

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: February 2, 2023


Location: Zoom

Member Attendance: Curry, Doverspike, Johnson, Karwoski, Knudtson, Mathewson, Morgan, Pellitteri, Sexton, Welch

Guests: 21 additional attendees listened using Zoom

DNR WA Attendance: Bekta, Burns, Keller, Lamensky, McGrath, Morris, Murray, Semrau, Sholly, Strom Hiorns, Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:00	Welcome/Agenda Review/Minutes	Item of agenda repair from the 11/3/23 notes – WM will talk to the Germantown Fire Chief, not an internal WM person, to bring the batteries topic forward as a potential topic for the Fire Chief’s association. Amended notes are approved.
9:10 Wolbert	DNR Updates	<p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 vacancies including Lori Mulsoff a solid waste (SW) specialist and Valerie Joosten the lead engineer for the program. • Vacancies have been slow to fill because of HR vacancies and program funding. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Program (WA) fees have been static since 2006. WA is not able to hire and is running at a slight budget deficit due to a lack of funding. <p>Rulemaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR 500 landfill scope was approved at last week’s Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting • NR 544 recycling scope was approved last year, and rule writing is well underway. Jennifer will be sharing more at this meeting and presenting and taking feedback at WIRMC. • Great Lakes dredge disposal emergency rule is now in effect and the permanent rule is being worked on. On March 14th at 1:30 there is a public hearing for both rules. The information is available on the DNR website and will be sent out via listservs. • 3 hazardous waste (hw) rules have scope approvals and are in rule writing phase. <p>Federal grant programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA is very likely to get a state solid waste infrastructure grant which can be used for recycling, waste characterization and similar. Melissa Tashjian Q – Will organics be part of the grant? Brad – yes, we expect that to be a theme. • WA has not applied for the competitive recycling outreach grant but is working with an external partner who has applied.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) grants have not opened yet but WA plans to apply. <p>Program updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in annual reporting season (hw generators, recycling responsible units (RUs) etc. • A document has been shared with the Study Group that is part of WA training guidance. This document shows that a solid waste exemption doesn't have to be unique to be approved. The requirement is that it be a "special case." Bart Q – Who can make decisions on granting exemptions? Brad A – Regional supervisors have signatory authority to issue these exemptions. New ideas will likely get central office (CO) review.
<p>9:30 Keller</p>	<p>Batteries – current universal waste status in Wisconsin</p>	 <p>2023_WSG_BCD as UW.pptx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of lithium battery landfill ban – need to discuss again at future meeting and possibly create a subgroup • Looking for an enforcement mechanism • Need significant education to keep batteries out of recycling facilities and landfills • Unable to know if a battery that started a fire is from a household or a business • "no ban without a plan" – need resources in place • Safety issue <p>Information shared by DNR with the Study Group after the meeting: BATTERY INFORMATION – FYI North American Hazardous Materials Management Asso - Lithium Battery Webinar Series (nahmma.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI DNR E-Cycle Program has assisted with setting up these webinars. The most recent from Feb. 28 was on battery Extended Producer Responsibility <p>In Our Opinion: Battery-handling tips for MRFs (resource-recycling.com) Call2Recycle Releases 2022 U.S. National Battery Collection & Recycling Data Call2Recycle Unit Oregon counties collect batteries at curbside</p> <p>Q&A: How Will We Recycle All the Batteries? MSW Management</p> <p>-----</p> <p>POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS: Survey on frequency of small and big fires and impacts: Insurance issues? Staff safety issues? Loss prevention costs?</p> <p>Get list of the existing battery recyclers in WI and nearby states. How can they be utilized?</p>

		<p>Can call2recycle be a resource for information or recommendations? Utilize their Avoid the Spark call</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Battery extended producer responsibility legislation proposals:</p> <p>Location Bill Number WA SB 5144</p> <p>Location Bill Number WA HB 1553</p> <p>Location Bill Number DC B24-1000</p> <p>Location Bill Number NY S 643</p>
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<p>10:00 Lamensky</p>	<p>Yard waste ban and holiday trees</p>	<p>Holiday trees and wreaths that otherwise meet the definition are yard waste and are subject to the landfill disposal ban. We are looking for information and feedback particularly on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people had a different understanding about how the yard waste ban applies to holiday trees and wreaths? • What is the best way for you to receive information and who should it be directed to about holiday tree planning? • For anyone who this is a change for what type of timing do you think it will take for implementation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Waste and Recycling Association discussed this topic at its last meeting. David P noted there was confusion around this topic. Asked that DNR issue a formal opinion with legal analysis. • Guest Rick Meyers from the city of Milwaukee noted that tree pick up was being done (in Milwaukee and elsewhere) because they can, not because of a landfill ban. Things bought at a store are decoration and not under the definition of yard waste. • Guest Melissa Tashjian from Compost Crusaders noted that residents assume trees are not going to landfills. Wants composting to be part of a solution. Not sustainable to landfill trees. • Tim C noted that landfills would likely prefer to compost trees as well, but a
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		<p>landfill ban on trees has not been the general understanding – considered voluntary. Alternative options needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn M had previously provided some comments to the DNR and noted that most trees are likely diverted from landfills. But in locations where they currently aren't, it will be a big lift to provide those services. <p>Action: DNR will survey responsible units (municipalities) in the future on who and how they are handling christmas trees</p>
10:15 Semrau	Recycling rulemaking update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Semrau presented slides with some rule concepts related to effective recycling programs and proposed/draft requirements for responsible units and materials recovery facilities.
10:45 Strom Hiorns	Landfill rulemaking update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief overview of plans to set up an external advisory committee. Requesting assistance from Study Group members to nominate committee members. More information will be shared by email to this group after today. Update on the rule and committee activities at our May meeting.
11:30	Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting: May 4, 2023