### COUNCIL ON RECYCLING Meeting Notes
**March 1, 2012**
**8:00-9:30 am**
**Wilderness Territory/Glacier Canyon Lodge**
**45 Millman Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965**

**Council Board Members Present:** Jim Birmingham, Neil Peters Michaud, Joe Liebau, George Hayducsko, Charles Larscheid  
**Absent (attempted unsuccessfully to join by conference call):** Rick Meyers, Bill Walz, DNR: Cynthia Moore  
**Special Guest:** Representative Jeff Stone  
**Public:** Steve Brachman, Brad Wolbert, Dan Fields, Sarah Murray, Rick Eilertson, Karen Fiedler

### AGENDA and notes

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<tr>
<th>Call to Order</th>
<th>Meeting called to order at 8:10 am by Charles (Chuck) Larscheid sitting in for Rick Meyers. Rick Meyers and Bill Waltz were unable to join by conference call as planned due to an error in the call number provided.</th>
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<td>Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2011</td>
<td>Minutes amended to include Neil Peters Michaud as present; Amended minutes approved (motion by Hayducsko, seconded by Birmingham)</td>
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| Introductions/Announcements-Acting Chair Chuck Larscheid | **Introduce special guest Representative Jeff Stone** (R-82) has represented upper Milwaukee area for the past 14 years; served on Waste Cap Board. **Agenda Repair:** two additional topics:  
- Pharmaceutical Wastes  
- SB 209 to restore recycling grant funding |
| Updates | **Cynthia Moore:** **Recent legislative activity:** Several bills recently introduced, but it is not clear if they will move ahead this session.  
- **AB643** to reduce tip fees paid on certain waste materials at licensed solid waste and hazardous waste disposal facilities. Reduce tip fee paid on residuals at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), at C&D processing facilities, contaminated soils; exempt tip fees paid on uncollected debt for waste disposal.  
- **AB 66** lifting the $5 cap on lead acid battery deposits  
- **AB511** keeping mercury containing batteries out of landfills (extending ban to zinc air cell batteries)  
- **AB383** amendment to the disposal ban on oil absorbents to be consistent with the hazardous waste rules.  

**Brief on RU Strategies to manage costs.** 650 RUs responded to joint DNR/UW Extension survey to develop a baseline of actions RUs are taking to adjust to reduced recycling grants and other budget impacts.  
- **Major findings:** Overall, most RUs have not yet made significant cuts to programs  
- **Most frequent changes:** reduce or eliminate program staff, shift costs to special fees, reduce or eliminate yard waste collection, renegotiate |
Engage COR members outside of meetings: attend calls, webinars
AROW PS survey where key interests are - priority products - next month.

Agenda item for next meeting > what is role of COR in PS?

- contracts with haulers. Many are also adding materials to collection mix to gain greater revenue and increase participation due to added convenience. Some evidence of shifting to individual household subscription services.
  - What Assistance RUs want: how to manage program costs and examples of what other RUs are doing.

**Representative Jeff Stone**

Representative Stone explained how many bills have been introduced during the last days of this legislative session, but given there are only 6 days left in March for possible legislation action, the immediate future of these bills is unclear. This is partially due to the change in the election cycle, moved up this year, under the Help America Vote act to April 15 from June, as well as to local and national political activity.

**Funding of recycling (SB 209):** A recent senate amendment to this bill would restore full funding to the recycling grants with funding from General Purpose Funding (GPR). It is unlikely that this or anything involving use of GPR funds having a fiscal impact would be passed.

Summary of discussion about what the Council could do to inform the legislature of recycling contribution to the state and national economy. The legislature is focused on creating economic activity and jobs. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has been restructured to work predominantly with companies hiring at least 250 employees. It provides tax credits and allows marketing of credits to infuse capital into the system (e.g. pay tax in return for cash payments).

In response to a question from the Board, Rep Stone said he had not heard any discussion on the tip fee.

Chuck Larscheid explained that **AB643/LRB 3583** would give recycling a boost by exempting from the tip fee residue, subject to caps, that equal

a) 10% of the total weight of material accepted by a Material Recovery Facility (MRFs)

b) 30% of the total weight accepted by a construction and demolition (C&D) processing facility.

This bill would have the impact of reducing funding for DNR programs that rely on tip fee revenues. Rep Stone reiterated that it is unlikely for anything to move ahead at this late date. The fact that this bill does not rely on GPR would be in its favor, but he has not seen the fiscal note and so is not familiar with its potential impacts. If it is introduced, it could be discussed over the summer, for instance at a public hearing.

Council members would like a later discussion on this and asked DNR to provide more information on the financial impact for MRFs, C&D processing facilities, on DNR and of unanticipated impacts might result.

There was further discussion on how the Council could communicate better with legislators. Rep Stone recommended sending out email blast to
legislators on important issues, rather than focusing on written communication with select legislators, bill sponsors and Committee Chairs. It is important to get out the message that recycling is good for job creation, business, and good for the bottom line. He questioned whether legislators are aware of recycling industries in their district, and suggested the Council work to make better connections between legislators and the business directly related to their districts.

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<th>LRB-3583, Certain exemptions on State solid waste fees</th>
<th>ILRB 3583 is same as AB643. This item was discussed with Rep Stone above.</th>
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<td>Additional Item: Update on Pharmaceuticals Great Lakes Project</td>
<td><strong>Steve Brachman</strong> (UW Extension and PI, GLRI Pharmaceuticals Project) Steve Brachman introduced Council members to the GLRI project at last meeting (Dec 2011). For information on the Project: <a href="http://fyi.uwex.edu/pharma/about/glri-grant/">http://fyi.uwex.edu/pharma/about/glri-grant/</a></td>
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<td>Part of the project was a mail back collection program that ran from August – December 2011, and collected over 2200 pounds of unwanted medicine. The project provided fertile grounds for learning on how to deal with consumer medical products and demonstrated once again that consumers will participate in take-back programs if given convenient options.</td>
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<td>Project members also worked on second goal of collaboration for sustainable collection programs, reaching out to a regional network of state workgroups. A key output of this effort was a document outlining key elements for pharmaceutical collection programs, emphasizing convenient, secure “no cost” collection for consumers, and addressing the environmental impacts of improper disposal. The document supports a product stewardship approach for sustainable and adequate funding based on the premise that collection and disposal should not be put on the backs of local government. The Key elements, posted on the Product Stewardship Institute website, has been endorsed been by more than 27 people. Karen Fiedler reminded members that the Council had endorsed these at its last (12/2011) meeting. <a href="http://www.productstewardship.us/associations/6596/files/Key_Elements_2_17.pdf">http://www.productstewardship.us/associations/6596/files/Key_Elements_2_17.pdf</a>.</td>
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<td>The January 2012 report issued by the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODAO) is consistent with the approach outlined under the Key elements document.</td>
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<td>The project is coordinating a <strong>forum June 7-8</strong> in Chicago to discuss the issues with a broad group of stakeholders. The project also needs to address waste issues, such as over-prescribing of medication.</td>
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<td>Representative Stone, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health, asked to be sent a copy of the SCAODA report and an invitation to the June Forum.</td>
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| Council on Recycling Priority Issues Survey | **Neil Peters Michaud**: Further analysis and discussion of survey results The survey was sent to over 2000 people, asking for input in helping the Council identify priority issues to address. There were 350 responses, with good representation from across the state and from the public sector, |
Engage COR members outside of meetings: attend calls, webinars
AROW PS survey where key interests are- priority products- next month.

Agenda item for next meeting> what is role of COR in PS?
including local elected officials, the private sector, and concerned citizens.
The topics ranked most important and urgent for the Council to take on were:
- pharmaceuticals
- preserving funding
- product stewardship
- more waste from commercial properties

Next steps would include posting survey on web, and integrate results from other surveys such as that to be conducted shortly by the AROW Product Stewardship Committee.

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<td>Member discussion: Vision, goals and strategy</td>
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<td>This discussion was postponed to a later meeting for lack of time. Questions identified for discussion included:</td>
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<td>Where does COR want to go with product stewardship? What should be the Council’s role. Should the Council identify a target product group?</td>
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**Public comment**: Karen Fiedler offered that manufacturers must be brought into the end-of-life-management of products to ensure long-term funding and provide feedstock for future products. She shared an example from the Waukesha County e-cycle program where the market changed for processing recyclables so that the county was able to turn around the economics from a county cost of over $65,000 year to municipalities earning $40,000 in 2011 from electronics collection.

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<td>Steve Brachman announced that the Governor had declared March 1 2012 as Cooperative Extension Recognition day to celebrate its 100 years of existence.</td>
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<td>More discussion on how to education legislators:</td>
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<td>Examples:</td>
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<td>Educate your legislator day, with presentations, featured speakers and tours (DATCP tours given as an example of how this is successfully done). These could be quarterly or annual.</td>
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There was a reminder that the Council is working on a letter of support for SB 209 and the latest amendment for funding from GPR. The letter is a collaborative effort by the Council, AROW, SWANA-WI and WCSMMA and the final draft should be ready sometime next week or so.

Karen Fiedler asked Rep Stone if he was aware if any recycling businesses applying for grants or tax credits through WEDC, and are businesses aware that part of the funding for WEDC comes from a surcharge on businesses that was previously used to support the recycling local government program. Rep. Stone replied that WEDC is an independent agency and looks at the business plan and impact on jobs when considering recommendation for state support. Any recycling related proposals would be assessed on a level ground as other applicants.
It was pointed out that, since the demise of the WI Recycling Markets Development Board (RMDB), no one agency is focused on recycling-related business development. AROW would be good venue to have webinar on informing people on recycling market potentials. Karen Fiedler offered to look into setting up a new AROW committee on economic development. Neil Peters Michaud and Jim Birmingham said they would be willing to serve on the committee.

Next meeting: To be held in Brown County and include tour/discussion on planned pyrolosis facility

Agenda items
- how get communicate about recycling impacts with the legislature and public
- AB643 and fiscal impacts to facilities and DNR
- product stewardship - what is the role of COR?
- Updates;
  - pyrolosis facility (Larscheid)
  - Pharmaceuticals collection/disposal

Meeting adjourned

Motion to close meeting by Neil Peters Michaud and seconded by Jim Birmingham. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Action Items:
1) Council members would like a later discussion on AB 643 and asked DNR to provide more information on the financial impact for MRFs, C&D processing facilities, on DNR and what if any unanticipated impacts might result.
2) Cynthia Moore to send Rep Stone a copy of the RU cost survey results.
3) Cynthia Moore to send Rep Stone a copy of the SCAODA report
4) Post COR survey results on the webpage