

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: August 3, 2023

Location: Zoom

Member Attendance: Curry, Doverspike, Johnson, Karwoski, Knudtson, Mathewson, Morgan, Pellitteri, Sexton, Welch

Guests: 21 additional attendees listened using Zoom

DNR WA Attendance: Grimm, Lamensky, Murray, Semrau, Sholly, Strom Hiorns, Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:00	Welcome/Agenda Review/Minutes	
9:10 Wolbert	DNR Updates	<p>Staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 recent vacancies: Sonny Zentner waste engineer, Melanie Burns waste management specialist, and Valerie Joosten lead engineer for the program. • Lead engineer position is open for recruitment, it closes Aug 14. We can expect to fill this position in Sept/Oct. <p>Funding for PFAS contamination in wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water program and drinking water program has access to state revolving fund money from the EPA, money set aside for special concerns such as reduction of PFAS. • Funding comes in low interest loans, there is a portion that is principal forgiveness. There's about \$2.5 million in the state fiscal 2024 and doubles each year for next 4 years. • DNR will be working with water quality staff, discussed back in May, on the applicability to potentially install leachate treatment systems. Funds only available for municipal systems. • Keep in mind types of projects these municipalities will need, there's possible complications with competition of funds. <p>Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting 9/28 at 1:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed topic ideas for meeting agenda/WIRMC • Thinking about having environmental enforcement staff come in to talk about what they do and how they work with us, Common enforcement cases? • Will have detailed look at budget • Update on NR 500 rulemaking

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery updates <p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate and Brad will be appearing at the Natural Resources board meeting on 8/9 to ask for approval on the permanent rule regarding dredging projects on Great Lakes harbors. That was a statutorily required rule, did pass emergency rule and are proposing final rule. • Still working on hazardous wastes rules: (1) For ignitability test (2) Universal waste to expand what is considered universal waste (3) catch up with technical corrections
<p>9:30 Semrau</p>	<p>Recycling rulemaking update, feedback</p>	<p>Jennifer Semrau presented slides with recycling rule updates and changes for responsible units, haulers, and materials recovery facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting period is over and currently drafting economic impact analysis, meeting with department economist tomorrow (8/4) • Preparing language in Board Order format, meeting with Rules Coordinator in the next couple of weeks • Solicit comments on Economic Impact Analysis during public comment period • Updating NR 542 (recycling grant chapter) with current grant practices • Updating RU education and collection system requirements, in which RU must distribute education annually, education must be reviewed by MRF, incorporate food waste education, access to drop off sites if curbside is monthly, use of individual subscription service allowable • Updating RU variance request dollar threshold. \$40 per lbs. per processed material, adjusting for 2023 inflation will put it to \$98. • Eliminating the collection standard (lbs per person on Table 1) for both urban and rural communities • Enhance MRFs education requirements, MRFs must indicate that resource is specifically for their facility as it varies across the state depending on the MRF • Send more than 12% by weight of the facility's total incoming non commercial recyclables for glass recycling or reuse • Total residual rate of less than 20% at MRFs • Obtain proof of OFR for cost of closure if MRF expects to or already has accepted more than 5,000 tons in coming years or in two of the last 3 years <p>Some Questions that came up: Q: When using individual subscription service, municipalities would have little to no expense in these cases. For these municipalities, do they still get the same amount of RU grants as a community that uses tax dollars to fund their program?</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Grant distribution method isn't tied to something that specific; RU does have to provide costs to justify their grant. If a community has less costs related to collection, there may be more costs regarding education, yard waste, staffing, etc., those all count towards eligible activities for the grant. <p>Q: Regarding access to a drop off, what are the parameters for a drop off location?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Drop off locations are not prescriptive in code to allow for flexibility. <p>Q: Seen a lot of RU Variances requests granted through the years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: No, fist time happening in many years. Variance request dollar threshold refers to the cost per process ton, eliminates costs prior to processing. <p>Q: Will the change to a more specific multi family standard result in required updates to RUs recycling ordinance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Yes, will be requiring updates in ordinance. Ordinance templates are available online for RUs, plan to update the template <p>Q: What is included in proof of OFR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Interest bearing mechanism in which DNR has access to or they can use letter of credit mechanism, all covered in NR 520.
<p>9:50 Strom Hiorns</p>	<p>Landfills and Solid Waste Fees rulemaking update, feedback</p>	<p>Kate covered updates with Landfill and Solid Waste Fees rulemaking process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/21 Meeting with technical advisory committee, shared draft changes with committee, discussed alternative liner proposal, external SharePoint with committee to allow for comments • Next meeting is 8/16 and plan to discuss NR 506 and 520 • Another meeting is 10/18 and will focus on NR 507, 508, & 512 • Landfill liner regulations was big topic discussion with committee, looking for alternatives to current design • Alternative design must be as protective of soil and groundwater as current NR 504 liner design • Protectiveness of design involves many factors other than clay thickness • Also looked over alternative liner study • Discussed performance standards vs prescriptive standards
<p>10:30</p>	<p>Nick Shuman- Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations</p> <p>Discussion on dealing with batteries and related fires – suggested next steps</p>	<p>Nick Shuman from Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations spoke about batteries; Dynamic isn't a public drop off facility aside from setting up battery collection events. Most batteries come from devices and electronics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling different types of batteries is crucial depending on the chemistry. • Dynamic has dedicated sort areas for devices/electronics, in which batteries are safely removed, classified according to chemistry type, and properly stored/handled. • There are battery preparation stations, in which team members are trained to tape the battery terminals to prevent sparks/fires.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process in place to separate batteries by chemistry in preparation for shipment and for safety. For example, alkaline batteries are handled differently than lithium-ion batteries because of the fire potential • There are fire retardant buckets throughout the facility in the event a battery is leaking or heating up, batteries are put in these buckets to prevent fires. • Most batteries are going to smelters for precious metal recovery • Biggest issues include receiving damaged batteries or electronics <p>Some Questions that came up:</p> <p>Q: What is Dynamics position with including lithium-ion batteries within E waste system (E-cycle program)?</p> <p>A: Batteries stewardship program active in Washington DC. If EPR conversation starts in Wisconsin, Dynamics is interested in participating in that process to help set some best practices.</p> <p>Q: If DNR and legislature is interested in banning batteries from landfills and recycling streams, is there adequate infrastructure to handle that through the current E waste program?</p> <p>A: Yes, along with Dynamic there's a lot of good electronic recyclers. Potentially would be an added expense at the collection level.</p> <p>Q: If there was a sufficient funding mechanism out there, the current infrastructure could handle the potential ban of lithium-ion battery?</p> <p>A: Overall, yes. However, more rural areas may have more limitations. In general, Dynamic's infrastructure is sufficient for this potential ban as they handle most of the state's batteries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate summarized request from Senator Tomczyk about mitigating risks of lithium-ion battery fires • Main action of mitigation is public education and outreach, which includes national battery day social media posts, public service announcements, and press releases. • Discussion continued regarding batteries, lithium-ion battery fires, and safety risks
11:30	<p>Food waste prevention and reduction activity updates from AROW, DNR, others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon gave updates about SWIFR grant, looks like DNR will be awarded \$550,000 fund towards infrastructure and material collection. • Staffing issues to focus on this topic • AROW has been assisting along the way and discussing with DNR how SWIFR funds will be used. SWIFR funds will go towards organics, composting, identifying waste management needs, etc. • AROW reviewing local and state action plans

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate gave updates regarding SWIFR: grant application was submitted on time and can expect funds to be available for next federal fiscal year which starts 10/1/23 • Working on compiling data to track and evaluate what already exists, what is the capacity, and the progress of food waste reduction and diversion goals. • Assessing current statutes and administrative code • Hoping that during the second or third year of the grant to contract with an outside entity to provide technical assistance and services to local gov and such that are interested in reducing food waste – can focus that in disadvantaged communities • Limited on staffing so hoping to hire someone soon to manage contracts, creating partnerships, help implementing plans, etc.
12:00	Topics for next meeting, Adjourn	<p>Next meeting: Thurs Nov 2, 2023</p> <p>Topics: Battery subgroup efforts, rulemaking updates, Brandon Knudtson requested discussing management of sharps in the waste stream</p>