

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
 Via conference call

<p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, Dave Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Barb Worcester, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Renee Bashel (Small Business Assistance Program) Public: Marty Oxman, MJO Ent & United Milwaukee Scrap; Mary Statz, UW Health; Dustin Reynolds, Badgerland Disposal</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (September 23, 2019)	Motion made by Heidi Woelfel and seconded by David Pellitteri to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019. Motion carried (6-0).
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover continues due to the active employment market. • Recruitments in process include: Hydrogeologist in South Central, Hazardous Waste Management Specialist in Northeast, two Environmental Program Assistants, Hydrogeologist focused on beneficial use of industrial byproducts in Northeast, Waste Management Specialist (Non-Landfill Team) in Northeast, and Communications LTE, E-cycle Waste Management Specialist (compliance) and IT Developer, all in Madison. • Upcoming recruitments include a Hazardous Waste Specialist in the Southeast region and a Waste Management Specialist focused on Transfer/Storage/Disposal (TSD) facilities. In addition, each region has been authorized to pursue a summer intern or LTE. • The Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program is undergoing a standardization process for position description. Amongst the positions being standardized are hydrogeologists, engineers and waste management specialists. The idea is clearly delineating the differences between Entry, Senior and Advanced and the progression path. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling Excellence Awards were given to ten recipients to correspond with America Recycles Day (11/15). Winners were: Overall Program- 7 Rivers Recycling, Purdy Elementary School Green Team, City of New Richmond, UW-Steven’s Point; Projects and Initiatives- Aldo Leopold Elementary School, Alliant Energy, Digital Bridge, Edgar School District; Innovation- Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations, ERbin. • The E-cycle program released its annual report: 23.6 million pounds of electronics were collected, which was down year over year, but rural weight increased. From June 2010- June 2019, 304 million pounds have been collected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on certifying all new and existing guidance (due to Act 369), website redesign (launch- spring 2020) and the Environmental Management (EM) Division strategic planning continues. • PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination continues to be an EM Division focus. Multiple subcommittees have been formed, including one focusing on ‘effective disposal.’ <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly Bill (AB) 177, introduced 4/18, in Committee. Seeks to repeal the preemption law which prohibits local governments from regulating ‘auxiliary containers’ (such as Styrofoam or plastic bags). • AB 297/SB 264, introduced 6/7, no action since Sept. Expands the E-cycle program to include all schools, reduces manufacturer fees, changes program year to a calendar year and tweaks to recycler and manufacturer reporting. • AB 535/SB 477, introduced 10/4, fiscal estimate received 11/11. Would provide \$2 million for carcass disposal (deer) and \$100,000 for education. • Legislators have reached out to DNR staff on draft bills or consultation on carpet or mattress extended producer responsibility and bottle bill legislation.
<p>Audit of Recycling Program</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the legislature has requested an audit of state recycling programs (first audit since 2001). The non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) is conducting the audit. LAB staff have been in frequent contact with DNR recycling staff and have also reached out to council members, Responsible Units, Material Recovery Facilities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Topics included in the audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the State’s costs to administer the programs and assess whether the State effectively administered these programs in recent years; • evaluate how the State allocated funding to counties, municipalities, and other responsible units in recent years and assess whether this allocation was fair and equitable; • examine variations in amounts recycled and expenses incurred by counties, municipalities, and other responsible units in recent years; • assess the current market for recyclable materials covered by the programs and assess how changes in the market affected recycling costs in recent years; • review how other states administer their recycling programs and address market effects on their programs; • identify best practices for local units of government to recycle materials; and • assess how the State could improve its administration of the recycling programs. <p>The audit report is expected in spring, 2020.</p>
<p>International/Domestic Recycling Market Update</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR provided the council with an overview of international and domestic recycling market conditions, as was presented at the MRF (Material Recovery Facility) Stakeholder meeting in October. Dave Keeling shared that Resource Recycling has reported that the domestic oversupply is ~2.5 million tons of fiber; ~3 million tons of capacity is proposed with 1.5 million tons viewed as ‘likely’ to come online. D. Keeling also brought up Norway’s</p>

 Update International Dome:	proposal to the Basal Convention which would further restrict plastic exports (citing marine debris concerns). David Pellitteri said that Waste Management has announced the discontinuation of all plastic exports.
Results of MRF Stakeholder Meeting	<p>J. Semrau, DNR stated that the DNR conducted a MRF Stakeholder meeting on 10/7 in Oshkosh. Approximately 45 people attended in-person or via Skype. The meeting included presentations from DNR staff on commodity markets, glass guidance and the results of the MRF survey. In addition, Jill Martin from The Recycling Partnership presented on their recent MRF projects and resources for MRFs. Amongst the top sessions (according to the post-event evaluation) was the MRF presentations. Representatives from six facilities discussed incoming material quality and operational changes made since last year, which lead to an open MRF discussion. DNR asked how we could best assist MRFs and the top response was educating on best management practices (do not bag recyclables, break down cardboard) and anti-contamination messaging. The evaluation also revealed that the MRF Stakeholder meeting is valued and attendees hope it will be conducted annually.</p>
2018 Wisconsin Recycling Data  2018 Recycling Data 11.19.pdf	<p>J. Semrau, DNR presented the 2018 recycling data, as collected by Responsible Unit (RU) and MRF annual reports. Overall RU tonnage remained stable year-over-year. Fiber and metal decreased, while glass and plastic increased. Yard waste (optional reporting) increased by 14% from 2017. Total recyclables reported by RUs was 713,000 tons. Data reported by MRFs includes residential and some non-residential material. Fiber, metal and plastic tonnages all increased from 2017 to 2018. Total MRF tonnage in 2017 was 718,000 versus 760,000 in 2018. Residual rates at MRFs that do not accept single stream were lower than those that do. All non-single stream MRFs residual rates were under 15%, while most single stream MRFs fell in the 8-16% range. It would not be surprising to see the residual rate increase when 2019 data is received, as MRFs focus on producing bales with as little contamination as possible. D. Keeling added that residual could down however, if education to the public on not putting non-acceptable materials in the recycling stream is effective.</p>
Public Comment	None.
Other Business	<p>D. Keeling, Council Chair shared that EPA, and other national partners, heavily promoted America Recycles Day/Week (11/11-11/15). In addition, US Senator Tom Udall and US Representative Alan Lowenthal are working to introduce national legislation which addresses packaging, including extended producer responsibility, deposit programs, minimum recycled content and more. D. Keeling also recommended council members read the Ameripen “Quantifying the Value of Packaging as a Strategy to Prevent Food Waste in America” white paper. The report is available at https://www.ameripen.org/page/foodwastereport.</p>
2020 Meeting Dates/ Location	Next meeting will be in-person meeting at the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) on 2/28. The following meeting may be located at Liberty Tire or Charter Steel (potentially April). Additional locations discussed included John’s Disposal’s renovated MRF, Strategic Materials and the Natural Resources Building (Madison).
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am; motioned by Jarrod Holter seconded by Barb Worcester. Motion carried (7-0).