

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Auburndale Village Hall, 5988 1st Street, Auburndale, WI and Teams

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| <p>Council Members Present: John Anderson, Heidi Woelfel, Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, Marty Oxman, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter. DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Peter Waples, Amy Dubruiel, Ruth O’Donnell. Public: Chris Blan, Brown County; Laura Stevens, City of Milwaukee; Autumn Springs, HCPI; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Don Hacker, Edgar Gonzalez, Libby Gonzalez, Dylan Myszka, Billy Buhman and Garrett Brown; Liberty Tire. Note- due to the call-in/virtual ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be properly identified above; omissions or errors are 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 (February 2024) | Motion made by David Pellitteri and seconded by Jarrod Holter to approve the minutes of February 9, 2024. Motion carried (7-0). |
| DNR/Legislative Updates Rulemaking/Legislative Update Slides | <p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <p>New</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Strom Hiorns- new Bureau Director for Waste & Materials Management Program, started in role 5/20 • Ruth O’Donnell- new Organics Waste Mgt Specialist (WMS) focusing on food waste reduction (SWIFR funded 2+ year project position) • Kelly Carlson- new Non-Landfill Team WMS (Eau Claire) • Kendra Fisher and Laura Hill- new Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSDF) Licensing Engineers • Taylor Schultz, LF certification coordinator <p>Recruitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 engineers (Northern/Northwest, Northeast) • Hydrogeologist (Northeast) <p>Upcoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling & Solid Waste Section Manager • Green & Healthy Schools Coordinator <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Annual Report season has wrapped; beginning QA/QC • 2024 Recycling Grant distributed (by June 1 deadline) • J. Semrau served as a reviewer of the curriculum for the Solid Waste 101 Course (produced by the Associated Recyclers of WI [AROW], Solid Waste Association of North America [SWANA] Badger Chapter, and WI Counties Solid Waste Management Association [WCSWMA]). |

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| | <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates (slides linked at left):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling Rule- received approval at Natural Resources Board meeting on 5/22; sent to Governor’s Office. Next Legislative committees’ review (do not meet until 2025). Staff will begin to focus on development of guidance docs, revisions to existing publications, webpages, etc. • Solid Waste Rule- working on economic analysis, expect to post formal Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) public comment period in June. Next public hearing, likely early fall. • Act 107 (municipal owner financial responsibility) and Act 108 (changes to E-cycle WI program) passed. |
| <p>Battery Legislative Discussion/ Action by Council</p> | <p>Mark Walter, Brown County/Council Chair recapped that the council previously supported SB 906 (discussed above). David Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste Systems and Chair of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) WI chapter stated NWRA is looking at SB 906 and possible EPR (extended producer responsibility) language. They are reviewing the proposed IL and MN legislation as models. NWRA is considering how batteries could tie into existing E-cycle WI or Clean Sweep programs. Could the Battery Taskforce be reinvigorated? Would it be helpful to do so? Need to focus as an industry.</p> <p>M. Walter stated that batteries are a top issue for the council, reiterating its support for SB 906. Does NWRA have a draft of new legislation? D. Pellitteri stated that SB 906 was thought to have been a quick, implementable solution given the amount of time left in the session. Now there is a year for legislative development; should have language by next meeting. Plan to seek support from the council and other organizations. David Keeling stated that the timing is right. Other states are passing battery (and other product) EPR bills. There is industry concern each state will have its own legislation. Marty Oxman stated that the east coast is leading but it is only a matter of time for WI. Chris Blan, Brown County, asked if battery containing devices are included or not. 300+ watt hour? Vaping devices? Issues with all of these, especially vapes easily exceeding hazardous waste limits (as nicotine is an acute hazardous waste). Point of sale collection programs are needed. Also need to have sufficient fire suppression to collect.</p> <p>M. Walter suggested the council could support future legislation. Jarrod Holter asked if the council role would include assistance in drafting or support only? M. Walter stated that council member, David Pellitteri, is actively involved in the legislation drafting. D. Pellitteri suggested putting this on the agenda for the next meeting; should have a draft then. M. Walter volunteered to assist as needed.</p> |
| <p>2022 Recycling Data Report</p> <p>Slides</p> | <p>Peter Waples, DNR presented 2022 finalized Responsible Unit (RU) and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) recycling data. (Slides at left.) Overall, RU and MRF data reported was down 1-2% from 2021 to 2022. M. Walter commented that containers are being light-weighted, so less material is used per container, which could contribute to the slight decline. D. Pellitteri also mentioned the maximum residual rate of 20% for MRFs included in the recycling rule revision.</p> |

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| <p>Food Waste Diversion Update</p> <p>Slides</p> | <p>Ruth O'Donnell, DNR provided a food waste diversion update (slides at left), providing a brief personal background and progress on the implementation of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant received from the US EPA. R. O'Donnell asked for suggestions from the council.</p> <p>M. Walter indicated food waste diversion is on the list of priorities for the council. AROW is a key group. D. Pellitteri said that as a hauler, he is interested in picking up food waste, but there needs to be a consistent place to deliver the material. Contamination will be an issue (just like it is at single stream MRFs, which can get 20% contamination). Accepting facilities need to be able to handle contamination. Haulers are willing to collect it if there is a place to take it. M. Walter agreed that 'where to take it?' and 'how to deal with contamination?' are the key questions. Solving is important as 20% of what goes to landfill is food waste.</p> |
| <p>Council Activities Report/Potential Action by Council</p> <p>2023 Report of Council Activities</p> | <p>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair provided the final report to the council (link at left). John Anderson thanked Mark for putting together a comprehensive report. Motion by John Anderson to send final report to legislature and governor. Seconded by Jarrod Holter. Motion carried 7-0.</p> |
| <p>Recycling Market Updates</p> <p>Recyclable Paper Values</p> <p>Recyclable Container Values</p> | <p>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair shared paper and container values (see links at left). Markets are generally up or steady. M. Walter did clarify that the Tri-County MRF does not separate newsprint. D. Pellitteri concurred that increasing commodity values helps with the increase in processing expenses. M. Walter said it also helps offset transportation costs.</p> |
| <p>Recycling Compliance Issues</p> | <p>J. Semrau, DNR said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Complaints or alleged compliance issues at multi-family properties or non-residential properties in Reedsville, Sun Prairie and Muskego.</p> |
| <p>Public Comment</p> | <p>None.</p> |
| <p>Other Business/Next Meeting Date/Topics/ Locations</p> | <p>After discussion, look at second or third week of September for the next meeting. J. Semrau will do a Doodle. Locations could include new GFL or WM MRFs or Pellitteri MRF. M. Walter prefers to do the meeting in-person. Topics for the next meeting include battery recycling/legislation and food waste diversion.</p> |
| <p>Introduction to Liberty Tire Recycling Facility</p> <p>Slides</p> | <p>Edgar Gonzalez, Liberty Tire provided an overview of Liberty Tire Recycling's history and operations and debriefed tour participants on safety protocols.</p> |
| <p>Adjourn Business Meeting/Tour Liberty Tire Recycling</p> | <p>Business meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.; motioned by David Keeling and seconded by Heidi Woelfel. Motion carried (7-0). Participants toured Liberty Tire Recycling.</p> |