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**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Thursday, September 23, 2021  
 Via conference call/Zoom

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| <p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich.<br/> <b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Brad Wolbert, Bart Sponseller, Eliza Kruszynski, Jennifer Feyerherm.<br/> <b>Public:</b> Marty Oxman, Alter Metal; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Tom Thompson, UW-Health; Brent Bohn, Barron County; Rick Eilertson, US West; Valerie Parker, Village of Weston; Horacio Aguirre-Villegas, Chemical Upcycling of Waste Plastics (CUWP).<br/>         Note- due to the call-in/Zoom nature of the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p> |   |
| Call to Order  | Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.   |
| Introductions and Announcements  | Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Chair Mark Walter announced the passage of California’s SB343, which will legislate the use of the term ‘recyclable’ and the recycling symbol.   |
| Approval of Minutes (June 1, 2021)   | <b>Motion made</b> by Heidi Woelfel and seconded by Jarrod Holter to approve the minutes of June 1, 2021. Motion carried (6-0).   |
| DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates   | <p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring freeze no longer in effect.</li> <li>• New Hires: Hydrogeologist to work on Beneficial Use and Low Hazard Waste Exemptions - Kevin Bartell; IT Project Coordinator – Michael Salzman.</li> <li>• Recruiting: two regional Hazardous Waste Specialists focusing on Transfer, Storage and Disposal facilities; two IT developers; Green &amp; Healthy Schools Coordinator. Upcoming: SE regional supervisor.</li> <li>• Staff working in-office or from home             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many staff working 40% in-office (two days/week), 60% work at home.</li> <li>○ Waste &amp; Materials Management (WMM) staff transitioned to all staff having cell phones (eliminating landlines)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Still encouraging virtual meetings; procedure set up to gain approval for in-person meetings.</li> <li>• Masks required in state office buildings or when conducting state business indoors or in groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible Unit (RU) grant application period is now open; 10/1 deadline (for no late penalty)</li> <li>• Data QA/QC on annual reports on Material Recovery Facility (MRF) RUs nearly complete; will be online early October.</li> <li>• Recycling Excellence Awards nomination period closed 9/17; 20 nominations received. Selections will be made and notified, with formal announcement around America Recycles Day.</li> <li>• E-cycle/recycle household survey- analyzing results.</li> <li>• File digitization: RU files still being digitized.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NR 544 Effective Recycling Program Admin Code             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soliciting stakeholder input (WMM Study Group, Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)/Solid Waste Association of North America- Badger Chapter (SWANA)/Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA), Council on Recycling (today), National Waste &amp; Recycling Association (NWRA).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Statewide waste characterization study posted online. More on study later in today’s meeting.</li> <li>• As a result of study, food waste reduction is a DNR focus; subgroup focusing on next steps.</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sept. 29 – 1:00 p.m. Brown County RU Evaluation Workshop</li> <li>○ Oct. 7 - 11:00 a.m. NWRA Meeting</li> <li>○ Oct. 7 – 1:00 p.m. WMM Study Group Meeting</li> <li>○ Oct. 7 – 1:30 p.m. Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting</li> <li>○ Oct. 15 – 2:30 p.m. WI Apartment Association Conference</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/ PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget- overall held steady, lost 0.5 position which had not been filled in years, slight increase for wages.</li> <li>• Legislature not in session.</li> <li>• SB248/AB254- E-cycle law 2021 WI Act 29             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signed by Governor and enacted 8/7/21</li> <li>○ Expands schools to all public/private K-12</li> <li>○ Reduces or eliminates annual registration fees for electronics manufacturers that sell fewer than 500 covered electronic devices per year in WI.</li> <li>○ Requires manufacturers to report the weight of electronics collected from rural counties separately from electronics collected from urban counties.</li> <li>○ Requires the DNR to create a program to provide grants to expand electronics recycling and recovery programs in underserved areas of the state; expect to begin work setting up the grant program later this year.</li> <li>○ Transitions E-cycle Wisconsin from a July-June program year to a calendar program year, beginning with an 18-month transition period that runs from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• E-cycle rule- was supposed to go before Natural Resources Board 9/18 but meeting canceled; hope to be on Oct. meeting agenda. Written comments and/or verbal testimony will be accepted on the e-cycle rule at the meeting. Sarah Murray will be communicating with stakeholders once agenda is published.</li> <li>• Next WI PFAS Action Council (WisPAC) meeting 11/10 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Overview of s. 287.22 Council on Recycling Duties</p> | <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> provided an overview of the statutory provisions for councils in general as well as specific language on the Council on Recycling itself. <b>J. Semrau</b> also shared information pertaining to open meetings laws.</p>   |

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|  <p>Overview of COR Duties.pdf</p>   | <p>See slide deck at left. M. Walter stated it was good to understand the statutory provisions and duties to inform future potential actions by the council.</p>  |
| <p>Recent Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation</p>  | <p><b>Mark Walter, Brown County</b> noted the difference between product stewardship and EPR (extended producer responsibility), as EPR being mandatory (legislation), not voluntary. E-cycle Wisconsin is an EPR example. M. Walter stated <i>Waste Dive</i> (magazine) printed a list of states with EPR legislation. In June, Maine became the first state in the U.S. to pass packaging EPR, which provides financial obligations for manufacturers. M. Walter views this as a significant moment. Oregon subsequently passed EPR for packaging legislation as well. While the prospect for Wisconsin is unknown, bottle bill states are leading the way. The Sustainable Packaging Institute is a good resource. At the federal level, the “Break Free From Plastics Pollution Act” proposes nationwide EPR. In Wisconsin, paint EPR has been explored in the past. Brad Wolbert suggested that EPR for specific materials (electronics, paint) can lead to more EPR, but doesn’t necessarily lead to packaging.</p>   |
| <p>DNR Waste Characterization Study Report</p>  <p>Waste Sort Results 9.21.pdf</p> | <p><b>Casey Lamensky, DNR</b> shared a presentation on the results of 2019-2020 waste characterization study, identifying the largest components of the waste stream and comparing the results to other Wisconsin and national studies. David Pellitteri asked if data was analyzed by urban versus rural. C. Lamensky said no, however it was analyzed by region and certain regions are more rural (northern) and others more urban (southeast). Horacio Aguirre-Villegas asked if detailed plastic information was available and C. Lamensky displayed information from the full report. H. Aguirre-Villegas asked about MRF plastic residual, which ends up at landfills. C. Lamensky said that was not studied specifically, but more information on the composition of that material could be provided by MRFs themselves. M. Walter stated the Tri-County MRF does not sort residual. Kelly McDowell asked about data on #2 PETE. M. Walter clarified that #1 is PETE and #2 is HDPE. K. McDowell asked about overall bottles data- how many are consumed versus recycled or landfilled. C. Lamensky said that was not a part of the study’s scope, but MRF data on plastics recycled is available. J. Semrau described data available from MRFs and RUs. B. Wolbert commented that consumption data is not known.</p> |
| <p>NR 544 Walkthrough and Discussion</p>  <p>NR 544 Walkthrough 9.21.pdf</p>     | <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> reminded the council of the Legislative Audit Bureau’s statewide audit and report. Amongst the recommendations of the report included updating the administrative code for effective recycling programs, NR 544. As an initial step, DNR is seeking feedback from various stakeholder groups on potential areas of change or improvements needed in the code. This information will be used to inform the development of a scope statement. Because a scope statement has not been approved by the Natural Resources Board, only general concepts (not specific code language) can be discussed. J. Semrau presented a detailed overview of the content of NR 544 and indicated this would be one of many opportunities to comment during the rule revision process. M. Walter asked when new rules would go into effect. J. Semrau stated that rule development is a multi-year process, so likely not until 2025.</p>  |

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| Recycling Market Updates         | <b>M. Walter, Brown County</b> shared that markets are very good; pricing is up 148%, nearly across the board. The Tri-County MRF cannot collect enough OCC (old corrugated cardboard) and mixed paper to meet demand. This improved pricing helps communities/RUs. Commodity rebates will cover the cost of collection in Brown County this year. Markets will likely carry over to 2022. D. Pellitteri stated that while markets are great now, it follows 18 months of poor markets and what goes up will come down. There are still challenges with plastics #3-7 and rigids, with more supply than demand. Paper is high with strong Wisconsin demand; pricing may level off but will still be valuable. M. Walter said the challenge with producing clean, sorted material is labor shortages. The Tri-County MRF's first shift is staffed at about 75-80%, but second shift is only about 60%. |
| Recycling Compliance Issues      | <b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include: complaints or alleged compliance issues at multi-family properties or non-residential properties in Fitchburg, Waukesha, Slinger, Sheboygan, Muscoda and New London; new complaint alleging potential multi-family/hauler violations in Oconto. General complaints on lack of trash/recycling collection services around WI, primarily in central and northeast WI.   |
| Public Comment                   | None.   |
| Other Business/Next Meeting Date | Discussion on holding next meeting in January 2022. J. Semrau will send out a Doodle.   |
| Adjourn                          | Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.; motioned by David Pellitteri and seconded by Jeff Zillich. Motion carried (6-0).   |