



Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, December 21, 2021
 Via conference call/Zoom

<p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling (10:50), Mark Walter, Barb Worcester, Jeff Zillich.</p> <p>DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns.</p> <p>Public: Chris Blan, Brown County, Marty Oxman, AMP Robotics; Jason Johns, NWRA; April Greene, KTL; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Rick Eilertson, US West; Meleesa Johnson, Marathon County/AROW; Billie Hufford, City of Eau Claire; Zane Korarec, VA Medical Center; Susan Nelson, retired Supervisor; Molly Blessing and Nicholas George, Household Consumer Products Association (HCPA).</p> <p>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 10:04 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (September 23, 2021)	Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by Barb Worcester to approve the minutes of September 23, 2021. Motion carried (4-0).
DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring freeze no longer in effect. • New Hires: Green & Healthy Schools Coordinator- Beca (Rebecca) McCarthy (Oct); IT Developer – Joe Caughlin (Nov); Haz Waste Specialist- Eric Reinhard (South Central Region) (Jan). • Internal Transfers: Environmental Program Assistants to Haz Waste Specialists- Anna Stertz (Northeast Region) and Megan Diedrick (West Central Region). • Recruiting: upcoming South Central Regional Supervisor. • Retirements/resignations: Complaint Coordinator, Waste Management Specialist- Sherry Wise; Business Services & IT Section Chief- David Albino; Environmental Management Administrator- Darsi Foss; Deputy Secretary- Todd Ambs • Staff working in-office or from home • Still encouraging virtual meetings; procedure set up to gain approval for in-person meetings. • Masks required in state office buildings or when conducting state business indoors or in groups. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauler Stakeholder Meeting and Recycling Reporting Training, 12/1 and 12/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DNR staff provided overview of recycling law, legal requirements for haulers, legal requirements for Responsible Units (RUs), tips to aid in RU reporting ○ Slides/recording online

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-meeting evaluation this week ● Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder Meeting, 12/13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DNR Updates & Commodity Market Overview, Federal Infrastructure Bill & Other Federal Legislation, MRF Granting Initiatives & Other Updates ○ MRF Presentations/Discussion: Reflections on Markets, Labor, Supply Chain Impacts & Operations ○ Slides/recording online ○ Post-meeting evaluation this week ○ In addition to MRFs who attended, all MRFs will be surveyed to ask about obsolete and needed plastic categories and interest in participating in monthly confidential commodity market/processing cost survey. ● Issued press release celebrating improved commodity markets for recyclables (Nov) which was picked up by various state and regional media outlets. ● Recycling Excellence Awards announced Nov. 15 in conjunction with America Recycles Day; winners and descriptions available online. ● 2020 MRF and RU data from annual reports complete (presented later in agenda). ● Upcoming Annual Report season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infectious Waste released mid-Jan, due 3/1 ○ MRF released mid-Feb, due 3/30 ○ RU released mid-Mar, due 4/30 ● E-cycle/recycle household survey- analyzing results. ● File digitization: RU files still being digitized. ● NR 544 Effective Recycling Program Admin Code <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft scope statement being reviewed internally by staff ○ Plan to bring a ‘Recycling 101’ presentation before Natural Resource Board first to provide important background info (April?) ○ Intend to seek scope statement approval at subsequent meeting ● As a result of statewide waste characterization study, food waste reduction is a DNR focus; subgroup focusing on next steps. ● Platform used by RU and MRF Annual Reports being phased out; will be transitioning to new database/system. ● Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feb. 3 – 9:00 a.m. WMM Study Group Meeting ○ Feb. 17 - 9:00 a.m. NWRA Annual Meeting ○ Feb. 23-25 – WI Integrated Resource Management Conference <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E-cycle rule signed by Governor’s office, one final legislative committee approval. ● Coal Combustion Residual rule on January NRB meeting agenda for approval for draft rule. Impacts six landfills owned by four utilities in the state managing coal ash. Kate Strom Hiorns coordinating with U.S. EPA. ● NR 544 rulemaking (above)
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other national news: EPA releases National Recycling Strategy https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy • Federal infrastructure bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$55 million per year for 5 years to support improvements to solid waste management programs and infrastructure ○ \$15 million per year for 5 years for education and outreach on source reduction and recycling ○ \$25 million for battery recycling • EPA Administrator also required to develop a model recycling program toolkit, assist educational community with school curriculum on recycling and revise review period of federal procurement of recycled products/products containing recycled content to every five years. • Recent PFAS Tech Advisory Group (TAG) and External Advisory Group (EAG) meetings on 12/17 – solid waste content, including presentation on MN closed landfills study, discussions on EPA’s proposal to list four PFAS substances as RCRA hazardous constituents and landfills/leachate (related to PFAS); next meetings 2/18 TAG 9:00 and EAG 11:00.
<p>Challenges of Rechargeable Batteries in the Waste & Recycling Streams</p>  <p>COR20211221BatteryIssues.pdf</p>	<p>Chris Blan, Brown County provided an overview of rechargeable battery management challenges, mostly focused on lithium-ion batteries. Topics covered included fire risk, data from EPA’s recent study on lithium-ion battery fires, various legal and regulatory requirements, and disposal options. Meleesa Johnson, Marathon County/AROW President, said AROW (Associated Recyclers of WI), SWANA- Badger Chapter (Solid Waste Association of North America) and WCSWMA (WI Counties Solid Waste Management Association) are developing a rechargeable battery taskforce. Other organizations interested in participating include the WI State Fire Chiefs Association (WSFCA) and National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA). In addition, SWANA and AROW are planning to conduct an anonymous survey of Wisconsin solid waste and recycling operations to attain Wisconsin-specific data on fire incidents caused by batteries. Rick Eilertson said he would be interested in representing the American Public Works Association (WI Chapter) on the taskforce, and April Greene expressed interest in serving as she was formerly with electronics recycling company, Dynamic Recycling. Mark Walter said lithium-ion batteries are of considerable concern, and he would like to see the council actively involved in this issue.</p> <p>Motion made by Mark Walter and seconded by Barb Worcester to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the SWANA/AROW fire incident survey, and • support Rechargeable Battery Taskforce, and • assign a representative from the council to the Taskforce, and • encourage DNR to support the work of the Taskforce. <p>Motion carried (5-0).</p> <p>M. Walter will query council members (including missing members David Pellitteri and Heidi Woelfel) on which council member will serve on the Taskforce.</p>

<p>2020 Recycling & Waste Data</p>  <p>COR20211221RcySW Data.pdf</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR provided the 2020 recycling and solid waste data, as presented at the Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting in October. Overall recycling tonnage as reported by RUs and MRFs is flat. Residual rates at single stream MRFs dipped slightly after increasing each of the last four years. Overall landfill tonnage decreased from 2019 to 2020, but municipal solid waste remained steady. Barb Worcester asked if reports of improved commodity markets were accurate. J. Semrau stated 2021 was a very positive year for commodity markets, with plastic #2 HDPE experiencing record highs and all pricing up from one to two years ago. M. Walter asked if J. Semrau had any comments overall. J. Semrau noted the increase in cardboard as reported by RUs, noting the increase in residential e-commerce.</p>
<p>Recycling Market Updates</p>	<p>M. Walter, Brown County noted the DNR press release on improved commodity markets. Markets for certain materials (HDPE natural) were at their peak but have moderated since. Overall markets are still positive. Brown County's recycling fee rebate will help offset garbage expenses. M. Walter said having sufficient staff at the MRF has been an issue. Market for the new year are not forecasted to bottom out. Jeff Zillich said pricing was so high that even with the fourth quarter reduction, commodities are still valuable. Even with the decrease in fiber prices, value is still higher than historic rates. Trucking is still a challenge. Freight costs are higher, and it is hard to move material.</p>
<p>Recycling Compliance Issues</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR 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 Port Washington, Green Bay, Ledgeview and Kenosha; complaint regarding a recycling drop-off facility's hours; complaint on hauler in northern region whose website says 'no sorting' (and recyclables are accepted). In addition, notice of non-compliance were issued to two MRFs since the last meeting. At one MRF, alleged non-compliance in shipping not less than 75% of materials off-site in a year, adequate processing capacity, complying with landfill bans (did not have an approved low-hazard exemption or approved plan modification for landfill and was using three-mix glass as aggregate). Staff presently working with MRF to return them to compliance. At second MRF, alleged non-compliance in operating in nuisance-free manner, adequate storage capacity and adequate processing capacity. A fire resulted in shut down of operations, but MRF continued to receive material beyond its storage capacity. Large on-site stockpile observed with windblown liter leaving the site. MRF did return to compliance.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Other Business/Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>M. Walter indicated he would like to get the council on an every other month meeting schedule, with the next meeting coinciding with the WI Integrated Resource Management conference in Green Bay. J. Semrau stated there were two options to meet in conjunction with the conference: the Tuesday preceding the conference (any time) or Friday afternoon (at the conclusion of conference activities). To avoid people needing to be there a full extra day, M. Walter suggested Friday afternoon would be best. J. Semrau will query the council on their availability for 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.</p>

Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.; motioned by David Keeling and seconded by Jarrod Holter. Motion carried (5-0).
---------	---