

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, June 6, 2023
DNR, 101 S Webster St, Madison, Room G09 and via conference call/Zoom

<p>Council Members Present: John Anderson, Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Heidi Woelfel. DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kate Strom Hiorns, Dustin Sholly, Cynthia Moore, Jennifer Feyerherm, Mitchell Wiedenbeck. Public: Kathy Hutter, Winnebago County; Alex Nett, Outagamie County; Angie Lemar, Foth; Tom Thompson, UW Health; Greg Griessmeyer, Sadoff Iron & Metal; Marty Oxman, BlackBridge; Lisa Ziehlke, Astronautics Corporation of America (ACA). Note- due to the call-in/Zoom ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m. (Delayed due to IT issues.)
Introductions and Announcements	Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Jeff Zillich has resigned from the council (accepted position out of state). Chair, Mark Walter, thanked J. Zillich for his years of service to the council. No other announcements.
Approval of Minutes (March 2023)	Motion made by David Keeling and seconded by Jarrod Holter to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023. Motion carried (6-0).
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Environmental Program Associate in South central region. • Carolyn Cooper, Hydrogeologist in South central region, resigned. • Program funding will not allow for filling of vacancies until new fiscal year (July 1). Total of 8-9 vacancies. Amongst the vacancies is the Recycling LTE (reporting and data analysis, Responsible Unit evaluations, file management). • Engineering vacancies- top priority. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates: Reporting season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRF report was released mid-Feb and due March 30; no issues. Need to move MRF report to new system. • RU report moved to new system and faced significant challenges. Report had to close mid-reporting season with the program extending the deadline. As of now, still have some reports outstanding. Anticipate placing more RUs on probation. On a positive note, RUs on probation from last year submitted on-time (and will not face grant implications). • All 2023 recycling grants have been dispersed by June 1 deadline. In total 1050 basic recycling grants were awarded with 211 consolidation grants. <p>EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Grants announced with WDNR receiving ~\$550,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDNR intends to work on food waste reduction with three primary focuses: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hire a project position to create partnerships, conduct outreach and provide technical assistance. 2. Contract to conduct research and develop a statewide food waste management plan. 3. Contract with a non-regulatory entity to provide statewide technical assistance and services to local governments, businesses, institutions and farms on projects that prevent or divert food waste. • Recycling Education and Outreach Grant- announcement expected late summer/early fall. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR 500 Landfill and solid waste fees rulemaking is underway. An external advisory committee was formed. First meeting was April 19. And second meeting is June 21 and is open for anyone to attend – email announcement coming out likely this week. At the first meeting discussed the committee’s survey results of their top rule priorities: alternative landfill liner options, alternative landfill cover options, owner financial responsibility, and codifying exemptions. Any questions or comments to share, please contact Kate Strom Hiorns, kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov. • Recycling and E-cycle rules later on agenda.
Recycling Rule Revision Feedback Slides	<p>J. Semrau, DNR presented slides on progress on the recycling administrative rule revision, emphasizing solicitation of feedback from stakeholder groups, Responsible Units (RUs) and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). See link to slides at left.</p>
WM Germantown Material Recovery Facility Project	<p>Lynn Morgan, WM was unable to attend. J. Semrau shared that the WM Germantown Material Recovery Facility went offline in May and was expected to be down until December for facility upgrades. J. Semrau will reach out to L. Morgan for an update for the council.</p>
E-cycle Wisconsin Program and Rule Update Slides	<p>Sarah Murray, DNR presented updates on the E-cycle program, legislation, and rule revision. Mark Walter asked about a battery-powered lawnmower- do smart batteries fall under E-cycle? S. Murray: no. M. Walter said the Tri-County MRF had two recent fires. David Pellitteri indicated their facility had three. M. Walter said EPR (extended producer responsibility) would be beneficial. S. Murray indicated several states have EPR for batteries, and the number of battery fires is increasing. D. Pellitteri said insurability of facilities is also a concern. Heidi Woelfel asked if EPR could be for all batteries. David Keeling shared that Focus on Energy has a grant solicitation due soon.</p> <p>Next council meeting agenda should include a battery focus, perhaps with a speaker from Call2Recycle.</p>
Council on Recycling Facilitated Prioritization Discussion	<p>Joe Van Rossum, DNR lead the council in a prioritization discussion. The expected outcome is council has a prioritized list of issues or topics to guide their efforts. The three-step process includes identification, prioritization and</p>

<p>Slides</p>	<p>planning. J. Van Rossum asked the council to brainstorm topics, being as specific as possible in describing the issue or topic and the expected outcome of the council’s efforts.</p> <p>Topics/issues brainstormed (identification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Assistance for RUs- Grant/Formula/Inflation Batteries, battery-containing devices- EPR Eliminate batteries from recycling/solid waste Market Development for problematic materials* Microplastics, plastic recycling Organics & food waste management Transportation costs (to markets)* Infractions against WI recycling laws C&D waste diversion Recycling capacity- MRFs Regionalization- RU # reduction Plastic recycling- addressing the # of different types Green technologies – solar, wind, EV- end of life* Clothing recycling options- market development* Paper recycling markets* Glass recycling markets* Consistency across the state on plastic types accepted for recycling- market development* <p>Prioritization:</p> <p>The council concurred on batteries/battery containing devices/EPR as the #1 issue with eliminating batteries from recycling/solid waste (curbside) stream as #1A. The council also concluded that many items relate to market development (* above) and that should broadly be issue #2.</p> <p>Planning:</p> <p>J. Van Rossum said issues will advance more effectively with a council member who takes ownership. M. Walter volunteered to try to take the lead. Who are the stakeholders? Manufacturers, retailers, non-governmental organizations, Call2Recycle, Battery Taskforce (reinvigorate). Outcomes? Get word out to public on improper battery disposal; letter to Governor- describe actions needed. Outcomes for market development include end user identification, awareness for elected officials, plastic to oil information, advocacy, market development in Wisconsin, council member education, education for legislature/governor, target packaging engineers- especially for problematic/hard to recycle materials.</p> <p>J. Van Rossum advised if an issue is a priority, make it a priority on the agenda (enough time). Other ideas from the council: invite past battery taskforce members, consider bill from battery manufacturers, invite another state representative with battery collection EPR. The DNR’s Waste and Materials Study Group has also been considering battery management issues.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Angie Lemar, Foth shared that UW-Stout teaches packaging engineering but not where packaging ends up. Manufacturers often lead retailers/consumers to believe that packaging is recyclable when it may not be locally (despite being ‘technically recyclable’). Cynthia Moore, DNR shared that the</p>

	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law required EPA to develop voluntary battery labeling recommendations.
Other Business/Next Meeting	Next meeting September 6 th . M. Walter suggested to have a once-a-year tour. Provide in-person tour suggestions to M. Walter within the next month. The Outagamie County Recycling Facility may be a possibility.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.; motioned by Heidi Woelfel and seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (6-0).