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WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Thursday, March 3, 2022
 Via conference call/Zoom

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| <p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling (10:10), David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel (10:25), Barb Worcester, Jeff Zillich. DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Eliza Kruszynski, Amy Dubruiel, Dustin Sholly. Public: Jason Johns, NWRA; April Greene, Kestrel Tellevate LLC; Rick Eilertson, US West; Valerie Parker, Village of Westin; Bill Clendenning, Wood County; Tom Thompson, UW-Health Sustainability; Leah Kinmonth, TDS. 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 10:01 a.m. |
| Introductions and Announcements | Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. |
| Approval of Minutes (December 21, 2021) | Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Pellitteri to approve the minutes of December 21, 2021. Motion carried (5-0). |
| Election of Officers | Mark Walter, Brown County identified the present slate of officers. Motion by David Pellitteri and seconded by Barb Worcester to nominate Mark Walter as Chair. Motion carried (6-0). Motion by Jeff Zillich and seconded by Jarrod Holter to nominate David Pellitteri as Vice Chair. Motion carried (6-0). Motion by David Pellitteri and seconded by Jarrod Holter to nominate Heidi Woelfel as Secretary. Motion carried (6-0). |
| DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates | <p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hire: SC Regional Supervisor- Bridget Kelly, joins the Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program from the Remediation and Redevelopment program, where she served as the emerging contaminants coordinator. • Number of WMM vacancies in various levels of recruitment. • With retirement of Environmental Management Administrator, Darsi Foss, Gail Good has been named acting EM Administrator. • IT staff have been consolidated into an agency wide team versus staff in each program. • COVID restrictions on meetings and travel have been lifted; staff allowed to participate in in-person meetings and may carpool again. • Masks no longer required in state office buildings or when conducting state business. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In mist of 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 ○ New online annual report was sent out to active landfill operators 2/18 to report 2021 tonnage by type and apply for |

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| | <p>the 2022-23 license, due 3/8. Also working on an online quarterly report option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-cycle/recycle household survey- analyzing results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing recycling specific report ○ Presented some results at WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) ○ Analyzing results of survey with waste characterization study results ○ Can provide full report at future council meeting • File digitization: RU files starting to return. Staff learning new Central File Repository (CFR). • NR 544 Effective Recycling Program Admin Code <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On agenda for 4/13 Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting to develop a ‘Recycling 101 Overview’ presentation to provide important background info prior to scope statement. ○ Scope statement drafted, reviewed internally by staff, signed by the Secretary’s Office and submitted for DOA/Governor approval. • As a result of statewide waste characterization study, food waste reduction is a DNR focus; subgroup focusing on development of residential food waste reduction webpage. • Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mar. 9 – 9:00 a.m. WI Beverage Assoc Annual Meeting (virtual) ○ Apr. 8 – time TBD WI Apartment Assoc Conference (Oshkosh) ○ Apr. 26 – 5:00 p.m. WI Ecolatinos Earth Day Celebration (virtual) ○ E-cycle workshops: Apr. 21 & 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (virtual); May 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Fitchburg and virtual); May 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Oshkosh and virtual) <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 890/ AB 943 - related to clean up of electronic recycling waste and making an appropriation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$2.5 M for CRT and related waste from 5R Processors in Rusk, Price or Washington Counties. ○ Requires DNR to contract w/3rd party for assessment, collection, transportation and disposal. ○ Introduced 1/24 and referred to committee. ○ Senate Public hearing 1/31, Assembly 2/9. ○ Passed Assembly 2/23. ○ Senate expected to have on final session Mar. 8-10 and likely to pass. • SB 771/ AB 790- related to providing grants for food waste reduction pilot projects and making an appropriation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires DATCP to provide grants for food waste reduction pilot projects that have an objective of preventing food waste, redirecting surplus food to hunger relief organizations, and composting food waste. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preference to grant proposals that serve areas for which the median household income is below the statewide median household income and in which no grocery store is located. ○ Provides \$100,000 annually in general purpose revenue funding for this purpose. ○ Introduced 12/17 and referred to committee. ○ No further action. ● E-cycle rule in legislative committee for review. ● Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) rule proceeding through the Governor’s Office and onto legislative committee for review. ● NR 544 rulemaking (above). ● NR 500- 3/2 WMM conducted a listening session with members of the WMM Study Group and other interested parties, gathering input on potential improvements to solid waste administrative code. ● NRB action on proposed PFAS standards (at last meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groundwater standards: This rule proposed establishing 25 new or revised groundwater quality standards, including an enforcement standard (ES) for combined PFOA and PFOS of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) and a preventive action limit (PAL) of 2 ppt. The board was deadlocked on this item, so it will not move forward and will likely be headed back to the drawing board for standards or wait for federal standards to be created. ○ Drinking water standards: The board voted 6-1 to approve a drinking water standard of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS. The levels are lower than the 20 ppt the agency proposed. The drinking water standard will head to Governor Evers. If approved by the Governor, the rule will advance to the Legislature. ○ Surface water standards: The board approved the agency’s proposed surface water standard of 8 ppt for PFOS in all waters with limited exceptions. For PFOA, the DNR is recommending a standard of 20 part per trillion in waters deemed public water supplies and 95 parts per trillion for all other surface waters. The surface water standard will head to Governor Evers. If approved by the Governor, the rule will advance to the Legislature. ● PFAS foam clean sweep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1 million included in biennial budget, required DNR to submit 13.10 request to legislature for funds. ○ Approved by Joint Finance Committee on 2/9 but was not authorized to hire LTE & need to establish MOU w/DATCP. ○ DNR working closely with WI State Fire Chiefs Association, WI Emergency Management and others ○ Inventory survey to be distributed via various organizations. ○ Discussion items include bidding process, priorities, zones, allowable disposal methods, etc. |
| <p>Rechargeable Battery Taskforce Update</p> | <p>Mark Walter, Brown County provided an update on the Rechargeable Battery Taskforce. The inaugural meeting held on 3/1, with David Pellitteri and Mark Walter from the council in attendance, as well as Jennifer Semrau from the DNR. As a reminder, Chris Blan, Brown County, presented at the last council</p> |

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| | <p>meeting on battery management challenges. Batteries are becoming an acute issue due to lithium-ion battery fires. M. Walter identified the participants and affiliations of attendees. The focus of the first meeting was identifying the purpose of the group and reviewing a proposal document on the taskforce. The taskforce is looking at legislative action (landfill ban?), education, data collection, and infrastructure resources (existing and needed). The group is identifying issues and establishing a path forward. One concern pertains to alkaline versus rechargeable batteries, as the chemistries require different management options. D. Pellitteri said it's a question on which battery type to focus on and what infrastructure exists for collection and recycling, to save natural resources. Bill Clendenning, Wood County, indicated a battery recycling charge of \$0.17/pound and suggested this should be paid through Clean Sweep. M. Walter said Brown County collects batteries and pays \$0.30/pound. It is expensive and hard to find vendors. There is also the need to segregate different battery types, transport properly and dispose/recycle.</p> |
| <p>Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill</p>  <p>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 3</p> | <p>J. Semrau, DNR provided the council with a presentation on the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), including background, solid waste management and recycling grants (U.S. EPA), battery recycling best practices and labeling requirements (U.S. EPA), clean energy and power grants pertaining to batteries and emerging materials (U.S. DOE) and next steps. See slide deck for complete presentation.</p> |
| <p>EPA's National Recycling Strategy</p>  <p>Nat. Recycling Strategy Presentatio</p> | <p>Eliza Kruszynski, DNR provided the council with a presentation on the EPA's National Recycling Strategy, building a circular economy for all. The presentation included a strategy overview, recycling strategy objectives, action and implementation plan online platform, stakeholders, actions DNR expressed interest in, how to get involved and express interest, and how to learn more. See slide deck for complete presentation. M. Walter suggested the strategy could provide actions the council or its members would lead of support. Council members should review the strategy.</p> |
| <p>Recycling Market Updates</p>  <p>BOW Material Pricing Matrix 2022a</p>  <p>BOW Material Pricing Matrix 2022b</p> | <p>M. Walter, Brown County shared graphs of commodity pricing for paper and containers from the Tri-County Material Recovery Facility, jointly owned by Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. See info at right. M. Walter also shared that he had attended a tour of Green Bay Packaging at the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference. The mill is accepting 500,000 tons/year of OCC (old corrugated cardboard) and mixed paper as feedstock. Recent international events add an element of unknown to commodity markets. M. Walter indicated he has not seen a lot of direct correlation between oil prices and plastic. D. Pellitteri remarked that recycled plastic demand has decreased so pricing has followed; the market had gotten too high and corrected. After three years of low markets, the current pricing levels are good. However, labor is still a major issue. Dave Keeling pointed out the issues with fuel/transportation expenses/availability continue to be an issue. M. Walter asked D. Pellitteri about his experiences with robotics. Dave P. replied that robots don't call in sick and are reliable but do pose their own challenges. If considering robotics, consider the timeframe. It takes time to configure the systems.</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 Suamico; compliance concern regarding a RU meeting effective recycling program status for providing</p> |

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| | collection opportunities; compliance concern with hauler where they may not be properly advising customers of recycling law. |
| Public Comment | None. |
| Other Business/2022 Meeting Schedule | M. Walter indicated he would like to the get the council on an every other month or quarterly meeting schedule, with additional meetings called as needed. Council discussed that Thursday/Friday work well and suggested a quarterly schedule of early June, September and December for the balance of the year. M. Walter said he would like to meet in Madison in June, with other locations to be determined. J. Semrau stated a virtual option would always be included. J. Semrau will query the council for availability the first week of June, September and December on Thursday/Friday. |
| Adjourn | Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.; motioned by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (7-0). |