

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

1:00 – 4:30 p.m. CT

[MS Teams](#) | Phone conference ID: 414 815 001# | Call in (audio only) +1 651-395-7448

Meeting Location: Room 100, MPCA St Paul Offices, 520 Lafayette Rd N., St. Paul, MN 55155

If attending in person, RSVP to packaging.mPCA@state.mn.us by Noon CT on Friday, September 11.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker	Type	Page
1:00 p.m.	Call to Order Roll Call / Attendance Meeting Logistics Approve Agenda Approve July 15 Meeting Summary Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Conflict of interest policy (w-ps1-08d) - Conflict of interest disclosures (w-ps1-08e)	Chair Reinhardt/PSI	Action	2
1:10 p.m.	Updates from MPCA	MPCA	Information	
1:25 p.m.	Updates from Circular Action Alliance (CAA)	CAA	Information	
1:35 p.m.	Needs Assessment Context & Next Steps	PSI/MPCA	Information	
1:55 p.m.	Draft Needs Assessment Presentation	Eunomia	Information	
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn			

Packaging EPR Advisory Board

Meeting Summary

Virtual via Microsoft Teams or in-person at the MPCA St. Paul Office | 3 hours

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT

Recording available at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/events-and-meetings/packaging-extended-producer-responsibility-advisory-board-meeting-2026-07-15>

Attendance

Board Member Attendance

Present (9 members required for quorum)				Absent
Gabrielle Batzko-Conley	Victoria Reinhardt	Kirk Koudelka	Bill Keegan	Allie Sauers
Sara Bixby	Megan Daum	Kate Davenport	Shannon Pinc	
Sydney Harris	Sam Holl	Miriam Holsinger	Gregory Melkonian	
Shoshana Micon	Maggie Schuppert	Mac Sellars	Jon Steiner	
Bill Keegan and Mac Sellars were in attendance after roll call was completed.				

Guest Presenters: William Shanks, Eunomia; John Carhart, Eunomia; Kris Coperine, CAA; Jim Velky, CAA

Agency Staff: Mallory Anderson, Quinn Carr, Colleen Hetzel, Annika Bergen, John Gilkeson, Elizabeth Kuzila, Tina Patton, Kristen Peterson, Molly Flynn

PSI Staff: Darla Arians, Jennifer Schultz

Participants: Victoria Reiser, Bahareh Kokabian, Lena Zodda, Susan Bush, Devin O'Herron, Ryan O'Gara, Annebelle Klein, Maitri Gandhi, Peter Bierbaum, Scott DeFife, Eric Nelson, Audrey Roberts, Sonia Dattaray, Ally Alfonsetti, Michelle Hunt, Mary Kosuth, Laura Hann, Laney Feight, Kim Miller, Joe Birkholz, Mellik Gorton, Norman Soberano, Scott Moening, Deborah Jodar, Mike Robertson, Evelynne Hatton, Sarah Edwards, David Keeling, Apurupa Gorthi, Tim Wilkin, Molly Jansen, Lori Olinger, Sacha Chiniara, Alexander Truelove, Alejandro Torres, Jonathan Levy, Dylan Reisig, David Ring, Sally Hopley, Arthur Pattengale, Rachel Ricchio, Tony Kwilas, DeNeile Cooper, Amos Briggs, Zachary McCarty, Lucy Mullany, Luke Edlund, Grace Altier, Janell Schroeder, Justin Emmerich, Matt Herman, Rachel Fullmer, Todd Bornholdt, Alicia Cafferty, Jocelyn Nejman, Margie Bell, David Nickelson, Matt Chmielewski, Todd Hill, Addison Tansom, Avery Makrakis, Peter Hargreave

Note, participants attending virtually who choose not to list their names have been left off to document an accurate attendance count.

Meeting notes

Call to order

Darla Arians conducted a roll call.

Present: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holl, Holsinger, Koudelka, Melkonian, Micon, Pinc, Reinhardt, Schuppert, Steiner

Absent: Keegan, Sauers, Sellars

Note: Bill Keegan and Mac Sellars joined shortly after roll call was completed. Allie Sauers was absent for the entire meeting.

Approve agenda

Megan Daum motioned and Bill Keegan seconded. Darla Arians conducted a roll call vote.

Yes: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holl, Holsinger, Keegan, Melkonian, Micon, Pinc, Reinhardt, Schuppert, Sellars, Steiner

Absent: Sauers

Nonvoting: Koudelka

Approve meeting summary

Jon Steiner proposed revisions to the June 17 meeting summary. Sam Holl motioned to approve the June 17 meeting summary as submitted, with amendments, and Jon Steiner seconded. Darla Arians conducted a roll call vote.

Yes: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holl, Holsinger, Keegan, Melkonian, Micon, Reinhardt, Schuppert, Sellars, Steiner

Abstain: Pinc

Absent: Sauers

Nonvoting: Koudelka

Needs Assessment preliminary results on current program

Presented by William Shanks and John Carhart, Eunomia

Eunomia presented preliminary current-state findings on source reduction (including refill), reuse, and recycling access/rates, then previewed future-state operational considerations (access, configuration, and infrastructure changes over 5- and 10-year horizons). Discussion noted a discrepancy between the agenda item's "current state" title and the future-state content presented, and covered aligning terminology with statutory definitions, national trends in lightweighting and material substitution, reuse funding and scalability, and curbside access and recycling-rate estimates by material type.

Subcommittee chair updates on meetings with Eunomia

Waste Reduction Subcommittee and Reuse Subcommittee

Presented by Gabrielle Batzko-Conley

The Waste Reduction and Reuse Subcommittees met jointly twice since the last Advisory Board meeting: on June 22, on the rulemaking request for comments (including a speaker from the Reusable Packaging Association), and on July 8, on Eunomia's high-impact scenario analysis covering projected covered material, lightweighting and waste reduction methods by material, reuse opportunities, and preliminary cost estimates. Discussion covered which standards to use, the need for clear timelines around the five- and ten-year periods, and a recommendation to ensure the full statutory definition of waste reduction—including toxicity reduction—is reflected in the analysis. Follow-up on specific questions will continue between members and Eunomia.

Recycling Subcommittee

Presented by Jon Steiner

The Recycling Subcommittee reviewed single-family access data and raised concern that the figures have not changed materially since the preliminary needs assessment. Discussion covered the distinction between access and participation, inconsistent multi-family definitions across communities, and concern that curbside figures may be inflated since SCORE reports do not separate tonnage by collection method. The group also flagged glass-related data challenges and recommended appendices documenting methodology and sources, noting that the needs assessment's quality will drive everything that follows.

Full Board Q&A with Eunomia

Board members raised several questions and concerns about the presentation. Discussion touched on a recycling-yield figure that seemed reversed from expectations (lower in the metro area than in greater Minnesota), reinforcing calls for methodology appendices. Members also asked Eunomia to account for existing reuse infrastructure and Minnesota-specific policies not yet reflected in the analysis and flagged that existing state statute (such as rules on alternative daily cover) should be incorporated. Concerns were raised that access figures may be overstated compared to other available data sources, that lightweighting should not be treated as the only waste reduction pathway, and that glass appeared to receive outsized focus without clear rationale, including limited attention to glass reuse. Members also asked for more consistent labeling of where data is and is not yet available and suggested reviewing established reuse models (such as refillable milk bottles) already operating in the state. MPCA staff clarified that the materials shared are a snapshot subject to change, and that not everything (such as underlying methodology) is easy to capture in slide form.

CAA updates

Presented by Kris Coperine and Jim Velky, CAA

CAA reported successful submission of its producer registration to MPCA by the July 1 deadline, with 3,421 registered producers in Minnesota this year, and noted it is seeking additional facilities to visit in southern Minnesota. Jim Velky gave an overview of CAA's producer services, covering the three core producer requirements (registration, reporting, payment), CAA's role in facilitating data collection while the state enforces compliance, and its guidance and support resources for producers.

Agency updates

Presented by Mallory Anderson, MPCA

Rulemaking

MPCA reminded the Board that the request for comments was published May 26, 2026, with a 59-day comment period closing July 24, 2026 — the first of three public comment opportunities for this rulemaking. Members were again reminded to set up their public-comment accounts well in advance of the deadline. While a courtesy copy may be shared directly with the agency, written comments also need to be submitted through the official channels listed on the rulemaking website.

Board membership and 2027 terms

MPCA reported that nine Advisory Board members will complete their terms at the end of 2026. Members may reapply and, if reappointed, would serve a four-year term (terms are no longer limited to two years, though members may not serve more than eight consecutive years). New terms begin January 1, 2027. MPCA intends to open the application process in mid-August, with a closing date roughly a month later, to allow adequate time for review.

Rulemaking request for comments

Vice Chair Holsinger reviewed the six main goals identified for this rulemaking: definitions for terms not currently defined; exemption criteria; criteria for evaluating recycling and composting, including potential for growth and expansion, thresholds, and measurement criteria for covered materials; stewardship plan and annual report requirements; and other topics.

Subcommittees discussed comments in advance of the July 15 meeting. Each subcommittee chair sent comments to Vice Chair Holsinger, who consolidated them into a single document. During the meeting, Advisory Board members reviewed the consolidated draft comments and made live edits. Given the volume of discussion, Jon Steiner made a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes, to 4:30 p.m., to complete this work. Sam Holl seconded. Darla Arians conducted a roll call vote.

Yes: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holl, Holsinger, Keegan, Melkonian, Micon, Pinc, Reinhardt, Schuppert, Sellars, Steiner

Nonvoting: Koudelka

Absent: Sauers

Public comment

Lori Olinger, representing the Zero Waste Coalition, the Coalition for Plastic Reduction, and the Sierra Club, raised concerns about CAA's draft Responsible End Market (REM) standards, stating that they were developed with limited opportunity for Advisory Board and public input before a near-final draft was released, and expressing concern that the draft does not fully reflect Minnesota's statutory definitions and environmental justice protections. She asked the Advisory Board to encourage MPCA to develop strong, enforceable rules for responsible end markets that faithfully implement state law with clear public accountability.

Scott DeFife, President of the Glass Packaging Institute, raised concerns about source-reduction assumptions for glass packaging in the pre-read materials, stating that the data relied on limited pilot examples not reflective of mass production and that glass redesign involves significant functional, safety, and manufacturing constraints beyond lightweighting. He shared comments regarding a lack of focus on reuse and refill for glass and offered to work with the Advisory Board and the state on glass-related data and questions.

Rachel Fullmer, policy advocate with the Natural Resources Defense Council, echoed concerns about CAA's draft REM standard, both as to process and substance, particularly regarding hazardous waste, chemical recycling, and the threshold for designating a market as responsible.

Rulemaking request for comments (continued)

Following further discussion, Chair Reinhardt called for a motion to approve the Advisory Board's rulemaking comments as amended. Jon Steiner motioned, with Gabrielle Batzko-Conley seconding. Darla Arians conducted a roll call vote.

Yes: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holl, Holsinger, Keegan, Melkonian, Micon, Pinc, Reinhardt, Schuppert, Sellars, Steiner

Nonvoting: Koudelka

Absent: Sauers

The comments, as amended, will be finalized and Vice Chair Holsinger will submit them ahead of the July 24 deadline.

Next steps and closing

The next Packaging EPR Advisory Board meeting is Wednesday, September 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. CT. The August Advisory Board meeting has been canceled, and subcommittees will pause during August and September. The October and November meetings have been rescheduled to Thursday, October 22 (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. CT) and Monday, November 2 (1:00–4:00 p.m. CT). The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Notes compiled by: Jennifer Schultz

[Minnesota's Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board](#)