

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: June 5, 2020

Location: Skype

Member Attendance: Albee, Curry, Doverspike/SWANA, Johnson, Karwoski, Meyer Smith, Morgan, Sexton,
 Welch/WCSWMA (phone) Sieg/AROW

Guests: Several guests listened using Skype, total of 34 participants including members and DNR

DNR Attendance: Lamensky, Semrau, Strom Hiorns, Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	Follow-up/Notes
9:30	Agenda & Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes from 4/6/20 were approved. Finalized notes can be found on the WMM website. No agenda changes
9:45 Kate Strom Hiorns, Brad Wolbert	DNR Updates	<p>Staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring freeze still in effect, but exceptions for COVID-related essential positions with DNR secretary's approval <p>Rulemaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coal Combustion Residual rule writing ongoing, working with Environmental Protection Agency to ensure "as protective as" Firefighting Foam emergency and permanent rules scope hearing approved at May NRB, hearing held 6/4/20, rule expected by September 1, 2020 Hazardous waste rule update this summer; Beneficial Use rule effective November 2020 <p>General Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of submittals not lengthier due to COVID, greatest effect on getting out on inspections and doing field work; focus on what we can do on desktop and getting to outdoor inspections first No update on Legislative Audit Bureau program evaluation of state recycling program; LAB still planning on a spring/summer report release <p>PFAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 1 of several legislative packages passed, requires AFFF rulemaking - Developing AFFF BMPs and webpage - Disposal and biosolids guidance documents in development - Very limited sampling done at waste sites (only remediation sites) but need to consider and looking to other states for examples and data Study group members asked when sites will need to start testing leachate and groundwater for PFAS, and also why and how sampling would be done. Need cooperation. How should PFAS materials be managed? What is preferred disposal? Landfill owners noted getting questions from multiple parties about cleanup materials from airport and AFFF (firefighting foam) disposal. To what standards should we compare impacts? Sites want to serve

		customers but are concerned with future implications. Need source minimization plan, like mercury and asbestos.
10:15 All	COVID-19 Response	<p>Round robin updates from all Study Group members:</p> <p>Tom – some delayed sampling particularly in private homes but other operations have continued.</p> <p>Bart – effective adjustments, just a routine part of safety briefing at this point.</p> <p>Lynn – WM National continuing to maintain all original protective measures. Drivers are not entering facilities, work from home continues. Some concerns over requirements that local governments are looking at implementing (temp taking) would result in more gathering than current no contact operations.</p> <p>Karin – SWANA and AROW and WCSWAMA met to discuss status and will be meeting June 15th to discuss conference options. One major question is education credits. And it does look like it can be met virtually with some checks on attendance.</p> <p>Alan – still enforcing all safety practices. Drop off sites are open, but payment is no contact. There have been so few cases in Northern part of the state that people are relaxing so the major challenge is keeping people focused.</p> <p>John – continuing all operational standards and have also found it to be a challenge as complacency sets in. Cell construction all review effort has been remote which is going well. Also starting a vertical expansion project and may have to determine options for public meeting. Are seeing a decrease tonnage overall. Increase in residential material but that is a fixed price. A lot of municipalities are going to have budget constraints. Starting to see substantial decrease in C&D once current projects are ending, new projects are not being started. Seeing higher volumes in HHW and small trailer drop offs on weekend.</p> <p>Tim – volume trends are the same that John reported. C&D dropped earlier and has flat lined. ADS is following similar safety procedures as other operations (WM). No delays with department or construction contractors.</p> <p>WM/ADS evaluating curbside contract pricing: spike in residential volume is putting pressure on collection service since they are fixed price. It may be temporary but also seeing a lot of communication about employers implementing work from home long term. Usually household tonnages are predictable. Most contracts have language in case of “acts of god” or “force majeure” however each contract is different. Private companies are interested in increased pricing on municipalities who may be eligible for reimbursement at state/federal level for COVID impacts.</p> <p>Amber – operate primarily from home. Member of gov’s climate change tax force. Waste has not been a topic considered much to date. Open to invite ideas for policy changes related waste that may results in climate discussion. Add to a future agenda.</p> <p>Meleesa – still working on safety. Making sure staff realize “safer at home” went away but the virus did not. Protocols continue to be required. Tonnage is up 17% at Marathon County landfill.</p>
11:00 All	Glass recycling in WI	<p>Meleesa introduced the discussion: The group was interested in additional information related to disruptions and a recent fire at Strategic Materials, Inc. (SMI), which is currently the only secondary glass processor in WI. Questions were sent out to study group members before the meeting: if recycling law were to be developed today, would glass be part of it? Is there a need for greater transparency with glass recycling economics? How is recycled glass used? What are glass recycling options?</p> <p>Lynn: When recycling law created, guessed at materials to include and most worked out – was difficult to look at individual materials to determine viability, and changes have occurred over time. Glass is no a more sustainable recyclable material on the fiscal side. No improvement of viability on financial standpoint. Germantown MRF uses SMI, glass stream costs WM customers \$402,000 to process glass. Net fee, so customers paid an additional \$835,000 to handle glass in 2019. \$1.24M total for about 30,000 tons in 2019, plus wear and tear at MRF. Glass with consistent negative</p>

		<p>value. →Lynn was asked to also provide similar numbers for other recyclable materials.</p> <p>Karin: Single stream has had an effect on good quality glass; how it is collected is a factor</p> <p>Bart: Doing math, about \$40/ton cost according to Lynn’s numbers. Twenty years ago, tried t make it work financially with a client. Suggest taking glass off the banned materials list. It is a commodity with less and less value.</p> <p>John: Is it a higher cost than landfilling? What about other sorting options or collect it differently? Better ways to recycle?</p> <p>Lynn: If used as alternative daily cover (ADC), it’s more economical. Straight to disposal, unsure – likely close.</p> <p>Meleesa: could ask for collection analysis from Dunn County. Quality of glass is key.</p> <p>Amber: Good to look at alternatives. Be conscientious of social consequences of ending a ban as well. How would it affect attitudes toward recycling? It has taken decades to get here with recycling.</p> <p>Lynn: Vulnerable with only one outlet for glass in WI. Willing to discuss change.</p> <p>Alan: Need for open conversation on benefits and costs – full picture. What are the transportation costs? Footprint?</p> <p>Karin: Recycling/recovery subcommittee could focus on this – bring data to study group</p> <p>Bart: economics of glass recycling has not changed for 20-30 years; deficits in terms of costs; hard to go back from single stream</p> <p>Meleesa: AROW’s glass task force with big list of recommendations, but was active before SMI in WI. Compare life cycle damage/impact of say, not collecting fluorescent bulbs or other material versus being required to collect glass. Need to be open and transparent about who pays for costs of recycling glass. Discussion warranted.</p> <p>Scott Defife, President of Glass Packaging Institute: Nationally, all recycling systems and markets struggling and quality is key. WI has a progressive record on glass recycling. Quality glass travels far and has strong markets. Consider that instead of going backwards and removing ban. There are challenges to glass collection and recycling, but need to base decisions on truth. Quality has to be improved, and it’s only as good as the equipment at MRFs. There are at least 4 glass container sites within reach of WI, many end markets. Please ask questions, get information. We would like to collaborate on this.</p> <p>Dan VanKorn, Supply Manager at SMI: Gap in understanding where glass ends up and benefits of glass recycling. St. Paul facility has cleanest glass in area. Glass is part of a local/regional circular economy that can work, but not one size fits all. Need to discuss holistically. Excited about reinvestment into SMI Delavan facility.</p> <p>David Pellitteri, owns single stream MRF in Madison: There are systems with new technologies, more cost effective ways to sort single stream now. Investment at facilities to make changes available, but not always easy. Need correct investment and equipment to make glass recycling work. Still not as clean as MN – let’s look at what those MRFs are doing to get good glass to recyclers. If we have better/cleaner materials in WI, we might have more markets locally.</p> <p>→Study Group voted to have the Recovery Subcommittee review information and develop recommendations</p>
11:10	Priority Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ran out of time to discuss – move to August meeting
11:20	Next meeting plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: August 6, 2020 • Suggested agenda topics: C&D follow up, WisPAC PFAS report if available, policy items for the state’s climate change task force; discuss Study Group priority topics to plan out additional agendas/work groups