

MEETING NOTICE
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Commissioners, Key staff, Presenters:

Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) | 505 N. 6th Ave. | Minneapolis, MN 55405 | [Map](#)

Public: Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely or may attend at HERC.

[Microsoft TEAMS](#) | Phone Conference ID: 301 576 874# | Call In (audio only): +1 323-792-6297

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda	Action	Page 1
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3. Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2023	Action	Page 2
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4. Business

a. 2024 Budget Approval	Action	Page 5
b. 2024 State Legislative Platform	Action	Page 9
c. 2024 Meeting Schedule	Action	Page 12

5. Updates and Reports – No items.

6. Other

7. Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023
PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE AND ENERGY BOARD

A meeting of the Partnership on Waste and Energy Board (PWE) was held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. Commissioners and staff participants met at the Ramsey County Environmental Health Office, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood, Minnesota. Other participants and the public joined remotely.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATTENDING AT RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MAPLEWOOD

Mallory Anderson, Leigh Behrens, Max Dalton, Dan Donkers, Melissa Finnegan, Jamie Giesen, Caleb Johnson, Cassie Lefeber, Dave McNary, Matt Phillips, Michael Reed, Sam Richie, John Ristad, Bob Roche, John Springman, Jody Tharp, Rob Vanasek

ATTENDING REMOTELY

Alison Cameron, Shannon Conk, Tutu Fatukasi, Sam Ferguson, Annalee Garletz, Sam Hanson, Filsan Ibrahim, Kevin Johnson, Minette Saulog, Ken Smith, Caleb Werth

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Goettel called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Introductions of attendees in Maplewood were made.

Chair Goettel shared that Bob Roche is leaving the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. She thanked Roche for his legal assistance and offered best wishes. Roche shared that he is to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety as Deputy General Counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Reinhardt, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed 3-0. Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Goettel moved, seconded by Reinhardt, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2023, as presented.
Motion passed 3-0. Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt Nays: None

BUSINESS

2023 Budget Update

Michael Reed, Ramsey County and Partnership lead staff, shared that the 2023 budget was approved in the fall of 2022. PWE staff is currently anticipating a surplus which, per Board policy, will automatically roll over into the 2024 Partnership budget.

Commissioner Miron asked what the wood waste funds were used for and whether there are plans to use the remaining funds in 2023. Reed said funds had been used for the Cambium Carbon report, "Twin Cities Metro Area Emerald Ash Borer Wood Waste Study" and for a Wood from the Hood grant. While there are no finalized plans for the funds for 2023, staff plan to increase efforts on wood waste next year, using the roll-over funds from this year and adding to that line item to fund new projects.

Renewal of Agreement with Fryberger Law Firm

Caleb Johnson, Washington County and PWE lead staff, introduced the extension of the contract with Fryberger Law Firm for lobbying on energy issues.

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Reinhardt, to approve Resolution PWEB-2023-02, Renewal of Agreement with Fryberger Law Firm. Motion passed 3-0. Ayes: Goettel, Miron, Reinhardt; Nays: none. The PWE Board:

- Authorizes Partnership lead staff to execute the renewal amendment, in a form approved by Partnership attorneys, to the Agreement with Fryberger Law Firm for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025.
- Authorizes Partnership lead staff to enter into any further amendments or change orders thereto so long as they are within the project budget and approved as to form by Partnership attorneys.

2024 Proposed Budget

Dave McNary, Hennepin County and PWE lead staff, shared that in 2023, the board approved a budget increase for the first time since the Partnership was established. Staff recommends that the \$51,675 carryover be used in 2024, keeping contributions to the Partnership the same as 2023 levels. McNary summarized reductions and increases to the 2024 budget.

Chair Goettel shared information regarding efforts to close Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC). She noted that decommissioning HERC is anticipated to take a decade, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and have huge ramifications for the entire area surrounding HERC.

Commissioner Reinhardt shared that a planned meeting with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will focus on long-term sustainable solutions other than simply increasing money to District Energy to handle wood waste. District Energy can run their facility cheaper if they don't use wood waste. This is a statewide issue needing solutions for not only the Metro.

Legislative Session Preview

Michael Reed, Ramsey County and PWE lead staff, presented a brief recap of the 2023 legislative session and an overview of the goals for PWE going into the next legislative session. Staff will be refreshing and expanding the PWE legislative platform for 2024 and plan to present the 2024 platform at the November 30, 2023, PWE Board meeting.

Chair Goettel commented that the beverage container deposit bill (bottle bill) will take a long time to be implemented and wondered whether information is available from other states who have implemented this. She said that, related to the hierarchy, the state has to follow federal laws and suggested that PWE pull in partners at the federal level. Dave McNary stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the hierarchy and has a carve-out for waste-to-energy, where the State of Minnesota does not.

Commissioner Reinhardt shared concerns regarding the bottle bill, wondering whether Minnesota could accomplish this and not disrupt a multi-million-dollar recycling industry, given the mature infrastructure and systems in place.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated that the MPCA is struggling with how to permit anaerobic digestion and pyrolysis. In Minnesota, waste-to-energy means burning and, without other available options, Minnesota cannot get away from burners. She pointed out that the R&E Center and HERC exist because it was mandated, and at that time, no other technologies were available as options. The State needs to put money into developing future technologies.

Commissioner Miron stated that education for newer legislators needs to be a continued focus.

Sam Richie, Fryberger Law Firm, provided a preview of the 2024 legislative session. It will be the second year of the biennium, a short session and DFL full control. The focus in the second year of a biennium is normally on a bonding bill. The legislature will be looking to correct an error in the 2023 tax bill. Additional funding for emerald ash borer (EAB) statewide and District Energy will be sought. There is concern that waste-to-energy policy will be looked at more widely, given that HERC was targeted last year.

Rob Vanasek, Capitol Hill Associates shared that defending Minnesota's waste management hierarchy could consume a lot of time and energy for the 2024 session. Areas of focus include securing additional SCORE dollars to help pay to move things up the hierarchy, additional funding to manage EAB, an extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill, figuring out how to navigate the bottle bill, e-waste regulation, and possible additional changes to the Right to Repair bill passed in the 2023 session.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated that Minnesota will have a problem if waste-to-energy is pushed down the hierarchy at the same time landfill capacity is limited, leaving no place for garbage to go. She would like to see anaerobic digestion (AD) added to the hierarchy.

Commissioner Miron said the legislature doesn't fully understand how much the counties are putting into new technology and it's important for the State to contribute to developing new technologies.

ADJOURN

Chair Goettel declared the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

Approved: _____
Debbie Goettel, Chair
November 30, 2023

Approved: _____
November 30, 2023

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	November 30, 2023	AGENDA ITEM:	4.a
SUBJECT:	2024 Budget Approval		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2024 Partnership on Waste and Energy budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) provides the following direction on an annual budget and contributions by the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board and Hennepin County ("Parties"):

- 5.2.4. The Governing Board shall develop and approve an annual budget (for the calendar year January 1 to December 31) at its first official meeting, and at a fall meeting in subsequent years.
- 5.2.4.1. The budget shall specify contributions by the Parties, which shall be allocated in equal parts to the Parties.
- 5.2.4.2. The Parties shall make their contributions to the Administrative Agent by February 28 of each year.

At the October 11, 2023, Partnership board meeting, board members reviewed and discussed a draft 2024 budget prepared by staff. Staff made minor revisions to the budget based on this discussion and revised projections for 2024 programs and needs.

The following are changes to the 2024 budget compared to 2023:

- The line item for waste lobbying services has been adjusted for 2024 in accordance with the fee schedule in the contract with Capitol Hill Associates.
- Funding for wood waste management has been increased by rolling over unspent funds from 2023 and adding funds to develop new projects in 2024.
- Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy has a membership with the BioEconomy Coalition of Minnesota. They have found benefit in the shared efforts to develop markets and incentives for the products of organics management (e.g., wood waste, anaerobic digestion) with other sectors in the bioeconomy (e.g., agriculture, forestry, sustainable fuels). Lead staff have determined that Partnership participation would further bolster these efforts and benefit all three counties.
- As of mid-2023, the Partnership has a contract with the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) to host and maintain a Minnesota-specific extended producer responsibility (EPR) website, www.reducepackagingmn.org. The line item for product stewardship has been adjusted in 2024 in accordance with the fee schedule in that contract.
- A new line item has been added to contract with a consultant to better understand where uncaptured recycling efforts may be occurring in the commercial sector. The results of this study will include how

SUBJECT: 2024 Budget Approval

Ramsey, Washington and Hennepin counties can improve their methods for gathering data used for calculation of recycling rate by the MPCA.






- A line item has been added to build on the success of the Partnership’s 2021 project to develop a virtual, on-demand commercial hazardous waste training option in all three counties in both English and Spanish, improving access and equity. Funding has been added to the 2024 budget to develop additional language options.
- The line item for a legislative tracker tool, piloted in 2022 and 2023, has been removed, as this contract is being sunsetted.
- In fall 2023, the Partnership launched an online campaign called “Zero Waste Challenge” for residents in the three counties. Staff found benefit in sharing promotion and consistent messaging across the core of the metro. The line item is being increased to expand this effort to two challenges in 2024.
- Contingency funds are budgeted to allow flexibility in the budget for projects that come up over the course of the year. Based on needs identified and funded in the 2024 draft budget, the remainder has been allocated to the contingency fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Draft Resolution
- 2. Proposed 2024 Partnership Budget

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2024 proposed budget is based on 2023 expenditures and upcoming changes in program needs.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		11/17/23
Recycling & Energy		11/21/23
		11/20/23
Washington County Attorney		11/15/23
Approved as to form:		
Ramsey County Attorney		11/16/23

**Resolution PWE-2023-03
2024 Budget Approval**

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (“Partnership”) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E”) and Hennepin County (individually identified as “Party” or jointly as “Parties”) dated March 27, 2018, directs in Section 5.2.4 that the Governing Board of the Partnership develop an annual budget; and

WHEREAS, The JPA further specifies that the Partnership budget shall specify contributions by the Parties, which shall be allocated in equal parts to the Parties; and

WHEREAS, Staff has prepared and presented the attached proposed 2024 Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2024 Partnership on Waste and Energy Budget.

Chair, Governing Board
November 30, 2023

Attest, Vice Chair
November 30, 2023

2024 Partnership on Waste and Energy Budget

	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
APPROPRIATIONS:		
Staffing and Administration		
Planning Staff	9,900	10,200
Accounting Manager	7,200	7,500
Contract Manager	5,400	5,600
Communications Staff	5,200	5,400
Total Staffing and Administration	27,700	28,700
Contracts		
Insurance, MCIT	1,600	1,600
Platform and Annual Report Design	10,000	10,000
Lobby Contract - Waste	75,000	78,000
Lobby Contract - Energy	25,000	25,000
Wood Waste Management	25,000	40,000
Bioeconomy Coalition of MN membership	-	2,500
Product Stewardship	8,000	2,500
Commercial Recycling Measurement Study	-	25,000
Haz. Waste Online Training	-	10,000
Legislation Tracking Contract	6,000	-
Zero Waste Challenges	14,000	24,000
Contingency Funds	25,000	3,675
Total Contracts	189,600	222,275
Total Appropriations	217,300	250,975
REVENUE:		
Carryover Funds	15,000	51,675
Recycling and Energy Board	101,150	101,150
Hennepin County	101,150	101,150
Total Revenue	217,300	253,975

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	November 30, 2023	AGENDA ITEM:	4.b
SUBJECT:	2024 State Legislative Platform		
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff		

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2024 State Legislative Platform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 5.1.1 of the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board and Hennepin County, dated March 27, 2018, specifies that the Governing Board shall develop a legislative and policy platform.






The 2024 Legislative Session will convene on February 12, 2024. Staff and lobbyists have prepared an updated platform based on Governing Board member input at the October 11, 2023, board meeting. The Partnership's 2024 State Legislative Platform will guide efforts for the 2024 Legislative Session. Issue-specific policy position statements will continue to be created as needed, serving as an extension of the platform's priorities and direction.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. 2024 Draft State Legislative Platform

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		11/17/23
Recycling & Energy		11/21/23
		11/20/23
Washington County Attorney		11/15/23
Approved as to form:		
Ramsey County Attorney		11/16/23

**Resolution PWE-2023-04
2024 State Legislative Platform**

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (“Partnership”) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E”) and Hennepin County (individually identified as “Party” or jointly as “Parties”) dated March 27, 2018, specifies that the Governing Board shall develop a legislative and policy platform; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board has discussed legislative and policy issues that are in the interests of the Partnership’s member counties, and it has identified the key issues to be addressed in a platform. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Governing Board hereby approves the 2024 State Legislative Platform.

Chair, Governing Board
November 30, 2023

Attest, Vice Chair
November 30, 2023

2024 State Legislative Platform

Build on Waste Management Act goals

PWE supports policies that reach beyond current public health and environmental goals and advance equity and climate resilience.

PWE supports forward-looking policy and regulatory design to align energy and materials management strategies, encourage emerging technologies and support new markets for waste.

PWE supports maintaining Minnesota's hierarchy of waste management practices.

Enhance solid waste financing

PWE supports tax and finance policies that create effective incentives and distribute resources in alignment with policy goals.

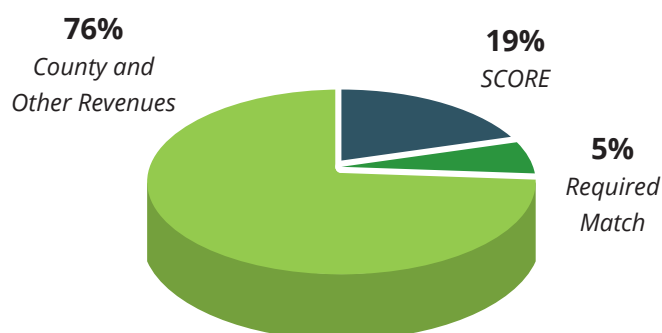
PWE supports robust state funding for local government to carry out statutory responsibilities.

Create a more sustainable, climate resilient economy

PWE supports measures to design waste, toxicity and pollution out of the marketplace and keep products and resources in use for a more equitable circular economy.

PWE supports strong, innovative partnerships between the state, local government and private entities to use waste as a resource and maximize the benefits of action on waste, energy and climate initiatives.

County Recycling Spending and SCORE Grants, 2021



State grants cover only 1/5 of county spending for recycling.

Need more information?

Rob Vanasek
Capitol Hill Associates
612-964-4876
rob@capitolhillassoc.com

Sam Richie
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.
218-301-9758
srichie@fryberger.com



The Partnership on Waste and Energy—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties—seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE:	November 30, 2023		AGENDA ITEM:	4.c	
SUBJECT:	2024 Meeting Schedule				
TYPE OF ITEM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION
SUBMITTED BY:	Partnership Lead Staff				

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the 2024 meeting schedule.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement dated March 27, 2018, 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 in 2024. The January, June and September meetings are scheduled to be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health in Maplewood. The meeting in November is scheduled to be held at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) in Minneapolis.





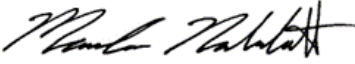
It is possible that meetings may be cancelled or moved, but board members will be asked to schedule these dates onto their calendars for 2024.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES		DATE
Hennepin County		11/17/23
Recycling & Energy		11/21/23
		11/20/23
Washington County Attorney		11/15/23
Approved as to form: Ramsey County Attorney		11/16/23

**Resolution PWE-2023-05
2024 Meeting Schedule**

WHEREAS, The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) of the Partnership on Waste and Energy (“Partnership”) between the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (“R&E”) and Hennepin County dated March 27, 2018, 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 2024 meeting schedule. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The January, June and September meetings are scheduled to be held at the office of Ramsey County Environmental Health in Maplewood, and the meeting in November is scheduled be held at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) in Minneapolis.

Chair, Governing Board
November 30, 2023

Attest, Vice Chair
November 30, 2023

2024 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 25

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, June 6

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, September 26

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Ramsey County Environmental Health – Maplewood

Thursday, November 14

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) – Minneapolis

Ramsey County Environmental Health

2nd Floor Conference Room

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

Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)

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