

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Thursday, September 1, 2022
 Via conference call/Zoom

<p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich.</p> <p>DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Amy Dubruiel, Dustin Sholly, Jennifer Feyerherm, Sean Kennedy, Rachel Stark.</p> <p>Public: Matt Todd and Kristen Wieland, RRS; Jim Birmingham, Birmingham Recycling; Marty Oxman, AMP Robotics; Ashley Elzinga, Foodservice Packaging Institute; Jessica Hanson, Winnebago County; Eric Nielsen, Good News Project; Valerie Parker, Village of Weston, Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; John G. Anderson.</p> <p>Note- due to the call-in/Zoom ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Jennifer Semrau, DNR, shared a message of gratitude from departing council member, Barb Worcester. In addition, John Anderson, who has been identified as the individual taking Barb's vacated spot, introduced himself.
Approval of Minutes (June 2, 2022)	Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Keeling to approve the minutes of June 2, 2022. 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 Hires: Waste Engineer in south central region (Tony Peterson), Environmental Program Associates in south central region (Thea Showalter) and west central region (Stephen Nehring). • Retirements: Waste Engineer in southeast region, longest serving DNR Waste and Materials Management (WMM) staffer (37 years, Susan Fisher) and Hazardous Waste IT staffer (Aggie Cook). • Departure: Waste Management Specialist/Recycling LTE (Eliza Kruszynski) • Working on filling a number WMM vacancies including Complaints Coordinator, E-cycle Compliance Specialist and Hydrogeologists in northeast and west central regions. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY22 budget closed on June 30 with expenses as expected; now in FY23. More budget details will be presented at annual Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting (Sept. 22 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom) • Recycling Grant Application period is now open, and applications are due Oct. 3 (with Oct. 1 falling on a Saturday). The grant application is in a new software system (same report but it looks and functions slightly different). • Recycling Excellence Award nomination period is now open; due Sept. 16. Municipalities, schools, businesses and organizations are all eligible to apply. Four categories include overall program, projects

	<p>and initiatives, innovation, and special events. Food waste diversion is also included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMM program responded to three Request for Information (RFIs) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the July deadline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of Best Practices for Collection of Batteries to be Recycled and Voluntary Battery Labeling Guidelines ○ Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Program ○ Recycling Education and Outreach; Grant Program and Model Recycling Program Toolkit • Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sept. 15 – 12:00 p.m. Making the Case for Recycling: An Instructional Workshop for Region 5 Local Governments ○ Sept. 22 – Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting - Postponing with new date to be announced ○ Oct. 24 – 9:00 a.m. via Zoom Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder meeting ○ Nov. 3 - Waste and Materials Management Study Group meeting (location to be determined and virtual). <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR 544 Effective Recycling Program administrative code revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope statement approved on June 22 by Natural Resources Board (NRB). ○ Now in approximate one-year rule writing process, will solicit feedback throughout the process. • Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) rule seeking U.S. EPA approval. • NR 500 rule package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working on scope statement, anticipate seeking NRB approval to hold a public hearing on draft scope statement in Dec. ○ If that occurs, will seek NRB approval of scope statement in Feb. • Hazardous Waste code revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Universal Waste ○ Test methods on ignitability ○ Correct recently revised NR 600 code errors (700+ pages long) • PFAS foam clean sweep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1 million included in biennial budget ○ Request for Bids (RFB) complete, nine bidders ○ Intent to award to North Shore with a base bid of ~\$350,000 ○ Next step, contract signing by all parties ○ Also working with WI Emergency Management to identify collection consolidation points and have reached out to permanent Clean Sweep programs. ○ Estimated total volume of foam seeking disposal is ~24,000 gallons from 300 fire departments. ○ Budget may allow for collecting unwanted foam from airports (~2,000 gallons).
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Paper Cup Recycling Update	<p>Matt Todd, RRS described the work RRS has done as a partner with Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI). (See slides.) The mill statement presented is from the mills themselves, not FPI. Mill yields can vary. According to generation studies, 50-70% of foodservice packaging is discarded at home. Therefore, the work is focusing on curbside, and ~4 million households have access to paper cup recycling nationwide. Paper cups can be recycled with mixed paper or cartons (aseptic or gable top). M. Todd shared a map of locations which take cups. There are now 10 companies representing over three-quarters of mixed paper demand. Presently paper cups are included in as a mill specification; also working on a grade specification through ISRI. In Wisconsin, four mills accept paper cups including Green Bay Packaging, Georgia Pacific, Essity and Sustana. In addition, mills in nearby states include Pratt, West Rock and Graphic Packaging. In Wisconsin, the Pellitteri and Hilltopper MRFs are presently accepting paper cups with Milwaukee/Waukesha coming online later this fall with equipment upgrades. Also Lakeshore Recycling in Chicago is working on a communications campaign on cup acceptance. In Michigan, 70% of the population can recycle paper cups with acceptance in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Lansing. Also in the Midwest, Rumpke in Ohio has added cups at two facilities. Other additions include Sonoco and Dallas/Fort Worth. Mark Walter, Brown County, asked how are cups sorted out at the MRF? M. Todd said flow studies done at four MRFs show that the majority (60-80%) end up on the container line, so these cups need to be pulled with cartons either manually or optically. The Milwaukee/Waukesha MRF is adding a robot to capture cups. David Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste Systems, said it is exciting to see this. Four years ago, RRS approached Pellitteri about adding cups. To see how much progress has been made with all these mills and MRFs is great. Pellitteri invested in technology (optical) as especially with COVID, there is insufficient staff to pull manually. M. Walter asked if communities have been receptive and what education has been done. D. Pellitteri said that they have added cups on all of the marketing materials, which include mailers, Facebook videos and other. They are actively trying to promote this and hope it is viewed as a value-added service to municipal customers, to recycle more than just what is required. It can sometimes be a challenge to convince RUs to use MRFs that go 'above and beyond.' M. Todd said FPI has a community partnership program. In Madison, it helped with education and branding. They are starting to do so with Hilltopper and will work with Milwaukee/Waukesha next. M. Walter said the Tri-County MRF will be discussing this more. M. Todd said they stand ready to assist. M. Walter said it is good to hear about the practical implications of adding cups.</p>
Paper Market Update	<p>Jim Birmingham, Birmingham Recycling provided the council an overview of paper markets. The economy has been challenging. First, brown grades, (mixed paper, OCC, DLK and box cuttings) are falling fast. OCC (old corrugated cardboard) is expected to be less than \$100/ton by the end of the year. Box cuttings/DLK (double lined kraft) will decrease by ~\$20/ton in September and another \$20-40 by the end of the year. Mixed paper is expected to decline by another \$40/ton and OCC/boxboard will be well below \$100. Why are paper markets decreasing? Reasons include lack of demand after run up to the holiday season and India exiting the market completely. There will be start-ups in 2023. Mills are also taking downtime between now and the end of the year. There is low demand overseas, which floods domestic</p>

	<p>markets. Export prices for OCC fell \$50/ton in Aug. and are expected to fall \$30/ton by the end of the year. Similarly, DLK and mixed are falling.</p> <p>High grades are the opposite and pricing has been increasing. With the election, there has been lots of demand for brochures, mailers (coated book) and this demand is expected to remain strong through the end of the year (even after elections). High grade mills are running at 100% capacity. The turn of the year may see slight dip. It is also important to note, if there is a recession, mill cost variables (trucking costs, labor, fuel) will all be impacted.</p> <p>On cartons, mills are running strong and are glad to take paper cups. The Carton Council has 7-8 buyers on its website, including Sustana in Wisconsin. Cartons are selling for \$80-130/ton. M. Todd agreed. Low grades are declining, there are port issues and mills are selling down inventory. J. Birmingham agreed. Vietnam is a new market but does not make up for China existing. Another factor is the increase in container cost to export by ~\$3,000.</p>
Recycling Market Update	<p>M. Walter, Brown County indicated the Tri-County MRF is seeing the price decline trend in paper, metals and plastics. There is a decrease of 25-30% across all commodities in past few months. David Keeling, Appliance Recycling Centers of America, said ferrous and non-ferrous pricing has decreased in last six months. Steel exports increased in Aug., and he is expecting upward movement in domestic markets to follow. OCC and ferrous markets are often a prediction of the economy three months in advance. Jeff Zillich, Waste Management, agreed with the downward trending pricing, adding that it is a double whammy with inflation and rising costs in other areas. D. Pellitteri thanked J. Birmingham for the presentation. MRFs have experienced 4-5 years of low markets, one year of very high markets and now markets are balancing out. Plastics are plummeting and not following energy prices. There is too much virgin inventory, pulling down the value of recycled content. With the economic slowdown in paper, hopefully spring sees a rebound. M. Walter said they have also seen a 6-7% decrease in the volume of incoming material. D. Pellitteri echoed that they have seen a 6-7% decrease too. M. Walter said port volume predicts next year's economy (historically). Port volume is solid so perhaps next year will rebound.</p>
Results of DNR's Household Recycling Survey	<p>J. Semrau, DNR shared the results of DNR's 2021 household recycling survey (see slides). J. Semrau said a full report, executive summary and infographic will be posted on DNR's website soon. Jessica Hansen, Winnebago County, asked about results already posted online. J. Semrau explained there is a file online which gives every survey question and data on respondents answers, however the reports eluded to above will include more narrative and analysis discussion. D. Pellitteri said Pellitteri Waste Systems did one of their educational videos focusing on saying that recyclables do not go to the landfill. Perhaps reasons people think this include allowing the use of glass as alternative daily cover, not enough accountability and talking too much about contamination. We are doing it to ourselves. M. Walter said there may also be fallout from the national article that indicated plastic is not really recycled.</p>
Recycling Compliance Issues	<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 Baldwin, Milwaukee, Hayward, and</p>

	Washington County. WMM staff are working with the Stormwater and Environmental Enforcement programs on compliance issues with a MRF with unresolved litter and nuisance conditions. Finally, staff held a meeting with a hauler to address several alleged complaints or compliance issues related to RUs and multi-family properties.
Public Comment	None.
Other Business/Next Meeting Date/Topics	The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2022. M. Walter asked Council members to think about topics for next year.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.; motioned by Mark Walter and seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (6-0).