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**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
 Via conference call/Zoom

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich</p> <p><b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Brad Wolbert, Bart Sponseller, Casey Lamensky, Amy Dubruiel, Sean Kennedy, Jennifer Feyerherm</p> <p><b>Public:</b> Josh Zaharias, Froedtert Hospital; Gerry Neuser, Manitowoc County/WI Counties Solid Waste Management Association; Kathy Hutter, Winnebago County; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Joshua Connell, Lakeshore Recycling Systems; Evan Miller, Senator Robert Cowles; Chad Doverspike, Brown County; Lynn Morgan, Waste Management Inc.; Rob Michitsch, UW-Stevens Point. 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 1:01 p.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (Sept. 29, 2020)	<b>Motion made</b> by Mark Walter and seconded by Jarrod Holter to approve the minutes of September 29, 2020. 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>• A hiring freeze remains in effect; special permission needed to hire.</li> <li>• However, the Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program has received authorization to fill a Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Licensing Engineer. Position has been filled by an internal candidate who will be announced soon.</li> <li>• WMM was also able to hire an IT contractor.</li> <li>• Ariana Mankerian, Recycling and Solid Waste Reporting Specialist, returned from leave on a part-time basis in October; presently working ~50% time on data QA/QC from annual reports.</li> <li>• DNR staff are still primarily working from home.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling program will experience 13 more Responsible Units (RUs) in 2021. The City of Muskego is leaving the Waukesha County RU. In addition, the Dunn County RU is dissolving, and those 26 municipalities will form 12 new RUs (individual and multi-member).</li> <li>• Waste characterization study continues. DNR contracted with SCS Engineers. Sorts occurring 12 landfills and will estimate percentages and weights of 85 material types within 8 categories of waste. Project may be expanded to spring to get additional/sufficient loads. Original report was expected by March 31, 2021, but maybe delayed.</li> <li>• The Water Quality program is leading a rulemaking effort to allow third-party proctored online certification exams. This would include exams for landfill operator and manager certification. This will likely change the fees involved with exams as well. They are just finishing wording on the scope statement and plan to do emergency and</li> </ul>

	<p>permanent rules. This came to light this year when the agency was unable to offer in-person certification exams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifteen Recycling Excellence Award winners were announced to coincide with America Recycles Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overall Program Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Calibre, Inc., Ozaukee County</li> <li>▪ City of Baraboo Public Works, Sauk County</li> <li>▪ Fredman Bag Corp., Milwaukee County</li> <li>▪ Outlook Group, LLC, Winnebago County</li> <li>▪ Pierce Manufacturing, Inc., Outagamie/Winnebago Counties</li> <li>▪ Vernon County Solid Waste and Recycling</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Projects and Initiatives Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central Wisconsin Recycling Collective, Marathon/Portage Counties</li> <li>▪ City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works, Sheboygan County</li> <li>▪ Iron River Recycle and Waste Transfer Center, Iron County</li> <li>▪ Yunker Industries, Inc., Walworth County</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Innovation Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Outagamie County</li> <li>▪ Green Bay Packaging, Brown County</li> <li>▪ Waukesha County Department of Parks &amp; Land Use</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Special Events Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good News Project, Marathon County</li> <li>▪ Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, Monroe County</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• E-cycle Annual Report to the legislature required by 12/1; posted online. Electronics rulemaking concepts (not rule language) will be discussed at upcoming feedback meeting (below).</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electronics Recycling Rulemaking Public Feedback meeting on 12/9 at 9:00 a.m.</li> <li>○ Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder meeting on 12/14 at 9:00 a.m.</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>• Legislature not currently in session.</li> <li>• Firefighting Foam emergency and permanent rules required by 2019 Wis. Act 101 – NR 159 rulemaking related to proper treatment, disposal, storage, and containment of firefighting foam that contains PFAS. The Natural Resources Board adopted on 10/28 and signed by the Governor on 11/25. Rule will be published in the <i>WI State Journal</i> on 12/4 &amp; becomes effective on that date. Next step is to hold a public hearing, which must be held prior to 1/18.</li> <li>• Revise NR 544 starting with a scope statement in next year or two.</li> </ul>
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<p>Legislative Audit Bureau Review of Recycling Program</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> provided background to the council. In September 2019 the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requested the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) to conduct an audit of the statewide recycling program. The timeframe of the audit was ~2014-2019. J. Semrau discussed the scope of the audit, which can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>J. Semrau went over the <a href="#">Report Highlights</a> document, which includes brief background, LAB recommendations and one legislative consideration. The recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comply with statutes by spending all funds appropriated through s. 20.370 (4) (hq), Wis. Stats. on administering ch. 287, subchapter II, Wis. Stats.;</li> <li>• consistently comply with statutes by annually reviewing the recycling programs of at least 5.0 percent of responsible units that were awarded recycling grants in the previous year;</li> <li>• annually analyze the results of its reviews in order to provide guidance to all responsible units on addressing common concerns;</li> <li>• establish written policies for reviewing the annual reports submitted by responsible units;</li> <li>• document its reviews of the annual reports submitted by responsible units; and</li> <li>• update provisions in its administrative rules pertaining to effective recycling programs</li> </ul> <p>The issue for legislative consideration identified was that the Legislature could consider modifying the statutorily required method for awarding recycling grants to responsible units.</p> <p>J. Semrau discussed DNR’s response to the audit report (found at the end of the full <a href="#">report</a>). Most importantly, DNR sees the report as an opportunity to improve the recycling program. The response did note that the review did not identify any instance of intentional fraud, waste or mismanagement. The response noted that the audit focused on a subset of the recycling program. DNR’s recycling and waste diversion program also assists with and reviews responsible unit consolidations and separations; responds to recycling complaints and questions; tracks national and global market trends; creates guidance and free publications; conducts public stakeholder meetings, mass email and social media outreach; staffs the governor-appointed Council on Recycling; and liaisons with state and national recycling organizations. DNR intends to implement the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>J. Semrau also reviewed the sister <a href="#">report</a> on Recycling Best Practices for Local Recycling Programs, which provided recommendations for outreach/education, containers, collection, drop-off sites and program administration/oversight. Finally, J. Semrau shared the that LAB also surveyed all RUs, and RUs indicated they were very satisfied (94-96%) with assistance provided by DNR staff. The item RUs were least satisfied with was their grant amounts.</p>
<p>WMI ADS GFL Environmental Sites Changes in WI</p>	<p><b>Casey Lamensky, DNR</b> shared that DNR has considered the environmental site changes created as a result of the Waste Management Inc./Advanced Disposal Services/Green For Life buyout and disinvestitures. Whether the facility is a landfill, transfer station, hauling operation or MRF, the entity can</p>

	continue operations as is without additional action from the DNR. If the facility wishes to make a change, then a new plan of operation (or similar, depending on the facility type) will be required.
EPA National Recycling Strategy	<b>David Keeling, Council Chair</b> indicated that the agenda had a <a href="#">link</a> to the EPA National Recycling Strategy. The three objectives of the strategy are: reduce contamination in the recycling stream, increase processing efficiency and improve markets. David shared that the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is generally supportive, however the strategy could go further. There are a lot of procurement guidelines already in place, but enforcement is needed. Another resource is the Buy Recycled Business Alliance. The America Recycles Day workgroups have been positive. NRC encourages EPA to be more vocal and to do more national public education. M. Walter noted that Associated Recyclers of WI (AROW) is also drafting comments; it is nice to see a national framework.
Recycling Compliance Issues	<b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> shared that since the last council meeting, new complaints about multi-family properties not recycling were received in Appleton, Fitchburg, Green Bay, Monona and Port Washington. J. Semrau is working with the RU of jurisdiction on follow-up and compliance.
Market Updates/ COVID-19 Impacts	<b>D. Keeling, Council Chair</b> said plastic HDPE is up. David Pellitteri suggested HDPE movement is driven by California and the law requiring higher recycled content. HDPE color is starting to follow HDPE natural and price is increasing. Aluminum is starting to climb a little; Alcoa is selling off operations. M. Walter said paper is stable. Green Bay Packaging's expansion will be coming online and will take OCC (old corrugated cardboard) and mixed paper.
Public Comment	A member of the public asked what the Council thinks of CA requiring higher recycled content. D. Pellitteri suggested the EPA recycling strategy could impact recycled content/buy recycled at a national level. D. Keeling indicated current federal guidelines are not enforced.
Other Business	None
Next Meeting Date/ Location	Discussion on holding next meeting in conjunction with the statewide recycling/solid waste conference. Decision to hold it separately, potentially in mid-February. J. Semrau will send out a Doodle.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.; motioned by David Pellitteri and seconded by Heidi Woelfel. Motion carried (6-0).