

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
APRIL 15, 2009
UWEX/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BUILDING
864 COLLINS RD
JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Greg David, Rick Meyers, John Reindl

Council Members Absent: Jeff Fielkow, Neil Peters-Michaud, Charlotte Zieve, Vacancy

Also attending: Steve Brachman- SHWEC, Steve Grabow- UW Extension, Cynthia Moore- DNR

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:25 AM. Due to a lack of a quorum, the members met as a committee of the whole.

Introductions and Announcements: Reindl said that anyone interested in filling the vacancy created by Dennis Dancker's resignation should contact the Governor's office.

Reindl said he testified at the e-waste bill hearing. There was concern about definitions, double counting and the targets being set too high. The electronics industry manufacturers at the meeting supported the policy objectives but wanted changes to more voluntary goals. School boards had been opposed to or expressed concerns about the bill but now at least one school board registered in favor. One senator asked for help for schools to manage their old electronics. Reindl thinks that there will be minor changes but the bill will pass. Rick Meyers said there was a distinction between public and private requirements that not all legislators understood. He said that his testimony was to emphasize that we need to pass the bill now so as to not jeopardize the current infrastructure. Moore said that we should emphasize that it is similar to Minnesota because it will help the manufacturers. Moore said that she will be setting up joint meetings with MN and IL. She said they talked about reciprocity between the states.

Reindl said that other issues at the hearing included the state's Green Tier program. The speakers were very complimentary to Marc McDermid of the DNR and supported the program. Reindl said that there was also discussion about Clean Sweep funding at the meeting. Reindl said that people said that they wanted to see the state program for partial funding to continue. Historically clean sweeps were funded by a fee on some products, with the funds administered by DATCP. That money was diverted to other projects. He suggested that clean sweeps also go to a product stewardship model; similar to what is being proposed for electronics and what the state already has for used tires. Some industry leaders, such as SC Johnson, support this approach. It levels the playing field. Reindl said that under President Clinton a task force looked at this issue and recognized that the companies that had the most control should have the most responsibility. An opinion piece was in the Wisconsin State Journal about Clean Sweep written by Greg David and others.

DNR Updates: Moore said that a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was meeting on compost standards.

Moore said that the letters have gone out announcing a 10% cut to recycling cost-sharing. There will also be a 1% cut to the basic cost-sharing next year. Meyers said that the DNR restored the \$1.4M of the \$1.9M cuts to the REI program because of an outcry about those cuts. Some members noted that the DNR then turned around and cut \$3.1M without any warning or notice that these cuts are being considered. Moore agrees that advance communication should have been done.

Moore said the DNR recycling program will work on business recycling and also on how to help RUs weather tough times. Moore asked members to let her know if they have ideas on how to accomplish that objective. Meyers said that tough times force people to relook at how they

do business. Pay as you throw (PAYT) is one idea that is being looked at that had been rejected in the past.

Moore said that the waste sort will be done in 2009. Recycling Connections won the contract.

Minutes: The Minutes were deferred due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Comment: Greg David said that the Jefferson County Clean Sweep had the biggest e-waste collections ever. They salvaged about 500 pounds of e-waste. They may start a swap system for items. Many members of the public that David talked with will call their legislators to support state funding for Clean Sweep.

Steve Brachman said that there is a public hearing in Milwaukee before a legislative committee during the day of our meeting on discarded pharmaceuticals. The meeting is for invited testimony only.

Strategic Planning: Steve Grabow, UW-Extension, is working on a full proceedings composite report. It will be ready before the August 26 Council meeting in Jefferson.

Other Business:

Next meeting: The Council will meet on May 12, 2009, in room AE 242 at 9AM at the UW-Extension office, UW-Fond du Lac campus, 400 University Drive, Fond du Lac. After the meeting (approximately 11:15) the Council will tour the Sadoff Iron & Metal plant, 240 Arndt St, Fond du Lac.

The Council will hold a follow-up strategic planning meeting on Wednesday August 26, 2009, at 9AM, at the UWEX/Workforce Development building, 864 Collins Rd, Jefferson.

Adjournment: The Council adjourned at 12:30

Respectfully submitted by Daniel B. Fields, Department of Natural Resources.