

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
AUGUST 20, 2008
(POSTPONED FROM JUNE 17, 2008)
CITY WIDE RECYCLING CONFERENCE ROOM
10700 W. BROWN DEER ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Greg David, Rick Meyers, Neil Peters-Michaud, John Reindl;
Charlotte Zieve

Council Members Absent: Dennis Dancker, Jeff Fielkow

Also attending: Russ Evans, Town of Gerry; John Hansen, City Wide Recycling; Jenna Kunde, WasteCap Wis; John Lauddis, WasteCap Wis; Cynthia Moore, DNR; Elisabeth Olson, DNR; Erik Uram, Sierra Club

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:05 AM.

Introductions and Announcements: Reindl said that the emerald ash borer was now in Wisconsin. This could be a big generator of wood if a large number of trees have to be cut down. This fits into C&D. He also said that the paper mill shutdowns could be an issue for recycling. Wisconsin has always been #1 or #2 state in the country for the use of scrap paper to make recycled paper. This could affect the price of scrap paper. The Council may want to consider what it can do to help keep the manufacturing section viable. Another issue is that high metal prices lead to theft. People are stealing manhole and aluminum stands. This is a big safety and cost issue for municipalities.

Minutes: Charlotte Zieve moved and Neil Peters-Michaud seconded approval of the minutes. They were approved with the following corrections: Page I Introductions, line 7, 'scrap' is misspelled. Page 3, Electronics, first full paragraph, line 2, Change "About half" to 'Twenty-one percent'.

Updates:

DNR: Cynthia Moore, DNR, said that Suzanne Bangert has been promoted to Assistant Deputy for the Air and Waste Division. She will continue to work on some issues such as pharmaceuticals, e-waste and computer systems. There will be a national search for her replacement. Until then, the position will be filled on a revolving basis. They are hoping to have the position filled by the end of 2008.

Moore said the budget was not good. The agency is suspending some programs and eliminating others. They are eliminating the LTE who ran the Markets Directory. The Directory will no longer be staffed after the end of 2008. The updates ended last month. The local staff will not be able to keep up directories in their areas. The agency is looking at options. Reindl asked if the recycling program was being told not to spend funds that it was appropriated. Moore said that funding was suspended to cover the DNR's portion of the funding cuts. The Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grants program was suspended as well. They were able to fund a web-based toolkit on business recycling because it was so far along in the process. The award went to Recycling Connections. They will be working with SHWEC and consulting firm Catrell-Doyle on the program. The hope is that the consumer will be able to access the system without needing to know if they were on the DNR web site or SHWEC web site. DNR will also be funding an online directory focusing on C&D materials. They have been asked to do some extensive enhancements on the site. The directory will be called WasteCap Direct

Moore said that they also hope to do a waste sort. This is a critical for developing a benchmark. If you have suggestion please contact Moore with ideas on what should be sorted.

Meyers asked if more money would be diverted from the fund. Moore said she did not know. Meyers said that segregated fees should be spent on recycling. Moore said that there were no other places to cut. All that was left was position and the program cannot take more staffing cuts without compromising the program. Specific questions should be directed to Joe Polasek, DNR Management and Budget.

Moore said that there is an incredible increase in interest for using shingles as a resource. Kate Cooper, DNR, met with DOT, EPA and others to discuss the issue. DOT is interested in using shingles for roads. There is tremendous progress on this issue. John Hanson, City Wide Recycling, said that he heard that DOT wants a rebate if the company uses shingles. There are a lot of costs involved in using this material. DOT should just accept this as a specification or not. A fee is inappropriate. Reindl asked if UW was involved. Kunde said there is a group working on this issue. Hanson said this is proven technology. It works. Contact Cooper if you want more information on this issue.

Moore said that DNR, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), EPA, national soft drink associations, haulers and several local governments convened to talk about beverage container recycling. This was a get acquainted meeting. Everyone there had a common goal of raising the recycling rate of containers. This was a significant meeting and the start of discussions. The next meeting is in Madison on October 3. This meeting came about because of a Minnesota study that led to a legislative mandate of getting to a recycling rate of 80% by 2012. Uram said that few retailers attended.

Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal: Moore said that Sue Bangert, DNR has prepared a memo to NR Board. It is a road map of actions the DNR can take. Moore will send a copy to members when it is public.



Natural Step: Greg David did a Natural Step presentation (attached).

Tour of City Wide Recycling: John Hansen, city wide recycling took the members and guests on tour. He said there is no secondary processing at this site. They may at some time. Reindl asked if there was anything the council could do to help. Hansen said that education is important. WasteCap has helped build awareness. The small builders are a key group. It would help if the city or county would mandate recycling by builders as part of their permit. The state now requires recycling on state projects. There is a lot of material going to the landfill that should not end up there. Just over 50% of all material they get in is recycled. About 75% of the new construction material is recycled. Better enforcement would also help. Many companies sort in inappropriate areas to pull out the valuable materials while his company has to follow all the rules.

Jenna Kunde, WasteCap, said that markets are a challenge. Can the Council help to push the debate on wood waste? The Council can help create a vision, especially with the emerald ash borer potentially adding a tremendous amount of material. Hansen said the wood market is there. Meyers said that there will be a major meeting about urban wood waste. The Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), SHWEC and others are working on the issue.

David said that Jefferson County has a pilot project using synthetic gas. It is a wonderful project and has surpassed their expectations. They are also looking at their landfill as an asset. Hansen agreed, saying he knew of a project that was doing just that. It supplies power to local businesses.

Kunde asked that the Council write a letter to Governor Doyle and the head of state facilities thanking him for his leadership with the Conserve Wisconsin Agenda, which led to the state requiring recycling of C&D on all state projects. Also include office of energy independence and taking facilities off the grid. Zieve moved and Meyers seconded. Motion passed. Reindl will write the letter.

Public Comment: Erik Uram, Sierra Club, said that his organization is adding water as a priority issue, as well as waste. Reindl said he was glad to see that. Environmental groups have been slow to take up recycling issues

Priority issues:

Ag Plastics: Zieve said that she has had meetings about ag plastics. The farmers have questions about state subsidies. Moore said that there is a pilot program in Columbia, Green, Crawford and Vernon counties. This is a pilot project that started this year. AGSI, Savage, MN, is the processor. AGSI is willing to pay \$60/ton to a local program to do the baling. It will run a collection route. They do have restrictions. Roger Springman, DATCP, is involved. SHWEC has started a list serve. Kate Cooper, DNR has also been meeting with the group. Zieve said that farmers admit that they are burning the plastic to get rid of it. If there is a program that is easy to use the farmers will take part. Moore said that there has been great progress in the last two years.

Electronics: Neil Peters Michaud said that Sen. Miller will reintroduce his e-waste producer responsibility bill in January. Peters Michaud said that it passed the Senate but not the Assembly last session. WMC supported the bill. The biggest change is in how the count is made. He said it was important to show that there is statewide support for this bill. Currently, 17 states and the city of New York have producer responsibility laws. That means that 75% of the US population is covered. Meyers said that this fits with all the other Council priorities. We should do whatever we can do to advance this legislation

Peters Michaud said that he has seen a surge in TV's, probably related to the digital conversion. The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is hosting a meeting on the issue. They are considering doing a Public Service Announcement (PSA).

Peters Michaud said there is a hearing on exports on the federal level. He said that it's estimated that 50% of all electronics are going overseas.

Peters Michaud said that several municipalities are discussing landfill bans. He cited several municipalities in Winnebago County. Zieve said the Council should make a statement. Reindl said we have already done that. Peters Michaud said we should do that again. Moore said that the MN legislation has exceeded expectations. That is something to point to. Peters Michaud said he would try to set up a meeting with the Governor. Reindl, Zieve and Meyers said they would also like to be part of the meeting. Uram said the League of Conservation voters made this one of their issues.

Mercury Containing Products: Not much has been done on mercury containing products. There is action on mercury from power plants. Reindl said that some people eat a lot of fish from local lakes, some 21 times a week. Many of these people don't speak English. Local environmental justice groups have asked for signs in several languages with warnings about the mercury in fish. Mercury from products has not been on many people's radar in spite of the fact that there are several times as many releases from products as there are from power plants.

Uram said that fluorescent lamps (FL'S) and compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) are a problem. Only 25% of businesses and 2% of households recycle their lamps. The EU has taken the lead with legislation. He said that there is a green lighting campaign going on. They are trying to create guidelines for procurement. The priorities are to get people to buy lamps with the least amount of mercury, the most energy efficient and ensuring full disclosure on the packaging so consumers can make decisions. He would like to see greater awareness of issues and a producer responsibility approach. This is a big issue for Focus on Energy. David said Wal-Mart has done a huge turnaround on this issue. They are doing sustainability projects and taking other actions. Uram said that there is a national conference in DC in December. He asked if a Council member could attend. Reindl asked Uram to send the information to the members. Uram said one problem was that that people feel betrayed because they were told to change to CFL's but not told that they had mercury in them. Reindl said Minnesota passed legislation that just banned CFLs. That is the secret to success. No ambiguity. Meyers said that the ban itself was not the whole answer. Education and enforcement are also important. Reindl said that Wisconsin does not have a total ban. Moore said that the Regional Product Stewardship Council is trying to

create a local group. She said that it would be great if the Council could support those efforts in some way.

Paper: Reindl not much has happened so he will talk about it at the next meeting.

Priority Discussion: Meyers asked how we are going to set priorities. Reindl said that the members have received ideas from both David and Meyers. Peters Michaud suggested that we ask a facilitator to help the Council decide priorities. Zieve asked if Fields could put together a compilation of the priorities. He said he would do that. Meyers and David said they would like Reindl to put together a history. He said he would do that.

Other Business: The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at 9:00 AM at...Madison or Jefferson.

Adjournment: Zieve moved and Peters-Michaud seconded. The Council adjourned at 12:25.

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