme logistical and financial hardship for many local governments and would exacerbate environmental and public health risks at a time when EAB infestations threaten to significantly increase the volume of wood requiring appropriate management. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Partnership on Waste and Energy (the Partnership) supports funding from the state general fund or other appropriate state funds for an ongoing matching grant program to assist local government with building capacity for community forest management and meeting the costs of preparing for, and responding to, catastrophic community forest problems such as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Partnership supports direct grants to local government to address the significant need for identification, treatment, removal, environmentally appropriate management and replacement of trees related to managing EAB. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Partnership supports efforts to promote the highest and best use of diseased or damaged trees affected by EAB or other invasive pests, consistent with the waste management hierarchy in state statutes, prioritizing biomass energy when higher value options are not practical or feasible for management of such tree waste. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Partnership supports creation of funding systems that stabilize markets for biomass energy production from wood waste to avoid management of such waste in landfills and other solid waste facilities and to prevent the open burning of waste wood. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Partnership supports creation of new funding sources for these purposes. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Partnership encourages counties, cities and other interested parties to join the Partnership in supporting these positions in the development of policy and funding options by the state of Minnesota.

Chair, Governing Board

1/23/2020

Date

Attest, Vice Chair

1/23/20

Date



**PARTNERSHIP ON
WASTE AND ENERGY**
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		January 23, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		4.c	
SUBJECT:		Clean Fuels Update					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Information Only					

Executive Summary:

The Midwestern Clean Fuels Initiative is facilitated by the Great Plains Institute (GPI) and comprises a diverse stakeholder group, including the Partnership on Waste and Energy. The initiative recently released a report on designing a successful clean fuels policy for the Midwest, detailing critical policy elements needed to ensure broad economic and environmental benefits.

Brendan Jordan, Vice President of Transportation and Fuels at GPI, will provide an update on their clean fuels policy work.

Attachments:

None

Financial Implications:

None

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES			DATE
STAFF			
	Hennepin County		1/14/2020
	Ramsey County		1/14/2020
	Washington County		1/14/2020

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**PARTNERSHIP ON
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PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		January 23, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		4.d	
SUBJECT:		MPCA Legislative Update					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Information Only					

Executive Summary:

Dave Benke, Director of the Resource Management and Assistance Division at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), will provide an update on MPCA legislative initiatives.

Attachments:




None

Financial Implications:

None

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES			DATE
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STAFF

Hennepin County		1/14/2020
Ramsey County		1/13/2020
Washington County		1/13/2020

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PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATE:		January 23, 2020		AGENDA ITEM:		5.a	
SUBJECT:		2020 Meeting Schedule					
TYPE OF ITEM:		<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTION
ACTION REQUESTED:		Approve the 2020 meeting calendar.					

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Joint Powers Agreement Section 5.3.1 states the following related to Governing Board meetings:

The Board shall meet a minimum of three times a year including an organizational meeting in January, a meeting following the legislative session, and a meeting in the fall to set the next year’s legislative platform.

The attached schedule identifies dates and times for the known board meetings. January, June and September’s meetings will be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health in Maplewood, which has a newly remodeled meeting room. The meeting in December will be held at HERC in Minneapolis.




It is possible that meetings may be cancelled or moved, but commissioners will be asked to schedule these dates onto their calendars for 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. 2020 Meeting Calendar

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
STAFF		
Hennepin County		1/13/2020
Ramsey County		1/13/2020
Washington County		1/13/2020

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Resolution PWE-2020-02
2020 Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, The Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) between Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E Board”) and Hennepin County for the Partnership on Waste and Energy (“Partnership”) outlines the duties of the Governing Board of the Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.3.1. of the JPA specifies that the Governing Board shall meet a minimum of three times per year, including an organizational meeting in January, a meeting following the legislative session, and a meeting in the fall to set the next year’s legislative platform. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2020 meeting calendar. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The June and September meetings will be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health located at 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Suite 350, Maplewood, MN 55109, and the December meeting will be held at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center located at 505 North 6th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405.

Chair, Governing Board

1/23/2020
Date

Attest, Vice Chair

1/23/2020
Date

SUBJECT: 2020 PWE Board Meeting Calendar



**PARTNERSHIP ON
WASTE AND ENERGY**
HENNEPIN | RAMSEY | WASHINGTON

2020 MEETING CALENDAR

Thursday, January 23

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health Offices – Maplewood

Thursday, June 25

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health Offices – Maplewood

Thursday, September 24

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Ramsey County Environmental Health Offices – Maplewood

Thursday, December 12

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) – Minneapolis

Ramsey County Environmental Health Offices

2785 White Bear Ave. N. | Ste. 350 | Maplewood, MN 55109

Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)

505 N. 6th Ave. | Minneapolis, MN 55405

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