

Notes  
**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
 Via Teams

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> John Anderson, David Keeling, Marty Oxman, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Jerry DeMers, Jarrod Holter  <b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Peter Waples, Ruth O'Donnell, Sarah Murray, Kate Strom Hiorns  <b>Public:</b> Julie Ketchum, WM; Susan Schuller, Recycling Connections; Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling; Frazier Willman, American Forest and Paper Assn.; Matthew Knippen, Michels Corporation; Kathy Hutter, Winnebago County; Laura Stevens, City of Milwaukee; Jana Suriano, SCS Engineers; Eric Nelson, Good News Project          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 10:00 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	<p>Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.</p> <p>Introduction of new member: Gerald (Jerry) DeMers – Environmental consultant for 34 years, then 10 years with WI DNR focusing on landfill engineering, currently working with GZA Environmental. Welcome!</p>
Approval of Minutes (Sept. 2024)	Motion made by David Pellitteri and seconded by David Keeling to approve the minutes of Sept. 17, 2024. Motion carried (7-0).
Election of Officers	<p>Vacant secretary position. The secretary serves as back up to president and vice president to run meetings as needed.</p> <p>Jarrold Holter nominated by Mark Walter, seconded by David Keeling. No other nominations. J. Holter accepted the nomination. M. Walter moved to elect J. Holter as secretary, seconded by D. Keeling. Motion carried (7-0).</p>
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New: Sarah Murray, R/SW Section Manager (future recruitment will be E-cycle Coordinator vacancy). S. Murray introduced herself, sharing that she started with the DNR in 2005 and became the E-cycle Coordinator in 2010.</li> <li>• Recruitment: SE Region Waste Supervisor</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gearing up for reporting season             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IW released mid- Jan, due 3/1</li> <li>○ MRF released mid-Feb, due 3/30</li> <li>○ RU released mid Mar, due 4/30</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DOE Battery Grant – Charging Up Wisconsin Battery Recycling             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ U.S. Department of Energy announced the WDNR is one of seven state and local government agencies selected for negotiation of award to receive funding for battery collection and recycling projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Applied for just under \$1.6 million in federal funding (50% match)
  - Will use DOE funds to expand the DNR's statewide outreach program and allow E-Cycle WI Electronics Collection Grant program recipients to add battery collection to their sites and events
  - DNR would also use DOE funds to cover 50% of battery collection costs for sites or events in Justice40 communities or in counties without a battery collection location
  - [Read the U.S. DOE press release](#)
  - REAs- 13 winners, awards announced on ARD, 11/15
  - **Projects And Initiatives Category**
    - Cornell Camaraderie Club and Our Saviors Lutheran (Chippewa County)
    - Ducommun (Outagamie County)
    - theExchange: La Crosse Area Furniture Bank (La Crosse County)
    - Good News Project, Inc. (Marathon County)
    - University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (La Crosse County)
  - **Overall Program Category**
    - Green Box, LLC (Dane County)
    - Green Circle Recycling, LLC (La Crosse County)
    - Hsu Growing Supply (Marathon County)
    - Kaukauna Utilities (Outagamie and Calumet counties)
    - Village of Pleasant Prairie (Kenosha County)
    - Vernon County Solid Waste and Recycling
  - **Special Events Category**
    - Dane County Clean Sweep
  - **Innovation Category**
    - WM – Germantown (Washington County)
  - WI #1 in the nation for unwanted medication collection Oct 26 DEA/DOJ Drug Take Back Day, over 55K pounds, plus boasted over 500 permanent collections
  - Reminder Second Round of EPA SWIFR and REO Grants
    - SWIFR for Communities- \$58M, projects \$500K- \$5M, due 12/20/24
    - REO- \$39M, 1 award to a coalition for national wasted food and composting education and expanding compost markets, due 12/20/24
    - SWIFR for Tribes- \$20M, projects \$100K-\$1.5M, due 3/14/25
  - There will be another round of non-competitive State SWIFR grants in 2025, US EPA sought our feedback in Nov
  - US EPA publishes final "National Strategy to Prevent Plastics Pollution" 11/21
- J. Semrau, DNR** informed the council of various upcoming events:
- 12/5 11am Holiday waste media briefing. Topics covered will include common holiday items like wrapping paper and light strings, batteries and electronics, and food waste. This has generated lots of news stories around the state in the past two years. We also have this information on our [Recycling and Waste Reduction for All Seasons page](#).

- 2/6 9am WMM Study Group Meeting. Agenda and more information will be posted at [Waste and Materials Management Study Group | Wisconsin DNR](#).
- 2/6 12pm League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI)—American Society of Civil Engineers-Wisconsin Section (ASCE-WI) Webinar on the ASCE-WI Infrastructure Hazardous and Solid Waste Report Card for Wisconsin. [2024 ASCE-WI Infrastructure Report Card Webinar Series | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#)
- 2/26-2/28 WIRMC. DNR will have booth and presenting two sessions: “Taking on the Lithium Battery Challenge” and “Non-landfill Solid Waste Rules Feedback Session”

**J. Semrau, DNR** informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates:

- Recycling Rule & Hazardous Waste Rules
  - Sent to Legislature who will consider it in 2025. In meantime, staff are reviewing existing publications, web pages and guidance docs and considering what needs to be edited or created.
- WA-11-22 Landfill Design and Operation and Solid Waste Fees Rule
  - Wrapping up final drafts and internal reviews of the rule documents. Next = requesting approval from the Natural Resources Board on January 22, 2025. A packet of the rule documents will be available for public access when the NRB meeting is noticed in January. If anyone has questions or wants to see the rule before then, please contact Kate Strom Hiorns, [kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov)
- Municipal landfill OFR rule (WA-07-24E, WA-08-24) – DNR directed by 2023 WI Act 107 to conduct emergency rulemaking
  - Requirements relating to an alternative method of establishing owner financial responsibility (OFR) at municipally owned solid waste disposal facilities
  - Similar to net worth test for private businesses
  - Effective 11/15/24
  - Michael Schmit sent email out to landfills with checklist of information that needs to be sent to DNR in order to switch to the Alternative Method of OFR. This is an emergency/temporary rule until the permanent rule steps are completed. A public hearing is scheduled for Feb. 5, 2025.
- NR 502 Non-landfill SW code
  - Conducted 5 targeted feedback sessions (Sept-Nov)
  - Attendance numbers lower than hoped for but survey participation good
  - Results identify need for code updates and where to focus
  - Plan to post slides and surveys for all sessions.
  - Scope statement drafted, approved by Governor, published 12/2 at [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/scope\\_statements/all/11\\_2\\_24](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/scope_statements/all/11_2_24)
  - JCRAR (Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules) has 10 days from 12/2 to decide if they want to request a public hearing on the scope statement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a hearing is requested (expected) staff will request NRB approval to host the public hearing at the January NRB meeting.</li> <li>○ If we get on the January NRB agenda and they approve the hearing (expected) staff will host a public hearing on the scope statement on 1/30/25 from 9-10:30 am.</li> <li>○ Staff will consider any feedback on the scope from the public hearing and make changes as needed, then seek internal approvals in time to get on the February NRB meeting agenda (possible if necessary scope changes are not substantial). There staff will request approval of the revised scope statement at the February NRB meeting.</li> <li>○ If the NRB approves the scope statement at the February NRB meeting, language drafting will begin on 2/27/25.</li> <li>○ Drafting process of 10-12 months.</li> <li>○ Multiple opportunities for public comment, including feedback session at WIRMC.</li> <li>● 2023 WI Act 108 directed DNR to do E-cycle rule making to codify guidance on criteria department uses to determine if “good faith progress” is made towards meeting manufacturer targets (which allows for manufacturers to avoid shortfall fees)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scope statement drafted, signed by Governor last week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Battery Legislative Discussion/Potential Action by Council</p>	<p><b>David Pellitteri</b> provided an update that the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) WI chapter is working on drafting a bill related to battery management. Portable Battery Recycling Association (PBRA) has a model bill that will be incorporated into WI legislative format. This bill language is accepted by battery industry. NWRA is also reviewing IL’s recent battery bill. This will not be identified as an extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill; the focus is battery safety. Key points will be keeping recycling centers safe from the dangers of fires from improperly managed batteries and keeping those facilities recycling materials.</p> <p>Rep. Kitchens and Sen. Tomczyk are the legislators working on bill and hope to get it introduced in February. D. Pellitteri said that it should be ready for a discussion at the next Council meeting. M. Walter stated that it will be interesting to see how this works with the DOE grant award to DNR.</p>
<p>2023 Recycling Data Report <a href="#">Slides</a></p>	<p><b>Peter Waples, DNR</b> discussed information on the linked slides. Charts can also be found on DNR’s website at <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Studies.html">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Studies.html</a> 2023 Charts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recyclable Materials Collected by WI Responsible Units (RUs). (1083 RUs in the 2023 program calendar year.) Reduction in about 19% for both aluminum containers and steel/tin containers tonnage.</li> <li>● Trends in Recycling: All Banned Materials Collected by RUs</li> <li>● Recyclable Materials Sent to End Markets from Self-Certified MRFs. Increase of about 28% in aluminum containers.</li> <li>● Trends in Recycling: All Banned Materials Sent to End Markets from MRFs</li> <li>● Residual Rates Based on % Received for All Self-Certified MRFs</li> <li>● Residual Rate Trends Based on % Received for All MRFs 2018-2023</li> <li>● Breakdown of Banned Materials Sent to End Markets by MRFs 2018 vs 2023 - Growth in cardboard percentage overall</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent Total Recyclables Sent Out from all MRFs 2018-2023</li> </ul> <p><i>Jerry Demers:</i> How did aluminum % go down for RUs and increase for MRFs? A: RUs only report the total tonnage to us, not broken down by commodity. We apply the percentages of materials at MRFs that indicate at least 70% of their tonnage is residential, to the total tonnage reported by RUs. Of the MRFs used to determine RU material percentages, there was a reduction in aluminum tonnage.</p> <p><i>David Pellitteri</i> also offered that the recycling stream changes based on buying habits. And haulers report to RUs on tonnage from the previous year (or older) that haulers have data available of material sent to end markets. So the uptick in MRF data reflects uptick in buying of aluminum in recent years. Also, mixed paper reduction in tonnage seems accurate. Mailers in general sent to public has been reduced since 10-15 years ago. Suggest that DNR look at the printing industry to see if its volume has decreased as well. Now more “mailings” are online and more shipping to individual houses and not to stores. Trends shown in slides reflects what Pellitteri has seen in Madison.</p> <p><i>David Keeling:</i> Self-certified MRF data = ~800,000 tons. Is that more accurate than from the RUs? Better to use this for reliable trends? A: MRFs are reporting all categories of materials and is likely more reflective of real-world conditions for residential <i>and commercial</i> tonnage – but these are only MRFs that service residential (DNR does not get data from MRFs that solely handle commercial material). <i>D. Keeling:</i> So is reporting to RUs flawed? What about plastics? <i>J. Semrau:</i> not necessarily flawed; the data is accurate but the RU material is only residential tonnage and MRF data includes residential and some commercial. <i>D. Pellitteri:</i> When we (MRF) report, about half is residential and half is commercial tons. We report it all to DNR. Seems like there was some reduction in volume and weight of materials coming from residences in recent years. Also there are different weights of the recyclables themselves, such as lighter water bottles. That could explain some changes in plastic tonnage going down 3.8%.</p> <p><i>J. DeMers:</i> Single stream vs non-single stream MRFs – any comparison of pounds per person at each of these? Are we still getting more diverted per person at single-stream MRFs? <i>J. Semrau:</i> Unsure if we have this answer with the data we have. Is the increase all residuals? Unsure. <i>D. Pellitteri:</i> A lot of dual stream systems use an open top container, so materials are heavier if it rains and gets wet. Several municipalities have moved to weekly pick up of recyclables, and there is an uptick in recycling weight from those communities – it shows that carts are getting too full and then may be thrown in the trash with every other week pick up. <i>J. Semrau:</i> when additional (sufficient) recycling capacity is available, it is often used.</p>
<p>Food Waste Diversion Update</p> <p><a href="#">Slides</a></p>	<p><b>Ruth O’Donnell, DNR</b> provided a food waste diversion update (link to slides at left).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R. O’Donnell provided an update on the food waste management evaluation plan: goal is to inform policy decisions and analyze where additional investment, technical assistance and education may be needed to reach food waste diversion goal. Electronic surveys were sent in November to many sectors (generators like restaurants,</li> </ul>

	<p>grocery stores and universities, food reuse outlets, transporters, processors).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also working on holiday food waste outreach with a media briefing and webpage updates and article in <i>Natural Resources</i> magazine.</li> <li>• Licensed food scrap processing data:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 18 facilities composting food scraps</li> <li>○ 6 facilities composting food processing waste</li> <li>○ New de-packaging facilities: 1 licensed, 2 approved and to be licensed, 1 proposed – these facilities process packaged food that will be used in anaerobic digesters with manure and converted to renewable natural gas (RNG) fuel</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The former DNR e-newsletter called the Compost Post has been rebranded as Organics Waste Management News. Sign-up at <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDNR_665">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDNR_665</a>.</p> <p>M. Walter asked about survey results and recommendations, such as geographical areas of food generation. R. O'Donnell said that DNR expects the results of surveys in technical memos in early spring. Goal is to find where processing is taking place and any gaps that could be filled.</p>
<p>Overview of Recycled Commodity Markets</p> <p><a href="#">Slides</a></p>	<p><b>Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling</b> provided slides and information on recycled commodities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardboard (OCC- old corrugated cardboard) about 50% of what comes out of a MRF. Can be affected by dockworker strikes and freight rates. Increasingly automated systems being used to manage material. There is overcapacity in Europe and Asia recently, reducing demand for US markets.</li> <li>• PETE plastics markets can be affected by consumer spending, seasonality, and availability of cheap imported virgin or recycled resin. High demand in Mexico that primarily affects CA and other southwest states. Pricing tends to increase in spring when demand increases.</li> <li>• HDPE plastic is a much smaller market than PETE. Oversupply of virgin/off-spec material lowers the recycled market. Market also impacted by seasons – more milk consumed in summer.</li> </ul> <p>What to watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Automation allows higher processing volumes and lower labor costs and better quality bales</li> <li>- EPR expanding, more expected in 2025</li> <li>- 2030 brand targets for carbon footprint impact</li> <li>- Change in presidential administration and possible tariffs on Canada and Mexico, fewer incentives possible for recycling</li> </ul>
<p>Recycling Market Updates</p> <p><a href="#">Recyclable Paper Values</a></p> <p><a href="#">Recyclable Container Values</a></p>	<p><b>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair</b> shared paper and container values (see links at left). M. Walter said plastics are trending upwards. The tri-county recycling system is now accepting/tracking PP. D. Pellitteri shared that aluminum and HDPE natural pricing is up with PETE, HDPE color and steel down or flat. M. Walter said paper prices trending down, which is ~60% of MRF output.</p>

Recycling Compliance Issues	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new complaint or compliance issues at multi-family or non-residential properties since last meeting</li> <li>• Pierce County hauler investigation</li> <li>• Municipal compost and yard waste site investigation</li> </ul>
Public Comment	No comments
2025 Meeting Schedule/ Topics/ Locations/ Other Business/	<p><b>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair</b> and J. Semrau discussed proposed dates – first Fridays of March, June, September, and December. No comments from Council members, ok to schedule.</p> <p>M. Walter said battery legislation discussion and food waste diversion discussions will be standing agenda items. M. Walter suggested that March and December be virtual meetings, and June and September be in-person at facilities to take tours. Any location suggestions, please send to J. Semrau. M. Walter also suggested reports on the Environmental Management Account the Recycling Fund at future meetings. No other discussion from Council members.</p>
Required Online Training for Council Members	<p><b>Jennifer Semrau</b> led the Wisconsin Public Records Law (2024) Training (Required for Council members) and Ethics for Public Officials Training (Required for Council members).</p>
Adjourn Business Meeting	<p>Motion to adjourn made by David Pellitteri, seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m., however council members who had already completed the training independently, most staff and members of the general public voluntarily left the meeting prior to the trainings noted above.</p>