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WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, June 1, 2021
 Via conference call/Zoom

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| <p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel, Barb Worcester (10:05) DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Sarah Murray, Jennifer Feyerherm Public: Marty Oxman, Alter Metal; April Greene, KTL Consulting; Jacob Brunoehler, Advanced Drainage Systems. Note- due to the call-in/Zoom nature of the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p> | |
| Call to Order | Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. |
| Introductions and Announcements | Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. |
| Approval of Minutes (Mar. 18, 2021) | Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by Heidi Woelfel to approve the minutes of March 18, 2021. Motion carried (5-0). |
| DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates | <p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring freeze thawing a bit. • New Recycling Waste Management Specialist (2 LTE positions) has been hired: Eliza Kruszynski. Starts June 7. Will work on: conducting RU evaluations, compiling results, assisting with NR 544 rulewriting & outreach, technical assistance and emerging materials (solar panels, wind turbine blades, food waste, etc.). • Recruiting new Hydrogeologist position to work on Beneficial Use and Low Hazard Waste Exemptions; Hazardous Waste Specialist focusing on Transfer, Storage and Disposal facilities; IT Specialist, focus on hazardous waste reporting. • Upcoming retirements: Cynthia Moore (June 1), Amy Walden (summer) • Staff still working from home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Up to 50% in-person staff by June 1 ○ Up to 100% in-person staff by July 5 ○ However, recognize productivity and environmental benefits of staff working from home, along with challenges/concerns which may exist for some staff (childcare, elderly caretakers, vaccination status) ○ Potentially, long-term work-at-home options or supplementing in-office work ○ DNR emphasizing flexibility • Still encouraging virtual meetings; procedure set up to gain approval for in-person meeting. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report season complete: data QA/QC on Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Responsible Unit (RU) reports; two RUs to be placed on probation for failing to submit on-time report. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-cycle and Recycle are partnering on a household survey, to be conducted via mail this spring with UW-Survey Center, to learn behavior and perspectives on recycling activities. Good response rate so far. • Two openings on WMM Study Group filled by David Pellitteri, representing National Waste & Recycling Association and Paul Mattewson, Clean WI (due to openings with the departure of Alan Albee and Amber Meyer Smith). • The WMM program is undergoing a file digitization project; included in first wave is RU files. • Statewide waste characterization study continues. SCS Engineers contracted to sort at ~12 landfills and estimate percentages and weights of 85 material types within 8 categories of waste. Staff have received a draft report; final report expected today. Food waste (edible and non-edible) largest component. • Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 3 – 9:30 a.m. WMM Study Group ○ June 28 – 1:00 p.m. Public Hearing on Draft Electronics Recycling Rule <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill (SB) 113- changes requirements that apply to fertilizers that are produced from converting manure into compost; introduced 2/18, passed Senate 3/23, sent to Assembly, introduced 3/31 (AB 229), fiscal estimate received 4/14. • SB152/AB131- prohibits sale and use of coal tar-based sealant products; introduced 2/24, Assembly public hearing held 3/25. • SB166/AB151- related to deer carcass disposal (Prohibits a landfill from refusing double-bagged deer carcasses, provides \$200K in grants for deer carcass disposal), introduced 3/3, Senate public hearing held 4/8, did not move out of committee. • Emergency rule in development to allow online landfill operator/manager certification exams to be provided by a third-party contractor (also affects wastewater treatment plants, septage servicing, well driller exams). The goal is to bring the rule to the Natural Resources Board for approval on 6/23. A permanent rule will follow. • SB248/AB254- E-cycle law updates and E-cycle Rule- Sarah Murray will discuss during her presentation. |
| <p>E-cycle Program, Legislation, Rulemaking Update</p>  <p>ElectronicsRecyclingRules_CouncilonRecycli</p> | <p>Sarah Murray, DNR shared with the council a presentation on electronics recycling program, rulemaking and legislative update. See left.</p> <p>Mark Walter, Brown County asked if other E-cycle changes were still needed (beyond those proposed in the legislation or that cannot be addressed by rulemaking). S. Murray stated that the challenge with the manufacturer targets being too low relative to weights collected still exists. David Pellitteri asked about the impact on batteries. S. Murray said the batteries embedded in specific electronics are handled through the program. However, the department recognizes the potential fire danger and challenges of proper collection/recycling of other batteries, especially lithium ion. M. Walter</p> |

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| | <p>asked if there is anything the council can do. S. Murray suggested reaching out to the Assembly (either as a body or individual members) in support of legislation, making comments and supporting the rulemaking efforts and generally providing stakeholder engagement.</p> |
| <p>Product Stewardship Overview</p>  <p>Product Stewardship.pdf</p> | <p>M. Walter, Brown County provided the council with an overview of product stewardship. Examples of product stewardship include electronics (Wisconsin’s only product stewardship law), paint, mattresses and batteries (in other states). As was mentioned previously, batteries can be a challenging material that could benefit from a landfill ban or product stewardship. Another such product is vaping devices. M. Walter wanted to get the conversation started with the council on product stewardship and EPR (extended producer responsibility), as more sustainable for the waste system. Future topics the council could explore include paint and batteries. David Keeling indicated his support of product stewardship efforts with the council and asked if electric vehicle batteries have been an issue. M. Walter said they get some of them and it’s hard to find a market.</p> |
| <p>RU Recycling Grant Program, Formula & History</p>  <p>Responsible Unit Grant PPT 6.1.21.pdf</p> | <p>J. Semrau, DNR shared a presentation on the RU recycling grant history and complicated formula with the council. Presently RUs receive a grant equal to the same percentage of the total grant funding as the RU received, or would have received, in 1999. For example, if a RU received 1.5% of the grant ‘pie’ in 1999, they receive 1.5% of the grant pie today, which means the current distribution does not account for program changes since 1999 (i.e. transition to automated collection or carts, discontinuing yard waste collection, etc.).</p> <p>Jarrold Holter asked how the council could accept a formula that uses 1999 information and that the council should advocate for restoration of \$32 million in grants. M. Walter suggested that the full amount of collected recycling fees should be accessible. The formula should also be discussed. Other organizations, including the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) and the Tri-County Partnership (Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago Counties) are also looking at this. Future council meetings will follow-up on this and include more discussion on the role the council should play and what the council should advocate for.</p> |
| <p>Recycling Market Updates</p>  <p>Material Pricing Matrix 2021.pdf</p>  <p>Material Pricing Matrix 2021b.pdf</p> | <p>M. Walter, Brown County shared Tri-County recycling commodity values for containers and paper (see left). HDPE natural is over \$1,800/ton- historic highs. They are also seeing increases in OCC (old corrugated cardboard), newspaper and mixed paper prices. OCC tonnage has increased 14% in the past two years. D. Pellitteri confirmed markets are high/strong, which is nice after several years of declining values. D. Keeling asked about steel pricing. M. Walter said their price has been flat for years at less than \$50/ton. M. Walter stated that Green Bay Packaging’s expansion (Green Bay, WI) just went online in March/April. They presently have more capacity for OCC and mixed paper than supply. M. Walter clarified that the Tri-County facility only produces OCC and mixed paper bales, despite newsprint being on the commodity value graph.</p> |
| <p>Recycling Compliance Issues</p> | <p>J. Semrau, DNR said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include: complaints at multi-family properties or non-residential properties in Appleton and Kiel; complaint regarding a MRF’s outside storage of material causing litter issues; late RU and MRF report submittals; and</p> |

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| | compliance challenges with RU reports including, lack of understanding/submittal of report when a RU did not apply for a grant and difficulty in getting tonnage information or actual recycling services as a result of the WMI/ADS/GFL buy out. |
| Public Comment | None |
| Other Business/Next Meeting Date | Discussion on holding next meeting September 13-20, 2021, preferably in-person in Madison. J. Semrau indicated that meeting in-person (from the agency perspective) for Sept. is unknown at this time, so a virtual option would also be available. J. Semrau will send out a Doodle. |
| Adjourn | Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.; motioned by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (6-0). |