

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
 Via conference call/Zoom

<p>Council Members Present: John Anderson, Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, Marty Oxman, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel. DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Brad Wolbert, Cynthia Moore, Sarah Murray, Dustin Sholly, Jennifer Feyerherm, Peter Waples. Public: Don Tatro, Redwood Materials; Jana Suriano, SCS Engineers; Julie Ketchum, WM; Alex Nett, Outagamie County; John Seidl, Derco Aerospace; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Laurie Stiers, Onalaska Lions Club; Rick Eilertson, American Public Works Association- WI Chapter. 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 10:18 a.m. (Due to IT issues, meeting start time was delayed.)
Introductions and Announcements	Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (September 2023)	Motion made by David Pellitteri and seconded by David Keeling to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023. Motion carried (7-0).
WI Public Records Law 2023 Training	Council members watched a mandatory video on WI public records law and completed a quiz as a group, scoring 100%.
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <p>New Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Waples- new Recycling/Non-Landfill Team (NLFT) LTE • Jonathan McKelvey SE Waste Management Specialist NLFT started Dec. 4 • Tess Brester accepted Lead Engineer position, vacated her NE engineer role • Another engineer starting next month <p>Departures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Harvey, Complaints Coordinator, moving to Stormwater Dec. 15 • Stephen Nehring - moved to Air Management Nov. 20 • Secretary Payne resigned, no announcement of new appointment <p>Still several vacancies in the program.</p> <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling Excellence Awards- 11 winners in the categories of Overall Program, Projects and Initiatives, Special Events and Innovation. Winners announced on America Recycles Day, Nov. 15. • 2024 Recycling Grant application period closed Oct. 30, ~1,044 applicants. • 2024 Annual Report season in full swing; begins in Jan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E-cycle report now on calendar year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upcoming reports: Infectious Waste (IW), Hazardous Waste (HW), Material Recovery Facility (MRF), Responsible Unit (RU) ● Still working to wrap up 2022 RU data (MRF data online); will report data at future council meeting <p>EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Grant (~\$550,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still waiting on DOA to approve project position to focus on food/organics waste ○ RFP draft for statewide food waste evaluation is currently being reviewed internally ● SWIFR for Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No WI applications funded ○ 25 funded across the US (300+ applications) ● Recycling Education and Outreach Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application submitted by The Recycling Partnership on behalf of WI and six other states ○ Not funded ○ 25 funded across the US (300+ applications) ● SWIFR for Tribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ~\$400,000 ▪ For adding reuse/recycling center to transfer station ○ Forest County Potawatomi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ~\$500,000 ▪ For collection trucks <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec. 7, 11:00 a.m. Holiday Waste Media Briefing ● Jan. 17, 2:00 p.m. Recycling Rule Public Hearing ● Feb. 1, 9:00 a.m. WMM Study Group Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lynn Morgan (Co-chair) and Meleesa Johnson stepped down ○ Julie Ketchum, WM, appointed to Lynn's spot; Julie volunteered to be Co-Chair with Bart Sexton ● Feb. 28-Mar. 1, WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC)- DNR exhibiting, speaking <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NR 500 Landfill and solid waste fees rulemaking- next external advisory committee meeting is Jan. 10 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Attendance is open to all. Any questions, please contact Kate Strom Hiorns, kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov. ● Recycling rules later on agenda. ● DNR asked to review and comment on several draft bills (none yet introduced) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packaging EPR bill ○ RU consolidation bill ○ Battery Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill ● 2023 Senate Bill 721 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduced Nov. 21
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creates a food waste reduction grant program of \$100,000, administered by Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) ○ DATCP to develop rules ○ DNR has reached out to offer assistance
<p>Battery Recycling in Practice</p> <p>Slides</p>	<p>Motion by Mark Walter, seconded by John Anderson to modify the agenda to place the Redwood Materials battery presentation prior to the Recycling Administrative Code Revision Update. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Don Tatro, Redwood Materials provided a presentation to the council on battery supply and demand and their battery recycling operation (see link to slides at left).</p> <p>M. Walter stated they experienced a fire on Friday. How does Redwood handle transportation and storage of damaged batteries? D. Tatro stated Redwood follows Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements and educates collectors. They also employ 24-hour thermal imaging and a grid design which allows for containment. Further Redwood trains staff and has fire suppression. They understand MRFs are struggling with fires. J. Anderson asked what happens with materials Redwood does not recycle. D. Tatro said Redwood partners with other outlets for electronics, alkalines, etc. Has Trek reached out (E-bikes)? D. Tatro has not had direct communications with Trek, but a member of this team likely has. David Pellitteri asked if Redwood has any aggregators in WI or plans for the Midwest? D. Tatro stated there are no plans for new facilities in the Midwest; they are focusing on fully developing two existing facilities. Redwood is looking to have collection events/locations in WI. D. Pellitteri asked if they would work with municipalities or waste companies? D. Tatro said currently Redwood is partnering with Audi/Volkswagen on collection events, but they are happy to participate with any of the parties mentioned. M. Walter stated the Brown County HHW Facility takes all batteries, including alkalines. At a drop-off, how do you control what the public puts in? D. Tatro said they work with collection sites on monitoring what goes in boxes. Also working on safety of bins. Redwood has experienced tremendous growth from 200 employees to 1,000. D. Pellitteri asked when a rollout at retailers would occur. D. Tatro said should start in Jan. Hope to accelerate consumer drop-off. D. Pellitteri said the issue is getting batteries from consumers to Redwood. Need to focus on education of consumers and the value of recycling. Would love to hear models that are working and invite Redwood to future meetings. D. Tatro said yes, happy to be involved. M. Walter stated battery management issues are a priority for the council. David Keeling asked if Redwood was educating the public, as the situation is almost a crisis. D. Tatro said Redwood is active on all fronts. They partnered with Enviro-Solution on curriculum for fifth graders and looking at educational opportunities. They have also expanded collection events from less than 50 last year to over 100 this year. D. Pellitteri asked if Redwood would offer a tour with Waste Expo in Las Vegas. D. Tatro stated Redwood is in Lake Tahoe (six hours away). Cynthia Moore asked if solid state batteries were the future. D. Tatro said yes, but lithium ion is near future (next ten years).</p>

<p>Recycling Administrative Code Revision Update</p> <p>Slides</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR presented slides on progress on the recycling administrative rule revision, summarizing results of the Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) public comment period and updating the council on the next steps in the process (see link to slides at left).</p>
<p>Council on Recycling Priorities/Letter to Legislature/Governor</p> <p>Letter</p>	<p>Mark Walter, Brown County/Council Chair provided a draft letter to the council on battery recycling and disposal legislation, addressed to the legislature and governor, and discussed its contents. Jarrod Holter said he supported the idea of sending a letter and the language within. J. Anderson stated the letter was well-written and he supports moving forward with sending. Should the letter list examples of facility fires? M. Walter said he was trying to keep the letter a reasonable length; perhaps an addendum with list of examples? D. Keeling stated fires could affect insurance rates and could put facilities out of business. D. Pellitteri asked if the addendum is needed to send the letter as the council should send it soon (before legislative session is over). Heidi Woelfel suggested adding information on fires as legislators don't know about them and it's important to show the impact. M. Walter agrees with getting letter out as soon as possible so council members with fire cost information, please send to Mark by end of the week. J. Semrau stated it is sometimes difficult to confirm if batteries are the cause of fires so the council may want to consider how this is worded. J. Semrau will also confirm how the department can support the council in distribution of letter when final. M. Walter will finalize the letter based on comments received. D. Pellitteri stated Columbia County fires were from batteries and this can be used as an example. Three significant fires in the last three years were directly related to batteries. Motion by Heidi Woelfel and seconded by Marty Oxman to approve the letter with changes as discussed. Motion carried (7-0).</p>
<p>Recycling Compliance Issues</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints or alleged compliance issues at multi-family properties or non-residential properties in Vernon County, Germantown, Hudson and Appleton. • Notice of Non-compliance (NON) issued to an Upper MI MRF for alleged failure to follow landfill bans (glass), in violation of their self-certification.
<p>Recycling Market Updates</p>	<p>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair stated that markets have not gone up or down significantly. Paper and plastics are stable. M. Walter would like to see more movement. <i>Resource Recycling</i> reported that the national plastic bag recycling directory (search tool to locate a plastic bag recycling locations) was taken offline due to a lack of funding. NextTrex maintains a list of their customers. J. Semrau stated DNR removed the link to the previous directory and is determining next steps.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>2024 Meeting Schedule/Topics/ Locations/Other Business</p>	<p>D. Pellitteri suggested future meeting topics include review/discussion of any relevant bills introduced, guests on relevant topics and review of advocacy rules. M. Walter suggested a virtual meeting in Mar, in-person meeting and/or tour in Jun and Sep, and virtual meeting in Dec. Tour ideas include</p>

	Liberty Tire, Green Bay Packaging, aluminum buyer in WI Rapids, HHW facility, WM (Germantown) and Goodwill (Menasha). Council members should let Mark know thoughts on tours.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.; motioned by David Keeling and seconded by David Pellitteri. Motion carried (7-0).