


Notes  
**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
 Strategic Materials  
 1849 Hobbs Drive, Delavan, WI

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Jim Birmingham, Jarrod Holter (by phone), Dave Keeling, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich  <b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Ariana Mankerian  <b>Public:</b> Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County; Jill Martin, Outagamie County; Victor Karaliunas and Lee Schmeckpeper, Town of Ixonia; Dale Helgeson and Dawn Lucas, DP Electronics; Rebecca Mattano, Waukesha County; Lynn Morgan, Waste Management; Lori Huntoon, Tetra Tech; Jim Farrell, City of Janesville; Bryan Ukena, City of Milwaukee; Joe Meierhoff and Jose Flores, Strategic Materials.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.
Strategic Materials/Glass Discussion and Q&A	At the discretion of the Chair, Jim Birmingham, the agenda order was modified to begin with the glass discussion/tour.
Tour Strategic Materials	<p><b>Joe Meierhoff, Strategic Materials</b> indicated the facility has been operational for approximately four weeks. All Wisconsin generated glass tonnage Strategic receives is being processed at this facility, and the facility can back up the Chicago/St. Paul operations as well. All operations are under cover. The facility is processing 20-40 tons/hour. They are still tweaking the facility. However, they did run out of glass to process last week and estimated they are only at 1/2 to 2/3 of throughput.</p> <p>Jill Martin asked how this plant's capacity compares to Chicago and St. Paul. J. Meierhoff answered that this plant can process significantly more than Chicago and about 15% of St. Paul. Lynn Morgan stated she was glad to see this investment in Wisconsin. J. Meierhoff said it all comes down to transportation costs and freight options. Dave Keeling asked what mileage radius around the facility is cost effective freight. J. Meierhoff said approximately 125 miles, but sometimes you can be creative with backhauls/trucking, which can increase that radius. J. Meierhoff indicated material can travel 1500 miles by rail, but the truck/road equivalent is 300 miles. J. Meierhoff stated that rail is used to ship out-going, dry, finished products, but is not used to receive incoming material as frozen glass is a significant concern. J. Martin asked about markets for finished products. J. Meierhoff stated they are rather stagnant. The biggest recent impact was the switch by Snapple from glass to plastic; beyond that there are no known large glass users discontinuing.</p> <p>J. Meierhoff stated they are recovering a higher percentage of glass at this facility. D. Keeling asked who Strategic is selling the glass to. J. Meierhoff replied Burlington receives material from Delavan and Anchor Glass from St. Paul. Glass at this facility is processed the day it was received and is likely going back into an amber bottle within 7-10 days. L. Morgan inquired on the benefits to markets of using recycled glass versus sand. J. Meierhoff stated there are energy savings and recycled glass is less abrasive than raw materials; the furnace lining wear time can be stretched when more recycled cullet is used. However, furnaces balance this benefit with the potential</p>

	<p>downside of increased contamination from ceramics and stones. Cullet prices are fairly stable. Other contaminants Strategic commonly sees are plastics, shredded paper, needles and metal, though these are typically removed at high percentages. Missed ceramics and stones will cause ‘breaks’ in the finished bottles. The allowance used to be 1 break for every 1,000 bottles; now it is 1 break for every 10,000 bottles (or higher). Fifty percent of incoming material is NGR (Non-Glass Residual). The only type of NGR recovered is metals.</p> <p>Council members and guests toured Strategic Material’s operations.</p>
Approval of Minutes (September 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017)	<b>Motion made</b> by Dave Keeling and seconded by Jeff Zillich to approve the minutes of September 22, 2017. Motion carried (5-0).
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
DNR Updates	<p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrea Keller started 11/13/17 as the new Hazardous Waste Prevention and Management Section Chief. Andrea began with the WDNR in 2015. Previously she spent 8 years with the North Carolina DEQ.</li> <li>• The vacant NE and SE regional supervisor positions are in the interview phase, with announcements expected by mid-December.</li> <li>• The Recycling and Solid Waste Section Chief position posted 11/24/17 and closes 12/11/17.</li> <li>• The Hazardous Waste/Waste Management Specialist posting (to fill several vacancies) posted 11/17/17 and closes 12/4/17.</li> <li>• Emily Berth was recently hired 11/13/17 as the new GIS Technician. She will be working part-time on the WMM Sites Viewer.</li> <li>• The WMM program recently filled two vacant Hydrogeologist positions; Aaron Kent, Eau Claire and Mark Peters, Fitchburg.</li> <li>• Nick Tasche was recently hired as the new Environmental Program Assistant in Fitchburg.</li> <li>• Green and Healthy Schools Coordinator, Cindy Koepke, accepted a role as Hydrogeologist in Remediation and Redevelopment.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of non-staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR held a RU workshop, along with E-cycle and Storm Debris workshops, at the DNR office in Green Bay on 11/16/17. The RU workshop (like the previous one in May) maxed out attendance. Staff sent a survey to attendees and has received very positive feedback.</li> <li>• Staff are finalizing the survey report summarizing the 2016 Recycling Household Survey. It is expected to be released by the end of the year.</li> <li>• Barb Bickford, longtime Medical Waste Coordinator for the DNR, is retiring in Jan. J. Semrau will be taking over the medical waste reduction components of her position, including the annual report. Due to programming issues, the WMM program released the 2015 and 2016 Infectious Waste Annual Reports in October. They are due on 12/8/17.</li> <li>• The DNR’s Recycling Excellence Awards were announced to coincide with America Recycles Day on 11/15. Winners in the Projects and Initiatives category included McKinley Elementary</li> </ul>

	<p>School (Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County), Rick Schultz, City of Watertown (Jefferson County) and Outagamie County. Winners in the Overall Program category included Jerry Martell, Modern Disposal Systems (Sparta, Monroe County) and Milwaukee House of Correction, with an Honorable Mention to Preschool of the Arts (Madison, Dane County). The winner in the Innovation category was Glean Central Wisconsin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 recycling data has been posted to the DNR’s website. Data results were consistent with prior years.</li> <li>• Gerald DeMers, DNR Waste Management Engineer, was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers-WI Section with the “Engineer in Government Practice” award for work on the 2015 avian flu outbreak and presentations thereafter.</li> </ul>
<p>National Sword Update</p>  <p>COR National Sword 11.17.pdf</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau</b> updated the Council with a presentation delivered at the Solid Waste Interested Parties meeting on 10/10/17. One update was made since that time: the contamination standard originally announced by China was 0.3%. On 11/16/17, <i>Waste Dive</i> reported the contamination threshold was increased by China to 0.5%, with March, 2018 enforcement.</p> <p>D. Keeling shared that the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) recently also weighed in on China’s importation restrictions. In addition, NRC is developing regional market forums to look at recycling markets (and regional differences) more closely. The first is being planned for the Northwest, with Chicago likely following (moving west to east across the U.S.). In addition, NRC is reestablishing economic development professional quarterly calls to focus on the domestic recycling market development. Finally, the WI Integrated Resource Management conference will feature a 2.5 hour session on Friday morning (3/2/18) with traditional presentations, followed by the individual roundtables with each market sector.</p>
<p>Black Plastic Concerns</p>	<p><b>Jim Birmingham</b> tabled this agenda item until the next meeting, as Gary Harter had requested this topic and was unable to attend.</p>
<p>SE WI Recycling Market Update</p>	<p><b>Bryan Ukena, City of Milwaukee</b> concurred that China’s new contamination level, whether 0.3% or 0.5% is nearly impossible to meet. Standard specifications of 1.5% can be challenging and 5% is more common. Education is the key, and it is expensive for MRFs to do so. The Milwaukee/Waukesha MRF has reduced its run speed from approximately 30 tons/hour to 22-25 tons/hour and have added more sorters to the lines. In addition, bale auditing has increased, where bales are broken open to assess contents/contamination levels. They are considering additional equipment, but noted the MRF was built for a given specification and modifications can be cost prohibitive. Options being considered are additional screens and optical sorting equipment. With more material available, domestic mills are much more stringent. Yet in truth, other manufacturing feedstocks can’t have contamination; recycling is ‘main-streaming’ to the rest of industry.</p> <p>B. Ukena provided the following recycling commodity pricing data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) Aug: \$165/ton; Nov: \$92/ton</li> <li>• Old newspaper (ONP) Aug: \$77.50/ton; Nov: \$52.50/ton</li> <li>• Mixed paper Aug: \$67.50/ton; Nov: \$32.50/ton</li> <li>• #1 PETE Aug: \$0.125/pound; Nov: \$0.14/pound</li> <li>• #2 HDPE-color Aug: \$0.15-\$0.16/pound; Nov: \$0.19/pound</li> <li>• #2 HDPE-natural Aug: \$0.29/pound; Nov: \$0.325/pound</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminum Used Beverage Containers (UBC) Aug: \$1350/ton; Nov: \$1380/ton</li> <li>Cartons Aug: \$75-78/ton; Nov: \$40/ton (shipping to Korea)</li> </ul> <p>J. Birmingham commented that #3-7 are essentially worth zero as a mixed bale in today's market. B. Ukena stated the MRF is pulling #5 PP and marketing the material. J. Birmingham stated that #4 LDPE is hard to move; material previously was selling for \$0.20/pound, but is now single digits. B. Ukena also shared that recycling decisions should be viewed by three criteria or "wins:" social, environmental and economic.</p>
Recycling Markets Sub-Committee Update	<p><b>J. Birmingham</b> suggested discussing freight/logistics (including trucking and rail) at the Jan., 2018 council meeting, due to its significant impact on recycling market economics. Perhaps large MRFs like Outagamie County, Waste Management or Milwaukee/Waukesha could share their transportation experience. J. Birmingham requested the Recycling Markets Sub-Committee Chairs, D. Keeling and J. Zillich meet in Dec. to further plan the Jan. meeting. J. Birmingham stated that while originally the group planned to produce a summary report on this topic for the Jan. meeting, if there are additional areas to explore, it could be delayed.</p>
Public Comment	<p>Heidi Woelfel requested that textile recycling be a future council agenda topic. Victor Karaliunas thanked the council for being in Delavan. D. Keeling stated that WI is truly blessed to have Strategic Materials locate this facility in the state.</p>
Other Business	None.
Next Meeting Date and Location	<p>J. Semrau will send a Doodle to set a meeting date for mid-Dec. for the Recycling Markets Sub-Committee to plan the Jan. agenda. The full council will meet late Jan. in the Madison area. D. Keeling suggested he may be able to arrange a meeting at Charter Steel for 2018.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm; motioned by Dave Keeling and seconded by Heidi Woelfel. Motion carried (5-0).</p>