

Notes
COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
May 6, 2014
DNR Central Office
101 S. Webster St, Madison, WI 53707

<p>Council Members Present: Rick Meyers, Joe Liebau, Jim Birmingham, Neil Peters Michaud, Mark Walter representing Charles Larscheid, George Hayducsko Council Members Absent: Bill Waltz DNR: Cynthia Moore, Waneta Kratz, Brad Wolbert, Kari Beetham, Ann Coakley, Jeffrey Voltz, Paul Newmann Public: Jennifer Semrau/Winnebago County, Sharon Ehrhardt/Jefferson County; George Fickau/BPR; Rick Eilertson/City of Fitchburg; Lynn Morgan and Greg Hubbard/Waste Mgt.; Jodine Saunders/City of Beloit; Joe Sadlior and Jim Pines/Eco-Tech; Kendra Bonderud/Legislative Fiscal Bureau</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 9:05 am
Approval of Minutes (November 22, 2013)	Motion to approve minutes made and seconded by Jim Birmingham and Neil Peters Michaud; approved by voice vote.
Introductions/Announcements -	<p>Chair Rick Meyers - Introductions/Announcements Neil Peters Michaud invited all to attend an open house at his company, Cascade Assets Management, on 5/15 featuring their electronics recycling and refurbishing operations. Mark Walter and George Hayducsko each distributed copies of their annual recycling bulletins. Rick Meyers announced that the City of Milwaukee and Waukesha County have entered into a 15 year intergovernmental agreement to implement and operate a regional recycling system for the processing and marketing of single stream recyclables. The existing Milwaukee MRF building will be retrofitted and operated by a private contractor. The joint effort was in part inspired by the successful recycling collaboration between Brown, Outagamie, & Winnebago counties.</p>
DNR Updates	<p>Ann Coakley apologized that she has not been able to attend previous meetings because of her work with the GeoTec mining application. She recognized the good work done by the Council and its accomplishments, in particular on the plastics recycling initiative. Brad Wolbert provided updates on recent DNR guidance and legislation related to recycling.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draft guidance on CRT glass. The main point of this guidance is to clarify that processed CRT glass can be used as landfill alternative daily cover, but when used as ADC it is not eligible to be counted towards meeting the manufacturer E-cycling credit. There appears to have been some confusion over the purpose of the guidance, whether it represented a change in DNR policy (no) and DNR encouragement in using processed CRT glass as ADC (no). The guidance is simply to explain existing policy. The public comment period ended on 5/9. <p>Because of concern that the guidance could be interpreted as support of use of CRT glass for ADC, a motion was made and seconded (Jim Birmingham/Neil Peters Michaud) to develop a statement expressing the Council's position on this issue: "The Council on Recycling supports the determination that processed CRT glass used for alternative daily cover is not considered towards</p>

	<p>e-cycling credits. We support the promotion of recycling options over alternative daily cover and landfilling of other materials”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Legislative updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SB522/AB666 changing the core deposit for a replacement motor vehicle lead acid battery to \$10 (from a maximum of \$5) was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 305, with an effective date of April 18, 2014. b. AB 424 requiring manufacturers of mercury containing thermostats to assume responsibility for recycling. Referred to Committee on Environment and Forestry; no further action expected. c. SB 355/AB444- Fees imposed on disposal of certain solid waste at licensed disposal facilities. This bill exempts soil removal during clean up at DNR listed contaminated sites and recycling facility residue, up to a certain percentage, from the recycling tip fee. Signed into law as Wisconsin Act 301. d. SB 351/AB448. Programs for disposal of drugs including controlled substances and certain medical or drug related items. Provides Department of Justice authorization to approve policies and procedures of collection/disposal programs before they begin operation. Signed into law as Wisconsin Act 198. 3. Responsible Unit consolidation. DNR submitted a request for an opinion from the Attorney General on the authority and procedure by which a local municipality member of a county RU may leave the RU and establish itself as an independent RU more than 90 days after the date the county passed its resolution forming the county RU. This issue is not addressed in the recycling law, and a number of county RUs and local members have asked DNR for direction in the past. The DNR is waiting to hear back from the AG on whether the request for an opinion will be granted. 4. E-Cycle Forum. The DNR is hosting a forum on 5/7 to address issues related to the E-Cycle Wisconsin program, in particular issues related to recyclers and the operation of collection sites. Over 70 participants have registered representing recyclers and collectors in Wisconsin and from other states.
<p>Plastic Recycling Subcommittee Update</p>	<p>Rick Meyers provided a brief synopsis of the Plastic Recycling Initiative to date, covering the Council’s role in securing stakeholder input in recommendations for immediate action and referencing the on-going collaborative efforts, including the pilot film/wrap recycling awareness campaign in the City of Milwaukee.</p> <p>Film/Bag Workgroup: Cynthia Moore gave a brief update on statewide outreach on WRAP-Wrap Recycling Action Program. DNR posted a statewide press release in April, which was picked up by a number of local media sources. The next step in the outreach plan is to reach out to community recycling programs and environmental groups to seek their engagement in the initiative by raising awareness and facilitating recycling through drop-off locations. DNR will host a webinar in May featuring</p>

Wisconsin communities already on board with WRAP.

George Hayducsko described the Dunn County pilot to increase recycling by citizens and businesses and to develop recycling capability at a local vocational training center Indianhead Enterprises. The pilot is conducted with support from the Flexible Film Packaging Group, Trex and Moore Recycling Associates, with additional local support and sponsorship. The Pilot has obtained a baler for use by Indianhead Enterprises, conducted a waste audit at University of Wisconsin/Stout, and has been covered several times in local radio and TV news. George reported that businesses are now calling him to find out how to be engaged in the project. The main challenge remains how to get plastic from surrounding businesses to the recycling facility. Indianhead Enterprises is considering a milk run collection program funded from revenue earned from the sale of plastic. Lessons learned from this pilot will form the basis for guidance on establishing rural collection and processing programs elsewhere.

Jim Birmingham reported on pilots at two area processing facilities to understand processing capacity and best management practices for wrap. The Pioneer pilot provided valuable information on the composition and value of plastic bales collected separately and with fiber (cardboard). The outstanding challenge will be sorting wrap types into bales wanted by industry, including training staff on correct sorting practices. Eco-Tech stated their number one challenge remains contamination from other plastics; the WRAP project discourages collection of wrap with other recyclables other than fiber.

Rigid Plastics Workgroup: Rebecca Mattano reported that the American Chemistry Council is still on board for a research study in late spring/fall to identify specific suppliers of industrial/commercial/institutional sector scrap rigid plastics that can be captured leading to the building of an infrastructure to increase recycling. The study will identify supply clusters or generators to target for greatest benefit and highest likelihood of success.

Bottles Workgroup: Waneta Kratz presented an update on the Bin Distribution Network project to turn soft drink syrup barrels into recycling bins. The group has identified pilot partners among local special events and high schools, and is seeking guidance from the Council on how to proceed with a User Agreement outlining responsibilities of both the local partners and the project. The decision was for the project to send a letter outlining the responsibilities (which the partners are already on board with) but not require signatures from both parties. The Council is an advisory board and does not have legal standing to enter into formal agreements with other parties.

Agricultural Plastics Workgroup: Cynthia Moore provided a brief update on developments with the Agricultural Film workgroup. Efforts continue to find recyclers for agricultural plastics. Two or three options may soon be available to those organizing collection events. Several out-of-state entrepreneurs have expressed interest in investing in Wisconsin, but nothing definitive has yet been decided.

Stakeholders continue to express a need for a source of funding to build infrastructure and get programs up and running. Agricultural plastic has minimal value for recyclers and event organizers need some financial support to hold collection events. Lindsay Smith (Terracon) reiterated that funding for

	<p>equipment purchase and handling and transportation are main obstacles to increased collection, and that sustainable funding systems need to be developed.</p> <p>George Hayducsko suggested the Council consider asking DNR to fund a part-time position that would have the time to pull together different activities currently underway but lacking direction and consistent purpose. No action was taken on this.</p>
<p>Municipal recycling program funding policy/ comments from AROW and APWA/Solid Waste committee and open discussion</p>	<p>The Council invited representatives of other organizations with direct connections to community recycling programs to comment on recycling program funding in continuation of the discussion started at the last Council meeting. Mark Walter spoke on behalf of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW), Rick Eilertson and Jodine Saunders spoke on behalf of the Solid Waste Committee of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Two other organizations- the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA) and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North American (SWANA) were unable to send a representative to the meeting, but both stated their positions laid on in the joint letter and press release (attached below) are still relevant.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  JCF_Support Recycling 2013 - 2015 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  FINAL Case for Recycling Release 032 </div> </div> <p>The current level of state funding for responsible unit programs generally is barely sufficient to maintain strong programs in face of local government budget challenges, whereas ideally programs would be investing in the growth of recycling to the benefit of the entire state. The Council is seeking input on strategies to support sustainable investment and growth in recycling, including further exploration of extended producer responsibility models. Following is a summary of key points raised during the discussion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recycling community accepted the loss of revenue from the Recycling Business Surcharge as part of changes to the recycling grant program in the FY 2011-13 budget, in exchange for keeping revenue from the recycling tip fee. However, the recycling community is discouraged over the lack of transparency on how the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is now using revenue from the Economic Development Surcharge. 2. The reduction in recycling grants has also impacted household hazardous waste/clean sweep programs. Any restoration of grants should also be directed at these vital programs. 3. Recycling communities all pay into the recycling tip fee. The increase in the tip fee in 2009 meant they are now paying more into the fund, but with the reduction starting in 2011 in state recycling grants, they are getting less in return. 4. The reduction in the recycling grants was very abrupt occurring in the middle of the year with no advance warning. This caused considerable financial hardship to local government locked into contracts but

	<p>suddenly without funds to pay for them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Most recycling programs have since managed to maintain the basic skeleton of a recycling program, focusing on the collection side while minimizing or eliminating important outreach and compliance enforcement work. However, the reduction has significantly limited the ability of most programs to expand or innovate. City of Fitchburg recently had to cancel a successful curbside food waste collection pilot which would have generated efficiencies and lower overall costs in the long run, because of a funding deficit. 6. Whereas other states are investing in their recycling programs as a growth industry, Wisconsin is reducing its investment. 7. The structure of the grants program should be reviewed. It is based on a formula tied to program costs in 1999, with no consideration to operating costs or performance. There might be more support for restoring recycling grant funding if grants were tied to increased recycling performance. <p>ACTION ITEMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neil Peters Michaud will draft a letter to WEDC asking for an explanation on how they are supporting investment in state recycling. 2. DNR will provide a briefing on expenditures made from the Environmental Fund; this fund is support through revenue from the recycling tip fee and other environmental fees assessed on solid waste disposal.
Public Comment	<p>Sharon Ehrhardt (Jefferson County Solid Waste) reported the Midwest Mattress Recycling facility, located in Watertown, was now out of business due to financial difficulties. In the end, the City of Watertown was obliged to landfill about 2000 mattresses that were not recycled, and is now using the Ohio based mattress recycler for city needs. First Choice from Eau Claire has recently added mattress recycling to its services</p>
Other Business/ Next meeting	<p>Cynthia will send out a doodle to schedule the next meeting, targeting the last three weeks of July.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.</p>