




Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Thursday, April 23, 2020
 Via conference call/Skype

<p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Barb Worcester, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Beth Bier Public: Jill Martin, The Recycling Partnership; Dan VanKorn, Eric Tapper and William Sorokes, Strategic Materials Inc.; Kelly McDowell, WI Beverage Association; Marty Oxman, Alter Metal; Gerry Neuser and Jon Reisenbuechler, Manitowoc County; Tom Thompson, UW Health; Chad Pingel, Miron Construction; Mark Klapatch, UW River Falls; Pam Busko, Aspirus; Denise Pieroni; City of Delavan. Note- due to the call-in/Skype nature of the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves. In addition, Beth Bier, DNR Deputy Secretary, communicated the DNR's support of the Council on Recycling and recycling operations during these challenging times. B. Bier was happy to answer questions about COVID-19 environmental compliance assistance. David Keeling, Chair, thanked B. Bier for joining.
Approval of Minutes (February 28, 2020)	Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by Mark Walter to approve the minutes of February 28, 2020. Motion carried (7-0).
Election of Officers	Officers were nominated as follows: Chair- David Keeling; Vice Chair- David Pellitteri; Secretary- Heidi Woelfel. Slate of officers approved 7-0.
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hiring freeze is in effect. • Next priorities once freeze is lifted: Beneficial Use/Low Hazard Exemption Specialist in Northeast Region/Central Office (Madison); IT Specialist in Central Office; Engineer in South Central Region/Southeast Region; Hazardous Waste Specialist. • Recent hire: Environmental Program Associate in SCR. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Reports- Extended deadline for Infectious Waste Annual Report due to COVID-19; all Material Recovery Facility reports have been submitted; Responsible Unit Annual Reports due 4/30, honoring extension requests due to COVID-19. • Working on spread for Natural Resources magazine fall edition on the 30-year anniversary of recycling law and 10-year anniversary of E-cycle. • No update on Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) program evaluation of state recycling program; LAB still planning on a spring/summer report release. • Waste Characterization Study proposals due April 9. Waste sort work expected to start August 2020. • DNR overhauling website, expected April 30 launch.

	<p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislature not currently in session. • E-Cycle rule scope approval and Coal Combustion Residual scope approval received from Natural Resources Board (NRB); next step-writing rules and getting public input. • Firefighting Foam emergency and permanent rules required by WI Act 101. Scope prepared, requesting preliminary hearing at May NRB meeting. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing has put slow down on WisPAC public meetings, many postponed – see website for upcoming meeting dates. • Environmental Management Division hired a Communications position, Technical Operations Coordinator, and continuing to hire two researchers. • Staff are working on guidance documents and focusing on site specific remediation projects; building maps of known sites; working with a contractor on source and background info. • AFFF fire department survey has closed; data received from UW Survey Center to determine amount of PFAS-containing foam at fire departments statewide. A guidance document and poster are being developed.
<p>COVID-19 Impacts on Recycling/Waste Management</p>	<p>David Keeling, Council Chair shared that nationally, overall recycling generation is down due to commercial businesses closing temporarily; some states have suspended deposit, curbside or drop-off programs. D. Keeling questioned if end markets will run out of recycled feedstock and revert to virgin or if communities where recycling is not mandated will end their programs. David Pellitteri said commercial tonnage is down in Dane County and residential is up. This is a challenge as municipal contracts have a set contract rate, based on historical tonnage figures and today’s tonnage is exceeding that (up 20-25%). The hauler pays based on actual tonnage at the landfill so is losing money. Haulers will likely need to ask municipalities for adjustments. Pellitteri’s shredding division is not getting business from commercial entities and less office paper is being generated. With new mill capacity, pricing for mixed paper and old corrugated cardboard (OCC) may increase. Low oil prices have PETE down to \$0.04-\$0.05 and HDPE color is down to \$0.02-\$0.03. Steel and aluminum are also both down. Mark Walter shared that the Tri-County facility is still operating two full-time shifts. They are monitoring incoming staff for signs of illness and have a contingency plan for a skeleton crew. Due to the decrease in generation, paper pricing has increased. As soon as it is baled, it is sold. Jeff Zillich said workers wear masks and other PPE. At the Portage County MRF social distancing is a challenge. Barb Worcester said the Governor’s Office would appreciate a formal document on recycling conditions. D. Keeling said perhaps council members which are associated with MRF operations (Jeff, Mark, David P.) could form a sub-committee. D. Pellitteri said the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) is drafting a document for the Governor’s office. He will share with the council.</p>

<p>The Recycling Partnership (TRP) Work in WI & Beyond</p>  <p>TRP Sheboygan.Kenosha.M</p>	<p>Jill Martin, TRP provided the council with an overview of TRP funded projects in Sheboygan, Kenosha, Milwaukee and beyond. D. Pellitteri asked if the haulers in Sheboygan and Kenosha are public or private. J. Martin indicated they are public, however the cart grant goes to the community; the community owns the carts so it would not matter if the hauler is public or private. D. Keeling said he was surprised by the lack of consistency in the Milwaukee recycling schedule. B. Worcester asked how the contamination work is done. J. Martin explained that it is a “feet on the street” crew which literally manually checks recycling carts. Top contaminants are tagged, and carts are visited on a subsequent week to check compliance. What are the top contaminants? J. Martin stated the top contaminant is plastic bags and film; batteries and yard waste are also common. What is the resident reaction to cart tagging? J. Martin said most want to do the right thing and appreciate the feedback. TRP strives to make the message delivery friendly, as in ‘Oops’ let’s do better next time. They have had very few calls from upset residents.</p>
<p>Strategic Materials Glass Update</p>  <p>SMI Delavan GOC April 23.pdf</p>  <p>Wisconsin Gov Evers_Dods 4.23.20.p</p>	<p>Daniel Van Korn, Strategic Materials Inc. (SMI) shared with the council that his role is to manage incoming supply from WI to St. Louis and shared slides on SMI’s operation. At the February council meeting, D. Van Korn presented on the odor mitigation efforts at the Delavan plant. Since then Robovent, a company which provides solution systems for odor and particles, did a vent mapping study at the plant. SMI is posed to make a significant investment to mitigate odor and reduce dust. If started soon, it will be completed by the second week in July. SMI has also doubled dryer capacity which enables them to move material off the floor faster in wetter months and managing that moisture helps with odors. SMI is making internal and external housekeeping improvements. SMI is also working with Great Lake Power Vac on a plan for dust mitigation. In addition, SMI is working to improve WI supply quality, which is inferior to MN supply quality.</p> <p>On March 31, SMI experienced a fire in the bag house. The City of Delavan issued an abatement order. SMI has put a significant amount of effort and resources to address the abatement order and avoid an event from happening in the future. Due to the fire, SMI was forced to stop accepting glass for a time. This pause in operations allowed SMI to do more projects, such as installing the second dryer. Delavan Fire Chief O’Neil asked for changes to the sprinkler system and additional dust control/housekeeping. SMI added a deluge system and spark arrestor system and developed a plan for dust. A big focus for SMI is also repairing the relationship with Delavan. On April 21, SMI conducted a walk-through with Chief O’Neil. SMI is able to turn on the bottle line (for clean, whole bottle processing/de-casing). Next will be MRF glass. D. Keeling asked where glass is going during the SMI shut down. D. Van Korn stated some MRFs have stored glass or found alternatives; SMI Chicago and St. Paul have been options for some material. D. Keeling asked when SMI may be back up and running. D. Van Korn said hopefully May 1st. In addition, D. Van Korn shared that SMI President and CEO Chris Dods sent Governor Tony Evers a letter about the investments in Delavan and the importance of glass recycling.</p>
<p>2020 Goals/Objectives Discussion</p>	<p>D. Keeling, due to time, asked council members to send him suggestions for 2020 goals/objectives. D. Keeling said he felt the council touring recycling operations and moving meeting locations around the state, when possible,</p>

	should continue. The council should also evaluate issues for the future of the industry.
Public Comment	None.
Other Business	None.
Next Meeting Date/ Location	Next meeting will be in-person (if permitted), otherwise another conference call. If in-person, Liberty Tire will be approached to host. In the future, Strategic Materials welcomes the council when all construction projects are completed.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm; motioned by Heidi Woelfel and seconded by David Pellitteri. Motion carried (7-0).