

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: June 3, 2021

Location: Skype

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



Guests: Several guests listened using Skype, 11 additional attendees

DNR WA Attendance: ☒ Lamensky, ☒ Semrau, ☒ Sholly, ☒ Strom Hiorns, ☒ Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:30	New Member Welcome	<p>Welcome to new member Dave Pellitteri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owns a recycling and waste hauling business in Madison • Started power washing containers, became a driver, worked in the office and now runs the business with his siblings • Representing the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) <p>Welcome to new member Paul Mathewson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing Clean Wisconsin (same organization as previous member Amber Meyer Smith) • A staff scientist and a bit of a generalist, for clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization that considers waste topics a very important part of its organization. <p>Introduction of existing members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meleesa Johnson, Director Marathon County Solid Waste. Cochair of Waste and Materials Management Study Group (WMMSG). Works with and helping to represent public sector landfills, compost, material recovery facility (MRF), transfer and hauling operations. • Chad Doverspike, assistant director for Brown County Port and Resource Recovery. Cochair of WMMSG. Works with and helping represent municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling transfer, closed landfills, hazardous waste collection facilities, construction of a new landfill and the Solid waste Association of North America (SWANA). • John Welch, Director of Dane County Dept of Waste and Recovery. Works with the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA) • Tom Karwoski, Hydrogeologist and Project Director for SCS Engineers. Works with landfills across the state. • Bart Sexton, Sand County Environmental, a small engineering firm. Works with landfills, compost projects and agricultural projects. Primarily representing small and intermediate demolition landfills. • Lynn Morgan, Waste Management (WM). WM is a landfill operator, waste collector, owns the state's largest compost facility and is a large recycler in Wisconsin. • Karin Sieg, Executive Director, at Recycling Connections, a nonprofit that just celebrated their 40th anniversary. The organization started as a processor but since 1991 has been focusing on communication and advertising work. Works with and is representing the Associated Recycler of

		<p>Wisconsin (AROW). Chair of the recovery and diversion subcommittee of the WMMSG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Curry, Midwest Region Landfill Operations Manager for GFL Environmental. GFL owns five landfills and multiple hauling and transfer operations in the state. Kari Rabideau, environmental manager for the Midwest Region also frequently joins calls for GFL.
9:35	Agenda & Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April notes passed without changes and can be viewed here: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waste/StudyGroup.html
9:45 Strom Hiorns	Charter Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed in 2016 with the plan to review it every few years. Reviewing to see if changes need to be made. • Bart- Is there a liaison between the WMMSG and the Council on Recycling (COR)? Kate- Jennifer attends both meetings and would be the liaison. • Karin- Is the process for electing chairs covered in the charter? Kate- It is not covered but could be added. Karin- possibly a biannual transition? Meleesa- biannual is good Chad- thinks it is good to add the chairs should rotate every few years Tim- recommends that the chair rotation be staggered. • Lynn- charter suggests that current groups get to maintain a representative of the WMMSG indefinitely and recommends removing that since it does contradict the rest of the appointment language. John- agree because the secretary gets to decide anyway. • Meleesa- should the WMMSG have a specific proxy policy? Tim- meetings are open to the public so the change between having a proxy and someone from the organization attending is just about voting. The standard is that only appointed members to a vote. • Jennifer- the charter says subgroup meeting notes will be posted which has not been a practice. Lynn- that seems unnecessary since we give updates at the full meeting which have notes and chairing a subcommittee is already a substantial amount of work. • Tim- Charter says that the WMMSG or the subgroups should set direction for the subgroup, I think that should be updated because the subcommittee should not be able to change the direction set by the WMMSG. Karin- we also need to be careful that the WMMSG isn't too detailed in the subgroup work or we will just be doubling up work. Meleesa- the WMMSG can set the topic and determine the need for a subgroup and decisions from there are up to the WMMSG. • Kate- Do we want to update the charter voting approval policy to match the more recent voting standards the WMMSG decided on for the policy bank? Lynn- yes 80% to match however let's specify that it has to be 80% of voting members so votes are not stopped due to people abstaining or not responding. Also specify that the subgroup can't add items to the policy bank. That must be done by the full WMMSG. • Kate will make edits so they can be seen and be voted on at the next meeting.
10:05 Wolbert	DNR Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to new members <p>Return to office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By July 6 DNR will be back into the workplace full time or under a teleworking agreement. • DNR is prioritizing flexibility due to childcare and planning • Have found that teleworking has gone well for the program so more teleworking may happen moving forward but the majority of staff will be back in the office part time.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service centers will be open at that time however large meetings of 10 or more people are still limited. <p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday a new recycling specialist, Eliza, is starting. She will be focusing on Responsible Unit (RU) evals and emerging waste streams and potentially ch. NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code. • Currently recruiting for a hydrogeologist to focus on contaminated soil and sediment low hazard exemptions (LHE) and beneficial use of industrial byproducts (BU) requests. <p>Rulemaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the electronics rule that Sarah Murray presented on last meeting a public hearing will be held on 6/28. The department welcomes any comments and edits. • The coal combustion residuals (CCR) rule is going through final stages of internal review prior to economic impact public comment period. • Tom- can you provide a reminder on what is going out for review for the CCR economic impact? Kate – a draft board order to incorporate federal regulations on CCR landfills. The proposed rule change does not include any CCR surface impoundment regulations. Those regulations will stay with the federal program. The proposed rule change is to make sure our CCR regulations are no less protective than the new federal standards. Any place where state and federal CCR rules don't align both must be followed. The comment period is for the economic impact statement of those proposed rule change. The comment period for the rule language is still to come. • There is an emergency rule going to the Natural Resources Board this month. The rule allows 3rd party contractors to provide certification exams including landfill operator and manager certifications. This will allow for many more exam locations, but the 3rd party contractor exams are more expensive. Waste certifications are a small part of the program, we have about 20 exam takers each year. <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRF and RU reporting seasons are closed out. Results will be posted online once they have been checked and verified. • Final Report for waste characterization study is due on 6/1. Data will be presented statewide as well as by region and sector. 30% organics, 21% paper, 17% plastics by category. The largest waste component is wasted food at over 14%. The Department may be focusing on the reduction of wasted food and the climate impacts during work planning. May be looking to this group as well. • June 15th is the due date for final report on alternative landfill liners. The report looks at various models and state comparisons as well as potential considerations on geosynthetic clay liners as clay liner replacements.
<p>10:20 Sieg</p>	<p>Recovery and Diversion Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recycling grant formula is primary focus of the group currently. • Members include: Megan Hines, Chris Miller, Ron Jongetjes, Amanda Haffele, Lynn Morgan, Karin Sieg and Jennifer Semrau.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Update</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Recycling Grant Formula Presentatio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is using the FOWRD report: https://dec568fa-adcc-4390-8d02-5974842dbe2d.filesusr.com/ugd/ef2835_fd205ff308cd45d4aa505b1eae4b4965.pdf • Bart– In your slides you state that a per capita grant formula disincentivizes quality materials. Is there data to back that comment up? Karin- I would revise that from disincentivizes to say instead that quality of materials is not a factor in the formula. Bart- so the decrease in quality is an assumption? Meleesa- yes, an assumption based on experience. • Davis– For the criteria-based grant method, how is it confirmed that criteria are being met? Meleesa– would still need to be determined. Karin- didn’t provide too much detail on changes however it should be noted that certain current protocols are already based on honor system certifications. • Lynn- In the presentation stated that the weight-based grant formula is the least preferred however Lynn would say that weight based is preferable to the current formula. Concurrence from Meleesa and Karin that any change is better. • Lynn- Is a member of the Wawautosa sustainable committee. Lynn notified them about the proposed grant formula legislation and not one member asked about impacts to their city. Members were for an updated formula over “winners/losers”. • Chad- Nice work but what are next steps? • Karin- This is background info. Should the study group put it in policy bank format for consideration by the full group? WMMSG would have to advance it.
<p style="text-align: center;">11:00 Mimi Johnson - DNR’s Office of Emerging Contaminants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PFAS Initiatives in Wisconsin and the DNR</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">WMM SG Presentation June 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn- Question about the department’s policy for known contamination sites and how it applies to spills and closed landfills? Mimi– This is being determined on a case by case basis. Brad- The driving force is site specific. A few incidences of landfills where sampling results were provided but there is not a plan to have a broad sampling program for landfills at this time. The Department is still trying to figure out if and how to do that. Kate- WMMSG will be involved so you will know if it progresses. • Lynn- is the Remediation and Redevelopment Program screening sites for PFAS? Brad- If there is a remediation action being taken with a landfill the expectation is that PFAS would be screened prior to close out. Closed landfills are not currently in that process. Wisconsin is different than Minnesota where the state owns 103 closed landfills. • Tim- Can you provide more detail on wastewater treatment plant testing? Brad- The wastewater Program will sample a select number of WWTP effluent. Don’t know the extent of public records. Just a handful of WWTPs that haven’t participated. 115 sites have agreed and have had sampling. 2/3 of results have been returned. All results are expected within the next couple of weeks. The results will be relayed to the facilities and then a report summarizing data will be posted. • Lynn- The report will provide aggregate WWTP data vs specific plant results correct? Mimi- yes • Bart – Varied standards for PFAs across state. Any discussion on having more consistent standards?

		<p>Mimi- Regular conversation amongst great lakes region but all states and provinces have different levels of authority limiting consistency. Michigan was recently sued for standards. Would all love a federal standard but the states can't wait for a federal standard so are trying to coordinate amongst each other. There are no plans for a regional standard setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bart- It is hard to set standard without data and hard to do anything without a standard so federal standard would be helpful. • Meleesa – Green tier style voluntary policy is being proposed using mercury framework.
11:50	<p>Next meeting plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: August 5, 2021 • Agenda planning: John- open focus topics up to new members since they have not had the opportunity to weigh in. • Davis- How often does priority setting happen? Chad- About 3 times in the last 6 years or so. Kate- Can send last survey/ reminder of priority topics • Bart – in person meeting next time? Kate- DNR policy still limits meetings above 10 people. <p>Topic suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meleesa - Alt liners overview. • Kate - NR 544 code review • Brad- a walk through from David of service improvements • Meleesa- foundational code reviews in addition to NR 544.