

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
AUGUST 26, 2009
UW-EX/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BUILDING
864 COLLINS ROAD
JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Jim Cornwell (proxy for Neil Peter-Michaud), Greg David, Rick Meyers, John Reindl, Charlotte Zieve

Council Members Absent: Jeff Fielkow, Vacancy

Also attending: Sharon Erhardt- Jefferson County, Toral Jha-AROW

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:10 AM.

Introductions and Announcements: Reindl said that the state landfill surcharge was substantially increased by \$5.60/ton on July 1 and another increase of \$3.00 on October 1. It will be just under \$13/ton, the highest in the country. The budget also put those fees on C&D landfills. The Governor vetoed putting those fees on C&D landfills. The Governor said the issue needed more study. A separate bill may be introduced. The recycling cost-sharing grants to responsible units were increased but the elimination of the Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) grants and Demonstration Grants created a net decrease of program funding to RUs. A lot of the money in the fund is going to other purposes.

Minutes: Minutes of May 12, 2009 were amended to add an 's' to correctly spell Rick Meyers name on page 2, 11th line under 'Producer Responsibility' The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Greg David, seconded by Rick Meyers.

Updates:

DNR: Dan Fields, DNR, said the legislature is back in session on Sept 15-24 and October 20- November 5. The e-scrap bill, oil filter bill and mercury product sale ban bills are expected to pass this fall. After the bills pass DNR will have outreach campaigns for these issues. The agency is developing an outline of necessary activities to implement these bills because they take effect very quickly. The e-scrap bill has four positions, two permanent and two LTE. Even though the positions are in the bill, there is no guarantee those positions will stay there. The timing is tricky because it can take time to hire in state service.

Fields said that Randy Case, mercury specialist and Gene Mitchell, recycling section chief, will both retire September 5. Randy's position will not be filled and some of his duties will be assigned to others. Kate Cooper is replacing Mitchell. Ann Coakley is interim bureau director for the Waste & Materials Management (W&MM) bureau.

Fields said that next year's 20th anniversary celebration for the recycling law is moving ahead. There will be an article in the Natural Resources magazine taken from a roundtable discussion on the law. There will be a poster accompanying the article. It will be a collage of images forming 3 chasing arrows with the caption "Who knew three arrows would change the direction of society?"

The markets directory is back online on a contract with SHWEC. It is intended to be a long term program. Funding is always an issue. We are confident it will be funded if it can show it is a success and has a large user base.

Furloughs will impact the work done in the agency but should not have much impact on the Council activities

Sen. Jauch appears interested in legislation requiring a manufacturer take-back program for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

The W&MM program is putting together a strategy for product stewardship. The Council will be asked for feedback. That process should begin soon.

A sort of materials being landfilled is being done for the state. Council members are invited to the sort to watch how it is done. The material is sorted into 78 categories. The sort will tell us what materials DNR needs to focus on. It tells us how well the state is actually doing. Sorts were done this summer and will be followed up by sorts this fall. The methodology stays the same as for material sorts in other states but the number of materials differs from state to state.

The agency is looking at climate change and how all DNR programs impact climate change. Here will be much more emphasis on this issue. DNR will be showing the equivalents of how much CO2 would be saved by taking a particular action vs. another action. Showing how individual actions will make an impact. That is a message that will be seen from the agency. Meyers said DNR should bring it back to something relatable i.e. this many cars taken off the road instead of x number of carbon equivalents.

Producer Responsibility: Meyers said that AROW has a product stewardship committee and it sent out a survey on to determine member priorities for product stewardship. Most resource intensive: 1) hazardous waste 2) electronics. Priorities: 1) Electronics 2) pharmaceuticals 3) hazardous waste. Toral Jha, Executive Director-AROW, said the next meeting is in late September and educating the members and members' superiors will be the focus. Another focus will be promoting the e-scrap bill. Budget problems for local governments have made this issue even more important.

Cornwell said that Dane County and others were presenting a plaque to Samsung for their efforts on product stewardship. The firm paid for the electronics collections in Dane County and Milwaukee County.

Mercury Products: Reindl said that he testified on the mercury legislation. He said he expressed support for the proposals but also asked for support for more to be done. He reiterated the Council's recommendations. He said that no legislators seemed to be interested in another round of legislation. There was no opposition to the bill. Scott Manley, WMC, said that his members were not affected by the bill. Reindl said he was asked about the legality of the Council working with individual legislators to seek legislation. DNR counsel said it was a gray area but it could be done. It was up to the Council to decide if they want to pursue legislation on mercury in this way.

Reindl said that General Motors said it is no longer the old company because of bankruptcy and therefore would no longer responsible for helping to fund the removal and recovery of mercury switches. He said that Wisconsin was not affected because it was not using the funding provided by manufacturers. Wisconsin is one of the best in the nation in recovering switches. But, even so, the recovery rate last year was just over 30%. 5,000 came in the last month due to the cash for clunkers program. Now is the time to increase recovery rates since few mercury switches will be found in scrapped vehicles after 2020.

Meyers moved to modify the Council's mercury products recommendations by replacing "Provide monies from the recycling fund to help finance the collection of household products with mercury at municipal Clean Sweep programs" with "Support a producer responsibility system whereby manufacturers cover the cost of managing end-of-life product". David seconded.

During discussion, Erhardt said that mercury was a big cost item for her county. Meyers said that the Council should not support using public dollars for industry's products. It's a philosophical approach. Industry has to be responsible for its own products.

The motion passed.

Reindl asked if the Council wanted to seek out a legislator to support their approach. He said the Council is already taking positions. This is the next step. Legislation has come about because of activities begun by the Council. Issues such as mercury, used oil filters and e-scrap were all issues that the Council began exploring and drawing attention to that eventually became, or will soon become, law. Jha said this is a way for the Council to become more universal and more proactive on issues. Members agreed seek legislative support for stronger mercury legislation in particular and other issues as they arise in general.

Used Oil Filters and Absorbents: Reindl said the legislation was progressing. There was an amendment to make it clear that it was all petroleum-based and synthetic used oil.

Strategic Planning: The council worked on its strategic planning, setting up a course of action. A full report on the strategic planning process will be given by Steve Grabow, UW-Extension facilitator

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

Next meeting: The Council will meet on November 11, 2009, at 9:00 AM at the Town Hall, Town of Norway, 6419 Heg Road, Wind Lake. The Council will adjourn approximately 10:45 to go to the Glacier Ridge landfill to watch a landfill material sort in action.

Adjournment: David moved and Cornwell seconded adjournment. The motion carried. The Council adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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