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**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020  
 Via conference call/Skype

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Barb Worcester, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich  <b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Jennifer Feyerherm  <b>Public:</b> Thad Nation, Nation Consulting; Heather Berlinski, SC Johnson; Marty Oxman, Alter Metal; Tom Thompson, UW Health; Pam Busko, Aspirus.          Note- due to the call-in/Skype nature of the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (July 21, 2020)	<b>Motion made</b> by David Pellitteri and seconded by Mark Walter to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020. Motion carried (7-0).
DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates	<p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hiring freeze remains in effect; no new hires or departures.</li> <li>• However, the Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program has received authorization to fill a Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Licensing Engineer. Position will be located in Madison, Milwaukee or Waukesha. Deadline to apply is 10/1.</li> <li>• Ariana Mankerian, Recycling and Solid Waste Reporting Specialist, returned from leave on a part-time basis in July for approximately one week and needed to go on leave again. She is presently out with an unknown return date.</li> <li>• DNR, and other state agencies, have been called upon to assist with the November elections.</li> <li>• DNR staff are primarily working from home.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling program will experience more Responsible Units (RUs) in 2021. The City of Muskego is leaving the Waukesha County RU. In addition, the Dunn County RU, made up of 26 municipalities will be dissolving as of 12/31/2020. J. Semrau is working with representatives of these municipalities to form new individual or multi-member RUs, including developing recycling ordinances, compliance assurance plans, authorizing resolutions and submitting effective recycling program and grant applications.</li> <li>• Waste characterization study began last week. SCS Engineers has been contracted to oversee sort at 12 landfills through December. Waste will be sorted into 85 material types within eight categories of waste. Final report is expected by 3/31/2021.</li> <li>• The newly designed DNR webpage has been launched.</li> <li>• The 30-year anniversary of the recycling law and 10-year anniversary of E-cycle Wisconsin were featured in the Natural Resources</li> </ul>

	<p>magazine fall edition. Check it out here:  <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2020/Fall">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2020/Fall</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual Recycling Excellence Awards accepted nominations through 9/15. Staff are processing applications and will make announcements in correlation with America Recycles Day (11/15).</li> <li>• No update on Legislative Audit Bureau program evaluation of state recycling program or information on the state budget.</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WMM Study Group meeting on 10/2 at 9:30 a.m.;</li> <li>○ Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting on 10/5 at 9:30 a.m.;</li> <li>○ Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder meeting Nov/Dec (date TBD).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislature not currently in session.</li> <li>• DNR staff recently released the results of a fire department PFAS survey. Key findings:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ~70% response rate from the ~825 fire departments in the state;</li> <li>○ 77% of respondents had purchased, stored, trained with or used fluorinated foam at some point in the past;</li> <li>○ DNR estimates that the total amount of fluorinated firefighting foam currently in storage across the state is at least 63,200 gallons and may be as high as 96,300 gallons;</li> <li>○ Determined that there may be expired or unwanted foam in excess of 30,000 gallons that requires disposal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Firefighting Foam emergency and permanent rules required by 2019 Wis. Act 101 – NR 159 rulemaking related to proper treatment, disposal, storage, and containment of firefighting foam that contains PFAS. The Natural Resources Board did not choose to adopt the NR 159 emergency rule package at its August meeting and instead asked the DNR to further consider public comment. DNR held several meetings with stakeholders and a new draft rule is posted online. Comments to the Board are due by 11:00 a.m. on 10/21. The Board will consider approving the rule at its meeting on 10/28.</li> </ul> <p>David Keeling asked for a timeframe on agency requests for the biennial budget. Barb Worcester said agency requests were due by 9/15; the Governor will release his budget in January. D. Keeling expressed that it would be nice if the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report was completed prior. B. Worcester shared that the Governor’s Office had also inquired on the report release with LAB.</p>
<p>Plastic Film Recycling</p>  <p>Film Recycling SCJ 9.20.pdf</p>	<p><b>Heather Berlinski, SC Johnson</b> introduced herself to the council and provided an overview of SC Johnson. The company’s global headquarters is in Racine, WI and its biggest manufacturing facility is in Mount Pleasant. SC Johnson is known for spearheading environmental initiatives including steel recycling, ingredient transparency and renewable energy. H. Berlinski presented on advancing plastic film recycling in the U.S. through pilot curbside collection programs.</p>

	<p>D. Keeling said a good rule of thumb on film recycling is if it stretches, it's acceptable. Marty Oxman asked what the expense was for the MRF which implemented the three optical sorters. D. Keeling asked how the plastic film does not get tangled in the disc screens. H. Berlinski said she did not have that information, but more detail is available in the comprehensive report at <a href="https://www.materialsrecoveryforthefuture.com/">https://www.materialsrecoveryforthefuture.com/</a>. D. Pellitteri said as the owner of a single stream MRF he is eager to read the report as he is interested to learn how film was kept out of the paper bales. H. Berlinski said ensuring paper bales maintained quality was a top metric. D. Pellitteri said in his experience there are not great end markets for MRF film. What were the end markets for this film? Are there multiple markets? H. Berlinski said that is the next phase. The first was proving the film could be captured and creating the rFlex bale. Now they are focusing on market development, including using rFlex in roofing materials and testing it with Trex. Mark Walter asked if SC Johnson was participating in other film recovery efforts. H. Berlinski said SC Johnson is working with a consortium of companies as well as the Association of Plastic Recyclers' Demand Champions. Jeff Zillich asked if SC Johnson was looking at a reduction of film use. H. Berlinski said company initiatives have included light-weighting, not using excess material, design for recycling and using recycled content. D. Keeling stated that the key is markets for this material. M. Walter said there was no market for film from their MRF. D. Pellitteri said Madison does take film, but they are looking for a market. D. Keeling said presently MRF film has next to no value versus retail film having very low value.</p>
<p>Recycling Compliance Issues</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> shared the following recycling compliance issues presently being addressed or recently addressed by DNR staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SE WI apartment complex scaling back recycling to only paper/cardboard</li> <li>• Shingle processor who collected shingles but did not process them (only stockpiled); active consent order in place</li> <li>• MRF supposedly landfilling recyclables; follow-up did not reveal that to be the case based on shipment data provided by the MRF</li> <li>• MRF and landfill violations where two landfills had submitted plan modifications to use stockpiled glass (from the Strategic Materials spring fire) beneficially in the landfill for alternative daily cover, leachate recirculation trench backfill and leachate seep repair, up to 300 cubic yards, from two MRFs. However, 300 cubic yards was exceeded so Notices of Non-compliance being pursued.</li> </ul> <p>D. Pellitteri remarked that the council just heard a presentation on introducing a new material into the recycling stream, yet there are challenges with existing recycling programs/markets. We don't want to slip backwards. Checks and balances are needed to keep recycling out of the landfill. It is important that some people are getting 'caught.' The economics of recycling and landfilling are not equal. D. Keeling encouraged people to let J. Semrau know about complaints and compliance issues.</p>
<p>Hauler Recycling Requirements/Council Discussion</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> provided an overview of when a collection and transportation (hauler) license is required and a few of the exemptions. More information can be found on the DNR <a href="#">webpage</a> and in s. NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code. There are requirements for all licensed haulers such as using</p>

	<p>leak proof vehicles/containers and immediately cleaning up any spillage which occurs. There are also specific requirements for solid waste and recycling haulers such as a requirement to comply with the landfill prohibitions in s. 287.07, Wis. Stats., notifying new and existing customers on the recycling requirements, providing Responsible Units with recycling tonnage information, maintaining the cleanliness of recyclables collected and maintaining records of delivery of recyclables to appropriate destinations (non-landfill) for three years.</p> <p>J. Semrau indicated there are approximately 1,700 collection and transportation license holders for solid waste, hazardous waste and recyclables (with many more actual vehicles). When applicants first apply they receive <a href="#">Requirements for Haulers of Solid Waste or Recyclables</a>. New this year, the renewal optional involved sending a unique link to each licensee which allowed them to instantly pay online. Previously, some haulers would pay and not do the form, or do the form and not pay (and therefore not in compliance). Approximately 200 would not respond and DNR staff would follow-up. This year, 75-80% are paying online. Another challenge is approximately 80 licensees do not have email addresses on file so hard copy mailings are required. Haulers are supposed to notify DNR when they no longer need a license, but this does not usually occur. DNR’s Environmental Program Assistants (EPAs) are monitoring how the renewal process goes this year/compliance issues and WMM may consider improving the follow-up capabilities of the EPAs, including the ability to issue Notices of Non-compliance. DNR could update the council at a future (2021) meeting.</p> <p>D. Pellitteri asked if landfills are required to check for DNR licensing from their customers. J. Semrau said they are not required to do this. D. Pellitteri said this is a missed opportunity for the state to potentially collect funds (license fees) from the non-licensed. D. Pellitteri asked if RUs are required to check if all haulers offering individual subscription service have licenses. J. Semrau said RUs are required to use a licensed hauler for their drop-off or municipally managed curbside collection (and need to provide this information on the RU application/report), but its possible a hauler providing individual subscription services may not be licensed.</p>
<p>Market Updates/ COVID-19 Impacts</p>	<p><b>D. Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste</b> said plastics are getting hot, metals are low (related to commodity pricing) and cardboard/paper are moving ok. D. Keeling said he heard Greg Maxell from Resource Management (IL MRF) present and aseptic packaging (milk and juice cartons) is only 0.04% of their stream and is selling for \$20/ton. The low quantity of cartons is an issue in WI as well, necessitating milk runs to fill a truck. Jim Birmingham has previously indicated carton pricing mirrors sorted office paper (\$60-80/ton) and MRFs should talk to Jim about getting better value. M. Walter said Sustana has gone through major changes lately, with new management and pricing dropped by ~50%.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p><b>D. Keeling, Council Chair</b> shared that the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) will have its virtual members meeting on 10/20. There are 10 board seats up for election. NRC is accepting nominations for their annual awards. The National Zero Waste Conference will take place 12/1-12/3 (virtual).</p>

	NRC is also considering bringing back the NRC Congress (national conference). Finally, NRC is offering a webinar series. Go to <a href="https://nrcrecycles.org/">https://nrcrecycles.org/</a> for more information.
Next Meeting Date/ Location	Next meeting will be in early December via conference call/Skype. A requested agenda item: Waste Management Inc./Advanced Disposal/GFL Environmental acquisition. J. Semrau will send out a Doodle.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am; motioned by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Pellitteri. Motion carried (7-0).