

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: December 3, 2020

Location: Skype

Member Attendance: Albee, Curry, Doverspike/SWANA, Johnson, Karwoski, Meyer Smith (until 11), Morgan, Sexton,
 Welch/WCSWMA Sieg/AROW

Guests: Several guests listened using Skype, 19 additional attendees

DNR WA Attendance: Joosten, Lamensky, Semrau, Sponseller, Strom Hiorns, Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	Follow-up/Notes
9:30	Agenda & Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes from 10/1/20 were approved. Finalized notes can be found on the WMM website. Agenda approved as is.
9:45 Wolbert	DNR Updates	<p>Waste characterization study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over halfway done with fieldwork however fieldwork will need to continue in spring due to COVID delays and then upcoming weather concerns. The final report will now be early June. Meleesa- will you cross check data against a different season? Casey- will be careful with direct comparisons especially due to dramatic residential/commercial changes due to COVID. Karin- Will the cost be impacted? Brad- can't say for sure but its unlikely. Karin- Final report should be sure to denote new schedule. <p>Per and polyfluoroalkly substances (PFAS) emergency rule was finalized but may have changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meleesa- if we accept small volumes at our site and have a spill is it covered? Kate- yes with normal spill response protocol. <p>Scope statement for 3rd party online certification exams (including landfill operator and manager)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality program is leading a rule making effort. Exam fees may be changed as part of rule rewrite. Finishing wording on scope statement now and plan to have an emergency and permanent rule package because of the difficulties with in-person exams currently.
10:00 Wolbert/Semrau	Legislative Audit Bureau Report on State Recycling Programs	<p>Report overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit requested by committee in 2019 (first since 2001) and covered, Responsible Units (RUs), and Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)'s Clean Sweep Report covered current state of recycling including decreased commodity pricing, noted decreasing staff numbers, and the unevenness of grant formula (range of <10-40% of program cost across RUs) To achieve 30% program coverage across all RUs, the grant would have to be 36 million Conducted a survey of stakeholders, opinions of RU, nearby states <p>Recommendations from the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative recommendation to reconsider grant formula that is currently based on 1999 data

- Spend all money specifically on traditional recycling not including the beneficial use of industrial byproducts program (dept is assessing other funding sources for Beneficial Use of industrial byproducts (BU))
- Increase individual Responsible Unit (RU) program reviews and not consider group program evals as an RU review (dept will continue to increase individual program evals in addition to self-certification evals, grant evals and group evals)
- Improve written policies for reviewing annual report reviews and documenting reviews. (Dept will establish procedures that better document the report analysis that is programmed and the follow-up for identified reports)
- Update rules that require material recovery facilities (MRFs) to report by commodity for each RU. (Dept plans to update ch. NR 544, Wis Adm. Code)

Group Discussion

- Lynn- What costs a little under 200,00/year for plan review for staff time and inspection of BU program? Brad- Primarily staffing the program.
- Bart- What is recycling plan review? Brad- An example is a compost facility.
- Lynn- Survey results are excellent, congratulations. The grant formula approval rating seems like RUs are not aware that the grant formula allocation is so uneven. Brad- We are hoping the formula will be up for discussion/gain traction with legislature.
- Amber- Has the dept been briefing legislators on this potential? Brad- We have not been hearing a lot so far. One legislator expressed interest and the dept is meeting with them.
- Amber- When you meet with chairs is there a follow up and/or public meeting to discuss report? Brad- have not met with chairs, but we expect to.
- Meleesa- Is it unusual that the hearing has not happened yet? Brad- We're not sure.
- Meleesa- 36 million is about the amount that landfills collect for recycling programs, but that money has been diverted away from recycling or waste reduction.
- Karin- Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW), Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWAMA), Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Badger ch. did write a response letter to LAB. These orgs look forward to working with legislature.
- Amber- Does the Waste and Materials Management Study Group (WMMSG) want to have a group voice during a public hearing?
- Meleesa- 10 years ago the Governor took recycling out of budget and heard a lot of messaging that recycling needs to pay for itself and Meleesa wants WMMSG to be prepared to talk about the economic benefits of recycling.
- Meleesa- Are there ideas for this groups role in following up to LAB and committee?
- Bart- We should use this opportunity to push all recycling fee money back to RUs.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn- Waste Management backs most recommendations but not all. Would the group support all or nothing in the report as a group? Meleesa- We can provide more flexibility in our group voice than just universal support. <p>Vote and Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the recycling subcommittee take the lead and bring ideas back to the group for consideration and approval? Yes, unanimous for all present WMMSG members (9). Send thoughts to Kate by 12/31. Kate will forward to subcommittee. January 8 at 12:30 for subcommittee meeting and discussion.
10:30 Sieg	Recovery and Diversion Subcommittee Update	Discussed Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report which was summarized on this full meeting.
11:00 Wolbert/Johnson	Building technical foundation for solid waste improvements	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dept would like to get stakeholder input on what an NR 500 series Wis. Adm. Code, scope statement should include. The dept wants to have technical research done in advance to prepare for window for rule change once a scope is approved. Technical research ideas are welcome. Current identified topics are alt liners (including C&D liner research), alt final covers, post closure care, codifying some common low hazard exemptions, PAHs in clean fill, safe disposal and treatment for non haz waste pharmaceuticals, organic stability. The dept is working on a scope study would entail for alt liners. The dept expects to have a scope statement for NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code, updates in the next 12-18 months. <p>Group Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim- Green For Life (GFL) will likely be reaching out to DNR on alternate liners in Jan 2021 for current status and info. Meleesa- Could covers include phased closure? Kate- yes we would refer to report from the study group. Meleesa- Could Low Hazard Exemption (LHE) materials be considered for self-implementing approval like MN has for glass? Lynn- What about PFAS in LHEs? What testing will be required and what standards will be applied if a detect is found? This was not identified in Wisconsin PFAS action Council (WisPAC). Bart- Do we have a list of standards we start with for LHEs? Kate- It depends on the materials; we use the resources we have but they are not standard. Please contact the dept with additional ideas.

		<p>Vote and Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be on the next agenda for more detailed discussion? Yes, unanimous support from all present members (8).
<p>11:30 Curry/Morgan</p>	<p>Waste Management - Advanced Disposal – GFL Environmental site changes in WI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim- Waste Management (WM) purchased Advanced Disposal Services (ADS) with several divestitures all to Green For Life (GFL). Of the 6 ADS landfills in WI GFL acquired 5 of them. WM picked up 1 landfill. More complex with transfer facilities and haulers. Lynn- 700 of ADS staffers become WM employees. Cranberry Creek in Central WI, 15 ADS owned transfer facilities and Portage County material recovery facility (MRF) (contract to operate) now WM facilities. Lynn- WI had most complicated outcomes with hauling companies. Department of Justice (DOJ) required more divestiture for maintaining competitive hauling markets. In a few situations WM chose to sell in addition to DOJ required divestitures. In some situations, one company will be taking the commercial routes and the other, residential from the same facility location. 5 WM hauling facilities were divested to GFL, 13 ADS hauling facilities obtained by WM, 11 sites from ADS to GFL. Lynn- Going to be some time before trucks and bins are rebranded because the 1st priority was staff and second priority was consistent service so rebranding will be happening as it goes. DNR will update study group webpage for Tim and Bart’s corporate name changes.
<p>11:50</p>	<p>Next meeting plans</p>	<p>Next meeting: February 2021 (continuing every other month schedule for 2021)</p>