

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006
KEGONSA ROOM
ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER
119 ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER WAY
MADISON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Jeff Fielkow; John Piotrowski; John Reindl; William Swift; Charlotte Zieve

Council Members Absent: Neil Peters-Michaud; Cecelia Stencil

Also attending: Joanie Burns, DNR; Jay Jagodinski, Green Bay Packaging; Bill McClenahan, Marty Schreiber and Associates; Dave Parsons, DNR; Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 9:00 AM.

Introductions and Announcements: Reindl said that the organic stability rule went through the legislative committee without objection and will move forward to go into force. It only affects new expansions or new landfills. Old landfills will be affected five years from now. Rep. Gunderson said it was a 'noble effort' and important. Under the new rules landfills can achieve stability in a number of ways. You can keep organics for entering the landfill. You can pre-treat it. You can accelerate decomposition in the landfill. Currently, Wisconsin has 'dry tomb' landfills that seek to slow down decomposition. Now the thinking is to accelerate decomposition. It only applies to municipal landfills. Don't know how it will be implemented. It takes effect by January 1, 2007. That's when the first plans would have to be submitted to DNR. The Natural Resources (NR) Board has told DNR to convene a panel of experts in five years to review the progress of the program. Reindl said that recycling is affected because paper is the largest single organic material in a landfill. Food scraps would also be affected. There is an opportunity to facilitate increased recycling. Stability is up to landfill operators but they feel that diversion is really up to the community.

Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of July 25, 2006. John Piotrowski moved, Bill Swift seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

DNR: Dan Fields, DNR, said that the DNR had a recycling survey done earlier this year. The results will be on the DNR website before the end of the year. He said that the survey showed that 96% of Wisconsin residents support or strongly support the recycling program. The 96% has stayed the same from the last survey but the strongly committed went from 62% to 71%. The survey also asked questions on electronics. Taking the survey results and multiplying by the population of the state (5.617 million), DNR calculates that there are 6.6 million TV's and 3.3 million computers in Wisconsin households. This survey did not include questions on the business/industrial sector, so the total is much higher.

DNR has contracted with the non-profit organization Recycling Connections to find better ideas on business outreach. The DNR will also send out RFP's for non-profits for recycling information.

The recycling budget will be taken up by the NR Board in November. The budget includes \$24.5 million for the Recycling grants, \$1.9 million for Recycling Efficiency Grants, \$500,000 for the Demonstration Grant program and \$700,000 for Clean Sweeps. DNR, UW System, Corrections and Revenue share \$2.7 million for a total of just over \$30.2 million. The recycling fund is projected to generate about \$45 million/year through the tipping fee and

business income tax surcharge. The legislature has used these unallocated funds to help balance the budget in the last two years. The recycling program has proposals for new or expanded programs that have been forwarded to the NR Board that would use the currently unallocated funds.

Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal: Reindl handed out a 'report card' on the Governor's Task Force (available at <http://www.wasteresources.wi.gov/>). The task force has been meeting about every six weeks. They will meet more frequently as they get closer to their December finish. The last two meetings of the task force included time for public comment. The task force is divided into three work groups. Reindl went through the issues. The Economics work group is looking at extended producer responsibility, how to incorporate the full cost of management decision, banning domestic universal waste, household hazardous waste (HHW), preserving funding generated by the recycling fees, reduce the number of RUs and promote regional cooperation. The Land Use work group is looking at C&D, open burning/backyard burning, waste facility siting and financial assurance. The Waste Reduction work group is looking at C&D materials, scrap paper, wood, e-waste, commercial/business waste, HHW, pharmaceuticals and overall waste reduction strategies. Other 'big picture' issues include out-of-state waste, integrated waste management, waste reduction strategies, sustainability and waste as a resource, glass, ag plastics, high volume industrial waste, landfill bans, container deposits, public/private roles, market creation, incineration, increasing recovery of banned materials and other matters. There are a lot of issues to complete in a short time. Background papers and other information is on the task force web site (see above).

Paper: John Piotrowski said that the pressure sensitive adhesives subcommittee has met twice. They generally support environmentally benign adhesives (EBA) for paper-to-paper applications. There was a concern about the chicken and egg issue, i.e. the customer base is not asking for this change and there is no business incentive to make the change. However, many manufacturers do have formulations that meet the requirements and would like to take their products to market. There were issues, such as cost, and how to qualify for an EBA designation. The committee has decided to continue to push this issue even though there are some outstanding technical issues. (The draft resolution is at the end of the minutes.) Zieve said that people want to recycle. If people understand the problem, then there would be a groundswell of support for EBA's. Piotrowski agreed that education was important. The issue is well understood by the recycled paper processors. The people who manufacture the adhesives do not necessarily understand the implications. The users do not understand how their products are recycled and the purchasers have problems as well. The whole loop needs to be educated. There is an opportunity to make something happen. The products need to be cost effective and work for their intended purpose. There are literally thousands of formulations for adhesives. The group wants to fashion an approach that is structured, technically demonstrable and economically feasible and show that improvements have been made.

Piotrowski said there are differences in products as well. It is not as much a problem for his company because product strength is more important than cosmetics. In tissue or writing paper, they are much more of a problem because the products are judged on appearance. The group is looking at paper-to-paper products to see if recycling can be increased. The key players in the industry are represented on the work group.

Reindl said that this is an issue that very few people are talking about. Wisconsin is the leader on this issue. California did some work but they did not follow up. We are the leaders in part because we are one of the leading paper recyclers in the nation. Reindl will write an article on this issue for *Resource Recycling* magazine. The key is to educate managers throughout the country. Mary Durkin, DOA purchasing agent, will discuss this issue at the National Purchasing Agents Annual Meeting. The subcommittee will meet one more time to finalize the recommendations.

Piotrowski said that China's influence is immense. In 1997 the average monthly market demand for recycled fiber was \$10-15 million/month. In 2006 it is \$115million/month. 80,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the paper industry during that same period. Jeff Fielkow said that

forecasts he has looked at lead him to believe that demand will stay strong if not stronger. Demand from China either way will have an impact but it seems that demand will climb. Many large mills in China have not yet opened.

Electronics: Charlotte Zieve said that Delaware has passed a comprehensive law on e-waste. Reindl said that states are taking action. National or regional legislation would be best but the states aren't waiting. Zieve said that companies seem to be developing a sense of responsibility. She replaced her computer and they took the old one back without any charge. Reindl said that most one day events only charge for monitors.

Mercury in Products: Reindl said that the Governor's Task Force was working on several mercury issues. They include manufacturers' responsibility, treatment of mercury as a universal waste which would ban it from landfills and product bans.

Reindl said that two state agencies have responded to the Council's letter. Commerce said they could do some education but did not have the staff to track data. Reindl said he called Commerce and told them about the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) and let them know that the information on the number of thermostats recycled was fairly readily available. The DNR's letter said that the Council's recommendations were similar to the DNR's recommendations and they would continue to pursue the issue.

Governor Doyle had a press conference where he called for 90% emission reduction from coal fired utilities. He also called for a ban on some products. He directed the DNR to work with the legislature on the issue. The task force may have recommendations on this issue as well.

Clean Sweep: Fielkow said the Governor's Task Force was recommending a study to be done by the Council on Clean Sweeps. Questions include what is the best way to set up events, should they increase the number of events add more permanent sites and should clean sweeps expand to include more materials, including pharmaceuticals. Fielkow suggested that the Council wait until the Task Force recommendation before following up on this issue. Reindl asked about funding. Fielkow said that had not come up

Recommended Management of Discarded Pharmaceuticals: Joanie Burns, DNR, said that the US Geological Survey did a study in 7 states in 1999-2000 and surveyed 139 streams. 80% of the samples found one or more pharmaceuticals. Downstream fish also had more hermaphrodite tendencies. In the Colorado River, the female/male ratio went from approximately 50/50 upstream from the treatment plant to something on the order of 80/20 downstream from the treatment plant.

Burns said there are several sources of pharmaceuticals in the environment. Literature indicates that anywhere from 50% to 90% of some drugs are excreted by the body. There is also industrial and agricultural discharge. There is no evidence that human health is at risk at this time. Some practices are a problem, such as regular 'clean outs' of outdated stock, e.g. at veterinary clinics.

It is very difficult to set up pharmaceutical collections. The system is a closed loop until the individual receives the drugs. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is worried about the possibility of controlled substance getting into the wrong hands, so it is illegal for a pharmacist to take drugs back once they have been distributed to the end user, e.g. they've left the closed loop. The major hurdle is the fact that many drugs are narcotics. That means that the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is involved. Their interest is in making sure these drugs don't end up in the wrong hands. DEA insists that any drugs collected must be sorted, catalogued and destroyed by law enforcement officials. DNR has tried to facilitate collections by issuing guidance for collectors, allowing enforcement discretion, doing outreach and working on cross program and interagency cooperation. They intend to issue guidance for businesses and institutions in the future.

There have been three collection events in Wisconsin, one in Marshfield, one in Brown County and one in Milwaukee. One problem with having more events is the reluctance of police to get involved. The police are often stretched thin and this is just more demand on their time. At

Marshfield they received 500 pounds of medications. Brown County received \$230,000 worth of medications. Burns also said that it may be time to ask why people and animals need all the medications that are prescribed. Are we over-medicating? Piotrowski asked about the categories or classes of the pharmaceuticals. Burns said we need that type of data. We don't know the scope of the problem or even if these are prescription or non prescription drugs. A central clearinghouse for this data would help. Parsons said that the collection events averaged two pounds/person. Burns said that even if waste/unused pharmaceuticals were only 30% of the problem, it would be worth it to collect this material. Piotrowski said that data is crucial. We need to know if the pharmaceuticals are a serious problem. Burns said that we also have to look at the livestock industry. Overmedication of farm animals is contributing to the problem. Burns said that DNR and DATCP meet regularly.

Fielkow asked why Wisconsin couldn't set up a mail back system. Dave Parsons, DNR, said that Maine has a mail back system. The pharmaceuticals go to the Maine DEA. The system hasn't started due to lack of funding.

Reindl said this is a worldwide issue. Europe has done studies and found drugs in the ocean. He was told that many new drugs are not based on products found in nature and, therefore, are not metabolized by the body as much as past medications and are more resistant to degradation in wastewater treatment and the environment.

Public Comment: None

Other Business : The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12 at 9:00 AM at the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison. Topics include environmentally benign adhesives, the Governor's Task Force report and the DNR budget.

Adjournment: Piotrowski moved, Swift seconded. The Council adjourned at 11:05 PM.

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

Draft Resolution Purchase of Paper Recycling Compatible Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Products

The use of pressure sensitive adhesives for paper labels that are applied to paper products results in costly problems known as "stickies" when these paper products get recycled. Stickies can cause equipment and quality problems in the paper recycling process. Adhesive companies have developed pressure sensitive adhesives (PSAs) that can be substantially removed in the paper recycling process. Standards for the characterization of adhesives compatible with paper recycling have been developed based on the United States Postal Services stamp program.

Therefore be it resolved that the Council on Recycling recommends that all users of products containing PSAs that get attached to paper seek to purchase and use only those PSA paper-to-paper label products that are functional and compatible with the recycling of paper. The Council has posted the technical standards and specifications for paper recycling compatible PSAs on its website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/council/index.htm>

Be it further resolved that the Council recommends that the state of Wisconsin incorporate a preference criteria into state and local government purchasing standards for the use of paper recycling compatible PSAs. It is further recommended that, within five years of the adoption of

this resolution, the preference criteria become a state and local government purchasing standard requirement.

Be it finally resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor, the Department of Administration, the Department of Natural Resources and the Legislature.