

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Ramsey County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**  
**May 2, 2017**  
**5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Program Information:**

Ramsey County Master Planning updates: [www.ramseyrecycles.com/masterplan](http://www.ramseyrecycles.com/masterplan)

**Meeting location:**

Ramsey County Environmental Health, 2785 White Bear Avenue, Suite 350, Maplewood, MN 55109

**Members Present:**

Jon Ekeroth, Romack Franklin, Paul Gardner, Laura Horner, Anne Hunt, Chuck Joswaik, Julie Ketchum, Kim Labo, Caroline McFadden, Erin Pavilca, Regina Rippel, Peder Sandhei, Robert Stewart, Mark Stoltman, Chris Swanson, Todd Tanner, George Walter, Elizabeth Zelanga

**Ramsey County Environmental Health Staff:**

Kate Bartelt, Rae Eden Frank, Kim Lazarski, Zack Hansen, Mary Elizabeth Berglund, Michael Reed, John Springman, Joel Andersen

**Other Staff:**

Anna Burke (Recycling & Energy Board), Liz Dillon (Ramsey County)

**Members Absent:**

Sabine Fritz, Chris Hove, Lori Olinger, Ryan O’Gara, Tim Pratt, Paul Slattery, Andre Xiong.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Agenda item:	Speaker/Discussion:
Welcome and introductions Approval of agenda Approval of April 18, 2017 minutes	Rae Eden Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. SWAC approved meeting minutes from April 18, 2017. Per an email sent on April 19, Sabine Fritz is withdrawing from SWAC.
Topic: Hunger and Food Waste Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save the Food, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) - JoAnne Berkenkamp</li> </ul>	JoAnne Berkenkamp gave a presentation around food waste in America & how NRDC is working with the National Ad Council on the Save the Food campaign. Some interesting facts included:  The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area is being recognized as already being on top of the Save the Food campaign.  NRDC is working with the State of MN and metro counties, including Ramsey County, to get advertising out; using billboards, social media, other traditional advertising routes and guerrilla tactics like spray painting on trash cans and garbage trucks.  All consumers and agencies have access to free advertising materials on the SaveTheFood.com website.  Action steps for consumers include: education, planning, storage, freezing, sharing, cooking and food safety.  A copy of J. Berkenkamp’s presentation can be found here: <a href="#">Food waste prevention and food donation as levers for change</a>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food and Nutrition Commission (FNC) – Carissa Glatt</li> </ul>	<p>Carissa Glatt gave a presentation around food insecurity and poverty in Ramsey County.</p> <p>Some interesting facts included:</p> <p>Ramsey Co. poverty rate is 16.8%, of which 24.6% of that are children.</p> <p>57% of Ramsey Co. students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch.</p> <p>Ramsey Co. has one of the highest food insecurity rates in the State of MN, 12.4%.</p> <p>18% of Ramsey Co. children are food insecure.</p> <p>From 2008 to 2013, the need for SNAP benefits has increased by 22%.</p> <p>A copy of C. Glatt’s presentation can be found here:</p> <p><a href="#">Food &amp; Nutrition Status in Ramsey County</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Harvest Heartland (SHH)– April Rog</li> </ul>	<p>April Rog gave a presentation about Second Harvest Heartland’s program, their relationship with Ramsey County, and food distribution to people in need.</p> <p>Some interesting facts included:</p> <p>They work with over 1,000 non-profit agencies and programs; most are food shelves.</p> <p>36% of SHH’s operations includes their <i>Retail Food Rescue Program</i>. They partner with retail grocers to divert food to feed hungry people.</p> <p>Food rescue includes produce, dairy, dry grocery, deli, bakery &amp; meat.</p> <p>A new market to be explored includes agricultural rescue and prepared foods.</p> <p>A copy of A. Rog’s presentation can be found here:</p> <p><a href="#">Second Harvest Heartland's mission: End Hunger Through Community Partnerships</a></p>
<p>Q&amp;A</p> <p>Asked to the above speakers from SWAC members.</p>	<p>Any regulatory barriers in giving food to people?</p> <p>Discussion was referred to the <b>Good Samaritan Law</b> in which individuals are legally protected as long as their motive is to help and not to intentionally cause further injury.</p> <p>Minneapolis Department of Health is looking at streamlining their regulations in order to apply this to prepared foods (hot) vs. shelf stable foods (cold).</p> <p>The need includes an awareness of the inspectors; educating staff around the concerns of saving hot foods vs. a need to change</p>

	<p>regulations.</p> <p>The industry wants to grow and produce more, but we end up wasting, what do we do?</p> <p>Creating an overall system that is less wasteful.</p>
Facilitated conversation and table exercise #1	<i>Design a campaign slogan for your audience to reduce food waste.</i>
<p>Topic: Organics Collection and Management for Residents</p> <p>Insight from SWAC members in the industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized Environmental Technologies - Chuck Joswaik</li> </ul>	<p>Chuck Joswaik gave a presentation about how Specialized Environmental Technologies’ business works including collection, challenges and their final product of compost. They use compostable “Blue bags” for organic waste.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Randy's Environmental Services - Mark Stoltman</li> </ul>	<p>Mark Stoltman gave a presentation about how Randy’s Environmental Services’ business works including the need to develop and build markets for composted materials. The “Blue bag” (a durable compostable bag) program is working well for them. Contamination of the organic material can be a barrier. What can’t go in, wax papers will ruin, the quality of the compost in the end, is it contaminated by plastic bags or other materials.</p>
Facilitated conversation and table exercise #2	<i>How should organics be collected from households?</i>
Wrap Up	<p>R. Frank reminded members about the surveys we are sending out to members. We ask that the Post Survey be completed within 48 hours after the meeting. Links to a Survey Monkey will be sent 1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Minutes taken by:** Kim Lazarski

**Up-coming meetings:**

May 16, 2017 - 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Meeting topic: Reduction & Reuse

May 30, 2017 - 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Meeting topic: Construction & Demolition

**Location:** Ramsey County Environmental Health, 2785 White Bear Avenue, Suite 350, Maplewood, MN 55109

Dinner will be provided.

*{Minutes of the May 2, 2017 Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be approved at the May 16, 2017 meeting}*