

## MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING  
MAY 12, 2009  
ROOM AE 242  
UW-EXTENSION BUILDING-UW- FOND DU LAC CAMPUS  
400 UNIVERSITY AVE  
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

**Council Members Present:** Jim Cornwell (proxy for Neil Peter-Michaud), Greg David, Rick Meyers, John Reindl, Charlotte Zieve

**Council Members Absent:** Jeff Fielkow, Vacancy

**Also attending:** Sharon Erhardt, Jefferson County

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:08 AM.

**Introductions and Announcements:** Reindl said that anyone interested in filling the vacancy created by Dennis Dancker's resignation should contact the Governor's office.

Reindl said the Wisconsin State Journal editorialized on keeping Clean Sweep in the budget. Greg David and three others had a guest editorial in the same newspaper supporting Clean Sweep.

Reindl said that the "Story of Stuff" was featured in a Wisconsin State Journal story and is now a video that has had 5.5 million hits on YouTube since it went live. It is being used by teachers to introduce the topics of reducing, reusing and climate change. There is controversy because some say there is no balance to the piece. Reindl said he will send a link from the WSJ article to all RUs.

**Minutes:** Minutes of April 15, under 'Updates', 2nd paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, change \$1.4M to \$1.5M. Rick Meyers moved and Charlotte Zieve seconded to approve both the Minutes of March 15 and the Minutes of April 15 as amended. The motion carried.

### **Updates:**

**DNR:** Dan Fields, DNR, said the budget crisis will impact the recycling program but it is unclear how. The Governor has announced an additional 1100 job cuts as well as furloughs and other cuts. The Bureau Director vacancy and an expected Section Chief vacancy due to retirement in the Waste & Materials Management Bureau will not be filled for at least two years. No other information will be known until the legislature finishes the budget. There will be cuts to the grant programs but the extent is unknown. The Demonstration Grant program and the Recycling Efficiency grant programs are scheduled to be eliminated.

Fields said that the Recycling News newsletter will be mailed out to the RUs in the next few weeks. It will be online and people can sign up for it on the DNR web site. Here is the url: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/newsletters/>

Fields said that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the recycling law is April 22 (Earth Day), 2010. There are tentative plans to celebrate the milestone with an article in the Natural Resources magazine and other activities. The theme is "Who Knew?" Such as: who knew that the state would be pursuing producer responsibility? Who knew what product responsibility was? The next was the forward looking what is next? What will be next?

**Letter on State Funding of Recycling:** Rick Meyers submitted his draft to the members. The letter states the desire of the Council to protect the Clean Sweep program and program funding. Meyers said that tipping fees are increasing and some of those funds should come back to the recycling grants. Reindl said that the state had originally said that they would pay for 2/3 of the cost of the programs. The state has never been close. The members have all agreed and the letter will be sent out.

**Electronics letter:** Reindl said that letter was sent. The bill was reported out of committee by a 4-1 vote. At the hearing, one senator had concerns about schools. Reindl said the schools should be recycling already. The school board associations are not opposed but only one association is listed in the lobbying web page as being in support.

Reindl said that Dane County did a collection that was overwhelmingly successful. The whole area became a traffic jam. They had over 5,000 vehicles go through the drop off. They had about 50 trailers of equipment. Sharon Erhardt said that they had a Clean Sweep in Jefferson County and 219 cars filled up 19 gaylords with e-scrap and 21 console TVs. They also collected chemicals and pharmaceuticals as well.

**Annual Report:** Fields presented the annual report. Zieve moved and David seconded approval. The motion passed.

**Producer Responsibility:** Meyers presented the position paper. The position paper was very similar to AROW's position. He said it was important that the Council go on record supporting the concept so that it can take action whenever these issues arise. Reindl said that although all four parties (manufacturers, retailers, consumers and local governments) have some responsibility, it is the responsibility of the party that can most affect change to have primary responsibility. The members agreed and Meyers said he would modify the position paper. Meyers said the main purpose of the position paper was to set out a policy for the Council. This would be a ground rule for the Council. Zieve said that this is good policy because the producer would have incentives to revise the way they do business to save money. David agreed that this is the way to go and it's time to go back to classic capitalistic system that brings discipline and responsibility back to the system. Meyer said he would make a few tweaks to the letter. The Council approved the letter in concept.

**Mercury Products:** Reindl said that the Council was still supportive of the 2006 recommendations. Sen. Jauch has introduced a mercury products bill that does not include producer responsibility or a disposal ban. Reindl said he thinks the bill is too weak. The problem is not with new products, it is the disposal of products that are already in peoples' homes. Reindl said Clean Wisconsin is part of a national effort to have the same legislation throughout the country to prohibit sales. The problem is that their legislation is symbolic, not substantive. Reindl said the use of mercury by dentists and mercury thermometers are decreasing steadily so there is no need to legislate in those areas. He said that there is mercury in CFLs but that is offset by the greater efficiency they bring. Industry is also looking at alternatives to mercury-containing lighting systems. Reindl said he will send out the policy to members. He reminded members that the DNR has said that 2-3 times more mercury from products as there is from power plants gets emitted to the environment in Wisconsin each year.

**Used Oil Filters and Absorbents:** Reindl said a bill has been introduced on banning used oil filters and absorbents from landfills. It has bipartisan sponsorship. Several years ago the Council made recommendations to the Legislature on this topic and was part of a Commerce Department study on used oil filters and absorbents. The study recommended that the industry be given an opportunity to recycle used oil filters and absorbents voluntarily but if they did not do so a ban would be enacted. The Council supported that legislation. That legislation did not pass. The new bill is a ban. Cornwell moved and David seconded to support the legislation. The motion passed.

**Strategic Planning:** Reindl said that the strategic plan would be the focus of the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. That meeting will be the last specifically on the strategic plan.

**Public Comment:** Erhardt said that she was pleased to see the Council support product stewardship and Clean Sweeps. The Clean Sweep program is the only outlet her county has for hazardous waste and medications. It is simple, cost effective and allows people to do the right thing. People are willing to recycle if given the chance. Zieve agreed, saying that legislation is needed to enact change. Product stewardship will be successful and the consequences for business will never be as dire as they are made out to be. Reindl said the concern is about who pays.

Fields said he had an e-mail from Jeannette Zielinski, Town of Mukwa, who wanted to note that Best Buy has a very good take back policy. She also wondered about the affect of the glue on 'post-it' notes. Fields told her that the glue on the 'post-it' was not a major problem. The

other glues that are made to stay are significantly more expensive to deal with at paper recycling plants and cause contamination problems. Reindl said that he was still working on getting newspapers to use RCAs when they put stickies on the daily paper.

**Other Business:**

**Next meeting:** The Council will meet on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, at 9AM, at the UWEX/Workforce Development building, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson.

**Adjournment:** David moved and Zieve seconded adjournment. The motion carried. The Council adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Following the meeting the Council toured the Sadoff Iron & Metal plant, 240 Arndt, St, Fond du Lac.

Respectfully submitted by Daniel B. Fields, Department of Natural Resources.