

Notes
COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
City of Watertown Street Department
811 S. 1st Street
Watertown, WI 53094
May 1, 2013

<p>Council Members Present: Jim Birmingham, George Hayducsko, Neil Peters Michaud, Charles Larscheid, Rick Meyers Council Members Absent: Joe Liebau, Matt Fischer DNR: Cynthia Moore, Brad Wolbert, Waneta Kratz Invited Speakers: Bob Mudler, Midwest Mattress Recovery</p>	
Call to order	Call to Order at 9:05
Approval of Minutes (February 21, 2013).	Motion to approve as submitted made by Jim Birmingham, seconded by Charles Larscheid and passed on voice vote with no opposition.
<p>Introductions/Announcements - Chair Rick Meyers General introductions (round robin),</p>	<p>Round robin introductions (see attached list for public attendance).</p> <p> PublicAttendance_May2013.docx</p> <p>Announcements: New York City added mixed rigid plastics to its curbside collection. Organics Collection WasteCap organized a workshop at the Insinkerator plant in Racine to facilitate sharing and coordination of the diverse efforts to reduce landfilling of food waste. Presentations included use of food waste disposers to handle food waste through advanced waste water treatment plants; City of Madison's curbside collection pilot; Potawatomi Tribe's anaerobic digester project (under construction in Milwaukee) to use liquid organic wastes; Growing Power's community composting projects.</p> <p>The City Milwaukee is conducting a pilot project with Insinkerator to compare food waste reduction through two different strategies: 1) food waste disposers; 2) backyard compost bins. Up to 100 households will be recruited to participate in each of the two segments in a targeted study area. These two methods are alternatives to curbside collection programs for food waste.</p>
<p>City of Watertown recycling update, Rick Schultz, Recycling Coordinator.</p>	<p>The City switched to single stream collection in 2008 to deal with reductions in state funding. In 2009 they expanded fleet capacity, and in 2011 purchased 16,000 trash and recycling carts, increasing recovery of recyclables from 1,200 tons to 2,300 tons/year. The amount of garbage disposed has decreased dramatically. The City operates an extensive recycling program that includes all film, carton, rigid plastic containers and packaging. There is some pressure by residents to switch from bi-weekly to weekly recycling, and to provide a source separated compost site for voluntary food waste composting. The Recycling program is working with the city attorney to combine recycling and solid waste ordinances, and require and enforce school and business recycling. Participation by residents is good with minor</p>

	<p>exceptions. The City charges 8.60/month for recycling and garbage; this amount covers all solid waste and recycling services. They also accept electronics at a drop off location as well as mattresses and box springs. They would like to add upholstery and furniture collection. Collection of construction and demolition debris was moved off of the public drop-off site and to a City location with controlled access to manage volume and illegal disposal. Traditional curbside recyclables are collected by Johns Disposal; collection is fully automated. Under their contract with Johns Disposal, they only pay for collection if the revenue is less than \$30/ton. Trash collection is semi-automated and is disposed of at Johnson Creek landfill. Because they have used a competitive bid for the past 5 years, they have been able to reduce per ton charge by \$10.</p>
<p>DNR Updates – Cynthia Moore</p>	<p>The Joint Finance Committee passed an amendment to the budget to eliminate 32 vacancies at DNR; none of these are expected to occur in the Waste program.</p> <p>The Recycling Program is looking at ways to work through the RU program structure to achieve greater recycling at business, away from home recycling, and at work. DNR is re-evaluating its role in education/messaging reminding everyone that recycling is a state mandate with authority to enforce delegated to RUs. Some ideas on approaches were offered: reaching out to haulers; work with architects to ensure that adequate space for recycling, consistent with current building code requirements, is provided for in new buildings or remodeling, or that a building permit includes a requirement to provide for recycling on site. The need to re-enforce school education was also suggested.</p>
<p>State Budget Bill- Rick Meyers:</p>	<p>The state budget bill did not include changes to the recycling tip fee or how revenue is used with respect to the recycling grants program. The Council, along with AROW, SWANA, WCSWMA, sent a letter to the Joint Finance Committee urging restoration of recycling grant funding to former levels; no response as yet from JFC.</p> <p>The Council should start planning to get input into next budget cycle in a timely manner. The joint letter to JFC demonstrates continued support for recycling. DNR plans to conduct a survey in fall, in response to several questions about what RUs have done to address the reduction in recycling grant funding.</p> <p>There was a recommendation that greater consideration be given to product stewardship type approaches to achieve greater recycling, in view of the success achieved under the state E-Cycle program. The Council is on record as supporting EPR approaches, which shift costs from taxpayers and local government to consumers and manufacturers. Paint EPR is an option for consideration. The Paint EPR program is led by an industry consortium, and is being introduced in states under a phased plan of implementation. Wisconsin currently is not on the list of states, but likely could be if there was legislative support.</p> <p>Action: Put Paint EPR on Council agenda for later discussion.</p>
<p>Plastic Recycling Subcommittee update</p>	<p>The Council created the Plastics Recycling Subcommittee to obtain stakeholder input in developing recommendations on actions to increase plastics recycling, based on options presented in the DNR study Wisconsin</p>

	<p>Plastics Recycling Study. Co-facilitators for PRS are Council members George Hayducsko and Jim Birmingham.</p> <p>The PRS held a meeting on 4/17 meeting in Wausau, attended by about 40 representatives of business and industry buyers, producers (WI, MN, IL), as well as by local governments, solid waste/recycling service providers and processors, and civic groups. Prior to the PRS meeting, there was a committee meeting of the Flexible Film Packaging Group (FFRG) to inform potential Wisconsin partners on the goals and timeline of the pilot project in Wisconsin (done in cooperation with the DNR).</p> <p>The PRS meeting was held in the afternoon. Following presentations on the current state of plastics recycling by consultants to the DNR study, participants were asked to join one of three workgroups - bottles, non bottle rigids and film/bags- to develop an initial action plan for making recommendations to the Council. Facilitators were identified for each workgroup, and dates set for a next conference call. Workgroups are charged with developing recommendations that can be accomplished easily in the near future, with a good likelihood of success, along with longer term actions including legislated mandates or policy decisions.</p> <p>Jim Birmingham said that Wisconsin's "Plastics Recycling" initiatives are getting national attention, and that he was asked about these at a recent national plastic conference. Wisconsin has traditionally been viewed as a leader in recycling; industry is looking to see what it can accomplish through these initiatives.</p> <p>George Hayducsko emphasized that the Council is an independent body charged with making recommendations to improve recycling to the legislature, the governor and the DNR. The three workgroups established under the PRS are charged with coming up with options that can be easily accomplished in the near term, along with longer term and harder items. The Council will need to keep active after the recommendations are submitted; he anticipates that its role will not stop after workgroup reports or submittal of recommendations to the legislature, DNR and the Governor.</p> <p>Click here for information on the Wisconsin Plastics Recycling Study and the Council's Plastics Recycling Subcommittee.</p> <p>Click here for information on the Wisconsin Plastic Film Recycling Initiative, with information on how to find a drop off location and facilitate bag and film recycling.</p>
Updates/discussion	<p>Council Intern: No new developments since last meeting; the position is still unfilled. The position is structured as class project with about 4-5 hours of work per week. Action: Cynthia to follow up with Joe Liebau; PRS would be good activity. Brad to look into any funding for semester or longer term intern. Would it be</p>

	<p>possible to compensate an intern if an outside sponsor were found? Brad will also look into this.</p> <p>Council/WEDC letter: The Council worked with Lee Swindall (WEDC) to draft a joint letter seeking acceleration of Wisconsin’s recycling sector through support for Wisconsin recycling-related businesses through establishment of a task force chaired by WEDC. The letter called for setting a statewide recycling goal of 50%, to be supported through reinstatement of a revolving loan program and other financial aids used successfully by the former Recycling Markets Development Board. The draft letter was circulated among Council members and WEDC; as a document in progress, it is not available for general distribution.</p> <p>George Hayducsko motioned to continue the Council’s effort to work in partnership with WEDC to “embark on a mission to recover value from our waste and create a better economy for Wisconsin”. The motion was seconded by Jim Birmingham and passed by unanimous voice vote. Action: Cynthia will circulate a revised draft letter among Council members for review, with comments to be sent to Neil. The Council will continue to work with WEDC to move the letter forward.</p> <p>Tires: The Council asks DNR to report back on meetings between Liberty and DNR regional supervisors.</p>
<p>Mattress recycling: challenges and opportunities – Bob Mudler, Midwest Mattress Recovery</p>	<p>Background. Bob Mudler has a long background in solid waste collection. He started 16 years ago, working for a small business and corporate trash/recycling company. Several years later, he started his own company Total Waste Solutions with 200 customers in 5 states. All these experiences gave him a solid, practical education on how to reduce costs and convinced him that recycling more both reduces trash costs and improves the bottom line. In May 2012, he started thinking of starting a mattress recycling operation, after reading an article in Waste & Recycling News, and talked with Rick Schultz of the City of Watertown who was looking for options to recycle mattresses and box springs. The Midwest Mattress Recovery facility opened its doors on March 4, 2013.</p> <p>Opportunities: The Midwest facility is the first and only mattress recycling facility in Wisconsin; there are only two other mattress recyclers in the Midwest (Ohio and Tennessee). The Midwest facility is centrally located for Wisconsin demand, and has gotten calls from New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Minnesota and Louisiana. The facility has accepted 1083 mattresses since opening in March 2013; it is expecting to receive another 2000 in May, with about 1500 coming from a Wisconsin resort.</p> <p>Mattresses are highly recyclable and do NOT make “good” garbage; they don’t compact, and can form air pockets which increase the risk of landfill fires. Ninety percent (90 percent) of a mattress can be recycled; the remaining 10 percent has no market and so must be landfilled. Mattresses contain about 42 percent metal, 12 percent polyurethane, 10 percent wood. There is also some padding and cotton blend which can be recycled.</p>

	<p>Challenges: Currently, there is considerable interest in mattress recycling, even though recycling is not mandatory. However, recycling mattresses is generally the more expensive option compared to landfilling. The main challenge is the cost of transportation/trucking. With bulk collections, it is usually possible to arrange transportation so that recycling is cost effective; with smaller and individual loads this often is not possible.</p> <p>Metal coil springs are particularly costly to recycle. While markets are not a problem (scrap metal recyclers will take them), getting them to the recycler is expensive. The springs are light and very bulky, and currently they can only fit about 40 coil spring units on a truck. They could increase the amount by 5-fold, to about 200 units/truck if they had a coil spring compressor (cost about \$120,000). They recently lost a bid for mattress recycling for a large municipality to the Ohio processor, partially because the latter now has a compressor, purchased through a State grant, that allowed them to underbid Midwest Mattress Recovery.</p> <p>At this time, Mudler is not seeking a mandatory program, and hopes mattress recycling will work through a voluntary approach. He has talked with state representatives from Connecticut about their EPR bill, and is seeking to inform Wisconsin legislators about the facility and recycling options. To date, Representative Jagler has toured the facility, and other legislators, including Senator Miller, are interested in a tour. Mudler has considered creating a task force to pursue an EPR-type approach, but is more interested in a charge directly from the legislature and hopes that increased legislative awareness of the operation could lead to action on their part.</p> <p>Responses to questions from the audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection charge: The cost of individual drop off is \$10/piece. He can charge less for bulk loads, especially if able to avoid paying the transportation costs. • The average weight of a mattress is 60 lbs. • Value of mattress is not different whether it comes from a clean stream or from waste stream. • 750 of 1083 mattresses received have been recycled. • He has diverted 18,000 ft³ – or about 23 tons • Reuse marketing is a major competitor: used mattresses are often recovered and resold across the state line (it is illegal to recover and resell used mattresses in WI) <p>For more information on the Midwest Mattress Recovery facility, see http://www.midwestmattressrecovery.com/</p>
Public Comment	<p>Representatives from the Town of Ixonia thanked the Council for having the meeting in Jefferson County, which made it possible for them to attend the meeting. This was a great opportunity. The Ixonia Recycling Center is the <u>only</u> self-sustaining government operation in the community! The Center works closely with the City of Watertown Recycling program. Jefferson</p>

	<p>County said that because of the involvement of these communities, the County is able to provide Clean Sweep for its residents.</p> <p>Jennifer Semrau: announced that Rick Schultz received the AROW Recycling Excellence award in 2013. She also announced that the AROW Product Stewardship call would be the next week and invited people to contact her if interested in joining in the call.</p> <p>Marybeth Sullivan- Promoted the Clean Business Packaging workshop on May 16 in the Waukesha area.</p> <p>Chad Doversmith- announced that the Assembly has passed legislation to "slow down and move over" to protect solid waste workers and other road workers.</p> <p>Neil Peters Michaud- announced that Cascade Asset Management will host an Open House on May 7 including a number of workshops. He invited folks to see him for more information.</p>
Other Business	No other topics were presented for discussion. The next meeting will be in July. Cynthia will send out a doodle with possible dates.
Adjourn meeting	Meeting adjourned at 11:15

Action Items:

- Put Paint EPR on Council agenda for later discussion.
- Cynthia to follow up with JL on intern. PRS would be good activity. Brad to look into any funding for semester or longer term intern. Would it be possible to compensate an intern if an outside sponsor were found? Brad will also look into this.
- Cynthia will circulate a revised draft letter among Council members for review, with comments to be sent to Neil. The Council will continue to work with WEDC to move the letter forward.