

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Thursday, January 25th, 2018
DNR Fitchburg Service Center
Gathering Waters Room
3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI

<p>Council Members Present: Jim Birmingham (by phone), Gary Harter, Jarrod Holter, Dave Keeling, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich (by phone) DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Kari Beetham Public: Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County; Bryan Johnson, City of Madison; Travis Blomberg, WasteCap Resource Solutions; Betsy Hartje, Waste Management; Chris Wilkes, Echo Transport (by phone); Mick Barry, Mid America Recycling (by phone); and Alec Schragger, Gulf Stream (by phone).</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (November 30 th , 2017 & December 22 nd , 2017)	Motion made by Dave Keeling and seconded by Gary Harter to approve the minutes of November 30 and December 22, 2017. Motion carried (6-0).
Domestic Transportation/Logistics	<p>Chris Wilkes, Echo Transport informed the council as to why it is so challenging to attain trucks to move recyclable commodities: driver shortage. C. Wilkes stated the minimum age to receive a CDL is 21. By that age, many young people have already chosen a different career path, college or military. Truck drivers often find this career later in life. C. Wilkes stated 75% of drivers will reach retirement age in 5 years. Another factor is the improving economy; there is more freight needs (buying/selling) so available trucking is more expensive. In addition, Hurricane Harvey affected trucking. Two thousand trucks were lost in the Houston area. If 300 of those served WI on a weekly basis then those freight needs lean on local carriers. Local carriers will be selective and haul expensive product (buyers/sellers more willing to pay a premium). Recyclable commodities are not worth much relative to other materials, and they are not a desirable material to haul (may be dirty/smelly). After Harvey, trucking was playing ‘catch-up’ and then Hurricane Irma hit. FEMA needs also take priority. FEMA will pay a premium to get needed supplies into affected areas and often has contracts with carriers that require responsiveness and priority servicing. Other factors include the holiday slowdown and weather, including the five feet of snow in the northeast US. Trucks were lost due to accidents/roll-overs and/or states closed roadways. Another weather event was the deep freeze of the south. The south is ill-prepared and doesn’t have the infrastructure of salt trucks/plows. Now, however there may be light at the end of the tunnel, baring another weather event. The Midwest should be able to catch up. D. Keeling asked C. Wilkes to talk about lanes. “Lanes” are common, frequently used routes of product. WI is considered a producer state, not a consumer state. There is no such thing as a ‘cheap’ rate out of WI. Rates are often double to triple other Midwest states as more product moves out of WI than we ship in. C. Wilkes said driverless trucks will likely not be a reality for 50 years. S. Ehrhardt suggested perhaps efforts should be made to reduce the CDL age from 21 to 18.</p>

<p>Transportation of Recyclables and China</p>	<p>Mick Barry, Mid America Recycling stated his company ships 10,000 tons out of their Des Moines, IA facility. Regardless of the product, delays of 2-3 days are common. The driver shortage issue is affecting transportation everywhere, not just WI. A new law stipulates how many hours a driver can drive; trucks will signal drivers when they can no longer drive and some shut down the truck. One local paper mill has 50 loads of material they cannot move. In 10-15 years we may see cross-country driverless trucks, but not at WI loading docks. While transportation is an issue which may resolve itself, China's import restrictions may not. China has said in the past formally via Green Fence and less formally 'clean up your act or we'll cut you off' and shippers did not clean up the product. China has stated they will no longer be a 'dumping ground' and pollute their air/water. China achieving a 10% recycling rate would achieve equivalent recyclables as a 50% recycling rate in the US. Single stream recycling was not positive for recycling. Mixed waste processing with recycling, organics and energy recovery is the future. Where will US mixed paper/old newsprint (ONP) go? Nine Dragons has been ordered to buy zero mixed paper in 2018 when they were purchasing 4 million tons/year. Mid America has offered mixed paper to mills at \$0/ton, but transportation is still a cost. Unless able to ship to Mexico, mixed paper may go to landfill by Feb. Improving US infrastructure will take five or more years and we will need many more mills. The US can't keep collecting material for which there is no market. M. Barry doesn't see China importing any mixed paper for 6-8 months. On plastics, only chips/pellets are being accepted. Bottles have contamination, residual liquid and potential mold/mildew. D. Keeling stated that China softened their permitted contamination level from 0.03 to 0.05%. M. Barry said Mid America can meet this (currently at 0.04%). They are producing great quality, but still cannot move it. This was achieved by slowing down the MRF speed by approximately 50%. Achieving this rate is possible by every facility if they slow down. 'Wishful' recycling is a major issue. Mid America sees approximately 5,000 diapers a day in their 4,000 tons/month of single stream. H. Woelfel stated Kimberly Clark's announcement of plant closings is disappointing when we need more mills/outlets.</p>
<p>International Transportation Logistics</p>	<p>Alec Schrager, Gulf Stream stated that every part of the recycling industry has been affected by National Sword. Everyone is looking for the next China. Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam have started to take material and Chinese companies are locating outside of China. However none of these outlets come close to matching China's demand. In addition, there is a significant delay. An order is booking 1-2 weeks out and may only be for 1 load. New countries are also wary of the quality of recycling from the US, due to China's actions. Some want to inspect loads, requiring their staff to physically be on-site (at a MRF) when a container is being loaded, which is logistically extremely challenging. Should there be a delay in loading (truck is late), there is a charge for having the inspector wait. Even for materials still being accepted in China, an ICSP inspection is required in the US in order to get through Chinese customs. Drivers for export product are less of an issue than for domestic as there is so much more lead time.</p>
<p>SC WI Recycling Market Update</p>	<p>Bryan Johnson, City of Madison echoed that the driver shortage described above for commodities also affects the City in getting drivers. Pellitteri Waste Systems is the MRF for Madison's material; the City is in the midst of a ten-year contract. Madison engages in monthly conversations with Pellitteri. It was due to National Sword that Madison suspended its mixed bulky rigid collection. If it would have been possible to limit the material to HDPE,</p>

	<p>Pellitteri would have been able to market the material. However, it would not be economical for Madison to staff such a position. B. Johnson stated consumer education can be difficult as there are limited funds for outreach. The recycling program is paid for via general funds, not user fees. Madison has also piloted a curbside organics program, but issues with contamination and the fact it is automated collection (versus Milwaukee which is serviced with a rear-load vehicle, enabling the driver to inspect before collecting) have hampered the program. Plastic bags are the largest contaminant. Even though Madison is more educated than other parts of the state (with 50% having a Bachelor’s Degree and 4/5 having some college), issues with contamination are still a challenge. This challenge has resulted in the use of several different end markets for the collected material. As food waste is collected separately from yard waste, D. Keeling asked if Madison had considered a hog farm. B. Johnson stated there would be concern that contamination could harm the animals. T. Blomberg asked if Madison had considered promoting garbage disposals. B. Johnson stated that not all materials currently collected like bones, grease, etc. are suitable for in-sink digestion. Madison also provides mattress and electronics recycling programs.</p>
<p>Black Plastic Concerns</p>	<p>Gary Harter, Council member/Harter’s Quick Clean-up explained that black plastic is not picked up by the optical sorter; plastic rejects are primarily black. Is there a market for this material? D. Keeling suggested Tonya Randall, More Recycling may be able to answer this question and will be at the Markets Session at the WI Integrated Resource Management conference.</p>
<p>DNR/Legislative Updates</p>	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Baeten started 1/7/18 as the new Southeast Regional Supervisor. Previously, Joe worked in the Watershed Management program. • Kristin DuFresne was announced as the new Northeast Regional Supervisor. She was previously a hydrogeologist with Remediation and Redevelopment. • The final WMM program vacant Hydrogeologist position was filled in Green Bay by Orin Regier. • A new Environmental Management Division Rules Coordinator was announced in December as Melody Marshall. • The Recycling and Solid Waste Section Chief position concluded interviews and an announcement is forthcoming. • The Hazardous Waste/Waste Management Specialist posting (to fill several vacancies) is in the interview stage. • The Green and Healthy Schools Coordinator position was posted and interviews will be scheduled. • Barb Bickford, long-time Medical Waste Coordinator, retired on 1/19/18. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of non-staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wisconsin Recycling Trends and Behaviors: Results from the Wisconsin DNR’s 2016 Household Recycling Survey</i>, a report summarizing the survey was posted to the DNR website in Dec. • Annual report season has begun: the 2017 Infectious Waste annual report is due 3/1; MRF annual report is due 3/30; RU annual report is due 4/30. • China’s National Sword importation restriction has resulted in more

	<p>landfills/MRFs requesting clarification on landfill/non-landfill banned plastics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR’s January Recycling Updates promoted Strategic Materials’ Delavan expansion and the new Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Grocery Store page; next edition will mention a series of video segments on the Tri-County Recycling Material Recovery Facility and a new DNR online publication order form. • US EPA Region 5 has released an Environmental Education Local Grants Program Solicitation Notice. Grant awards will be in the range of \$50,000-\$100,000 to an estimated 3-4 winners. Applications are due 3/15/18. • The Northwoods Recycling Coalition Responsible Unit may be dissolving; staff will conduct a workshop to educate communities on RU duties. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR will have a booth at Einstein Day at Shopko Hall in Green Bay on 2/3/18 promoting recycling, e-cycling and plastic bag/film recycling. • The next Waste and Materials Management Study Group meeting is scheduled for 2/19 at 1:00 p.m. at the DNR Service Center in Fitchburg. • The WI Integrated Resource Management Conference will take place at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake 2/28-3/2. DNR will have a booth in the exhibit hall. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of legislative updates: SB646/AB789 relating to exempting certain facilities from solid waste facility regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to gasification and pyrolysis facilities and would exempt these facilities from solid waste processing regulations • Passed out of both committees last week and is available for scheduling. <p>E-cycle bill (LRB 4793/1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored by Senators Mark Miller and Robert Cowles and would modify the existing E-cycling law by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding the program to all private, charter and tribal schools ○ Clarifying the types of printers which are included ○ Raising the threshold for manufacturer registration fees ○ Specifying reporting on rural versus urban collections ○ Requiring recyclers to separate collected electronics into specific categories ○ Modifying the program year from the state fiscal year to a calendar year
<p>Recycling Markets Sub-Committee Update</p>	<p>Dave Keeling, Council member/Steel Recycling Institute shared that the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) will feature a markets session with National Sword updates, commodity presentations, followed by individual roundtables with each market sector. D. Keeling described the rest of the conference agenda, including the two keynote speakers. J. Birmingham requested the sub-committee provide an update on the past year’s activities at WIRMC.</p>

Public Comment	<i>Travis Blomberg, WasteCap Resource Solutions</i> stated WasteCap has held a contract with the Department of Facilities Development to provide construction and demolition (C&D) tracking on state projects. From 2010-2017, this documented \$11.2 million in taxpayer savings and 235,840 tons of material diverted. The contract has been renewed annually, but T. Blomberg indicated there was uncertainty whether it would be renewed for 2018. A WasteCap system called ReTRAC is used to track diversion and sets standards on how general contractors should manage waste. Any state project of \$5 million or more must meet a 50% diversion requirement.
Other Business	Chair J. Birmingham advised that if the council was motivated to act on the WasteCap contract renewal issue, it may do so under Other Business. Motion made by Dave Keeling and seconded by Heidi Woelfel to provide a letter of support for WasteCap Resource Solutions for the renewal of the ReTRAC contract to Department of Facilities Development.
Next Meeting Date and Location	The next council meeting will take place at the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on Friday, 3/2/18 at 1:00 p.m.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm; motioned by Jarrod Holter and seconded by Gary Harter. Motion carried (6-0).