

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Monday, October 1st, 2018
 Eagle Waste & Recycling
 701 Recycling Way, Eagle River, WI

<p>Council Members Present: Jim Birmingham, Gary Harter, Jarrod Holter (phone), Dave Keeling, Heidi Woelfel (phone), Jeff Zillich (phone) DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Ariana Mankerian (phone) Public: Alan Albee and Brian Albee, Eagle Waste and Recycling; Tara Smith, Discover Mediaworks-Into the Outdoors; Heather Seevers, Southwest Sanitation; Karen Thyne, Eagle River Elementary- Earth Base Recycling Club; Joe Perry, Town of Arbor Vitae; Sharon Benna, Town of Lincoln; Jim Olson; Mary Chuckel.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 11:06 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (July 17, 2018)	Motion made by Jim Birmingham and seconded by Gary Harter to approve the minutes of July 17, 2018. Motion carried (5-0).
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Morris was promoted from a WMM Hydrogeologist to the West Central Regional Supervisor position. • Trevor Nobile was hired as the Southeast Regional Supervisor. • Matt Matrise left the WMM Business and IT Section Chief position for another position in External Services. • WMM program currently has two vacancies in its Environmental Program Assistant positions (Green Bay and Spooner); the position description/classification are being evaluated. • The program has a new Solid Waste attorney, Mark Herman. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of administrative rule updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR 514, the Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) rule will be effective in early 2019. • The beneficial use program is working on revising NR 538; the Technical Advisory Committee has its ninth, and likely final, meeting. • NR 600 series is in the drafting phase by the hazardous waste program, which would include E-manifest. • The next rule to be considered is CCR (coal combustion residual). <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of the following WMM program metrics for the 2018 fiscal year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% compliance with owner financial responsibility requirements • 18 guidance documents/publications; 43 GovDelivery newsletters • Completed hazardous waste decisions on-time 100% • Completed solid waste decisions on-time 94% • Customer service surveys- 97% were very satisfied or satisfied

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple open records requests responded to in an average of 5 days; complex requests in an average of 15 days • Green & Healthy Schools- 45 applied, 25 accepted
Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder Meeting	<p>J. Semrau, DNR summarized the successful MRF Stakeholder meeting hosted by the DNR on August 15, 2018. Nearly half of WI's MRFs were in attendance (in-person or via Skype), representing public and private operations, different geographical areas of the state, different sized facilities (from under 5,000 tons/year to over 100,000 tons/year) and different MRF types (single stream, dual stream or source separated). The agenda included DNR presentations on China's importation restrictions and impacts on world recycling markets, review of WI's recycling law/landfill bans, and a review of MRF requirements for outside storage. Then various MRF representatives described their operational changes and/or best management practices to deal with changing market conditions, quality, labor and education. Finally, the half-day meeting concluded with a brief DNR presentation on available resources for MRFs and a discussion on how the DNR could use its limited human and financial resources to the greatest advantage for MRFs. The conclusion was while it's difficult for the DNR to provide statewide education on how to recycle (as different programs accept different materials), DNR could conduct statewide education on how NOT to recycle... i.e. the most problematic contamination. The biggest source of operational issues for MRFs was identified as plastic bags/film. DNR solicited feedback via an evaluation after the event, and it was very highly rated, with most requesting DNR conduct a MRF Stakeholder meeting on an annual basis.</p>
EPA Region 5 Sustainable Material Management Meeting	<p>Kate Strom Hiorns, DNR shared that staff from DNR representing the landfilling and diversion programs attended a meeting at EPA Region 5 headquarters in Chicago on September 27, 2018. Other EPA Region 5 states were in attendance and shared their challenges and successes. Amongst the topic areas were Construction and Demolition (C&D) landfills and providing adequate rules for 'small' sites, compost sites and consistency issues with small municipalities, OH's tire collection/recycling program (tied to mosquito abatement), post-closure care at landfills and the differentiation between using the term 'food waste' versus 'wasted food.' Another focus area was recycling markets and market development and the desire to have further region-wide conversations on this topic.</p>
Eagle Waste & Recycling Operations/Northern WI Recycling Market Update	<p>Alan Albee, Eagle Waste & Recycling informed the council that their single stream MRF produces five sorts of plastic: #1 PETE, #2 HDPE natural, #2 HDPE color, mixed #3-7 and mixed bulky rigids. The MRF previously had issues moving #3-7 and opted to store the material. They purchased two warehouses and stored for a year; about year ago, they found a market and moved the material. Mixed paper was also difficult to move, but they are having less issues now. Eagle maintains good relationships with mills in the Green Bay area. Lately demand for PETE and HDPE has increased. Aluminum is a current challenge to move; large buyers of aluminum are now purchasing outside the United States (Saudi Arabia). Overall there is more recycling supply than demand. Eagle has banked revenues when markets were high; now with depressed markets they have not gone back to the communities they serve with higher rates. They hope this is remembered and rewarded when markets increase again. Nearly all agreements are with buyers are verbal, with one written agreement with a mill. Even when export markets existed, Eagle would maintain domestic buying/selling relationships (for lower revenue). Eagle is reluctant to take on new customers as tonnage</p>

	<p>from existing customers is going up. Their philosophy is to be sure you service your existing customer first.</p> <p>Eagle recently upgraded their facility to increase tons/hour throughput and improve quality without increasing staff. Finding labor is very challenging, especially in summer. Amongst the modifications was an aspirator/vacuum on the glass and an upgrade to the PETE optical sorter. The pick rate on the optical went from 65% to 90%. In addition, Eagle added a second fiber sort line to reduce burden depth of the material and a dedicated OCC (old corrugated cardboard) baler. The tip floor was also expanded, which allows better separation of recycling and waste materials.</p> <p>Glass is presently beneficially reused (with DNR approval) at the Hwy G landfill in roads, trenches and as alternative daily cover (ADC). The area lacks other sources of ADC from industrial sources. The economics of recycling the glass at Strategic Materials (based on their locations) is poor. Gary Harter asked if Eagle is having trouble securing freight. A. Albee stated this has always been a problem as there is very little trucking in Eagle River. Therefore, they do their own trucking.</p>
Recycling Markets Sub-Committee Report	<p>Dave Keeling, Council Chair/Steel Recycling Institute (SRI) shared that the aluminum issues detailed by A. Albee are being felt by many. As an example, D. Keeling indicated one facility he was familiar with had 32 truckloads of aluminum as they were unable to get a pick-up for two months.</p> <p>Manufacturers of aluminum products (such as beverage containers) are up in arms as they want to make cans from recycled content. D. Keeling stated there will be a markets townhall at the Resource Recycling conference in St. Louis, MO 10/22-10/24. In addition, the National Recycling Coalition will hold a Midwest recycling markets forum, emphasizing regional cooperation, on 11/7 in Oaklawn (Chicago area), IL.</p>
Public Comment	<p>Karen Thyne, Eagle River Elementary- Earth Base Recycling Club said there is a continuous need to educate the general public. The state needs to do more recycling education, including back to basics education. Eagle Waste & Recycling produces a great brochure. D. Keeling stated more education is going to image-based as it communicates across languages and quickly (for short attention spans). DNR needs additional funding for staff and education. K. Thyne said citizens don't understand the consequences of recycling the 'wrong' items (on the processing operation) or that not all plastics are recyclable. Heidi Woelfel asked why there isn't push back on industry. D. Keeling stated that APR does to a degree. For instance, a can made of steel and plastic was taken off the market. In theory, everything can be recycled, but it's about volume and markets. 'Wish-cycling' is hurting the system.</p>
Other Business	D. Keeling reminded the council that America Recycles Day is 11/15.
Next Meeting Date and Location	The council will hold its next meeting via conference call in Dec. and hopefully its next in-person meeting at the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) in Steven's Point, 2/27-3/1. H. Woelfel has a contact at Spectrum Industries she will outreach to about attending a future meeting.
Adjourn Business Meeting	Business meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm; motioned by Jim Birmingham and seconded by Gary Harter. Motion carried (6-0).
Tour	Council members and guests toured Eagle Waste & Recycling.