




Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Thursday, June 2, 2022
DNR Headquarters, 101 S Webster St, Madison, Room G27
Via conference call/Zoom

<p>Council Members Present: Jarrod Holter, David Keeling, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Barb Worcester.</p> <p>DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Eliza Kruszynski, Kate Strom Hiorns, Brad Wolbert, Dustin Sholly, Jennifer Feyerherm, Sean Kennedy, Rachel Stark.</p> <p>Public: Caleb Weaver and Cathy Jeannotte, Ridwell; Tim Barry and Marty Oxman, AMP Robotics; Clarence Elkins, William S. Middleton Memorial VAH; Jessica Hanson, Winnebago County; Tom Thompson, UW-Health Sustainability.</p> <p>Note- due to the call-in/Zoom ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be identified above; omission is not intentional.</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (March 3, 2022)	Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Pellitteri to approve the minutes of March 3, 2022. Motion carried (5-0).
DNR/Legislative/PFAS Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hires: Business Services and IT Section Chief (Madison), Waste Engineer (Eau Claire), Environmental Program Assistant (Fitchburg). In addition, Cynthia Moore, former SC Supervisor and Recycling Coordinator has returned as a LTE. • Working on filling a number WMM vacancies including another Environmental Program Assistant (WC region), Complaints Coordinator, E-cycle Compliance Specialist. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently concluded annual report season; 12 Responsible Units (RUs) to go on probation for failure to submit annual report by deadline. • Bills have gone out for license renewals. • E-cycle grants for underserved counties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distributing ~\$85,000 in grants to 13 different counties. ○ 2 permanent sites with balance being events. ○ Formal announcement once signed agreements are received back from grantees. ○ Events starting this spring through June 2023. • Translated Household Battery Guide into Spanish. Also working on ‘Excel at E-cycling/Recycle Right,’ Household Hazardous Waste Guide, Recycling and Waste Reduction in the Restaurant Industry, Waste Reduction and Recycling Law. • Recycle/E-cycle household survey- recycling results report nearly complete; should be able to present results at next Council meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aug. 4 – 9:00 a.m. Waste and Materials Management Study Group meeting (location to be determined and virtual). <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking/PFAS updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR 544 Effective Recycling Program administrative code revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public hearing on draft scope statement June 6 at 1:30 via Zoom. ○ June 22- seek Natural Resources Board (NRB) approval of scope statement. ○ If approval received, can begin rule writing process. • E-cycle rulemaking going back to NRB for re-approval in June; delays planned implementation. • Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) rule is at final legislative review (already approved by NRB, Governor). Once approved, staff will write up document for U.S. EPA approval. • Landfill operation certification rule- now final. Allows online exams for certification. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/opcert/exams.html • New landfill fee and dredging disposal exemptions (2021 Act 234)- effective July 1, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soils and dredged sediments may be disposed of at landfills without paying the groundwater, well compensation, siting board, environmental repair fund, and recycling fees. The \$0.15 per ton landfill licensing fee surcharge must still be paid. ○ Will be reported to DNR as category 33 waste. ○ A hearing must be held in the relevant county where solid waste facility is located before approving a request to accept dredged materials. This applies to disposal of dredged material with any concentration of PCBs or heavy metals, rather than only those with concentrations of 50 parts per million. • PFAS foam clean sweep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1 million included in biennial budget, required DNR to submit 13.10 request to legislature for funds. ○ Working on Request for Bids to hire contractor. ○ Inventory survey sent to fire departments, completed by 322 departments. ○ Estimated total volume of foam seeking disposal is ~24,000 gallons. This is line with the 2020 survey which estimated between 17,000-31,000 gallons. ○ Based upon the experiences of other states, we anticipate that there could be significantly more unwanted fluorinated firefighting foam.
<p>Ridwell Recycling Program</p>	<p>Caleb Weaver, Ridwell described the Ridwell recycling program to the Council. Ridwell emphasizes reuse first, recycle second, using local partners. The largest category of material recovered (by weight) is ‘threads’ (textiles). All partners are U.S. based. Trex is a buyer of their plastic film, and they love it as it is so clean (no contamination). Thermoforms collected are recycled through Green Impact Plastics. Core program items are plastic bags, threads,</p>

 <p>Ridwell Intro - WI - June 2022.pptx.pdf</p>	<p>batteries and bulbs. In addition, there are rotating feature categories such as denim jeans, holiday lights, Halloween candy, etc. Additional add-on services include paint, Styrofoam, etc. (for an additional fee). Routing is done every night based on stops with items (only go to a home if there is something to pick up). Mark Walter, Brown County, asked if local funding support is provided. C. Weaver indicated this is not needed as they find local vendors instead. Jessica Hansen, Winnebago County, asked about battery recycling, indicating this can be costly. C. Weaver said Ridwell collects enough such that the economics work, and the subscription fee covers the recycling expense. Fire safe battery collection bins are also used. Brad Wolbert, DNR, asked if there is an additional fee for Styrofoam considering it is mostly air. C. Weaver said ‘Yes’ and that a special collection bag is provided. Are multi-family dwellings eligible to participate? Ridwell is looking at contracts with multi-family buildings, which do have additional challenges including building access restrictions to bins.</p>
<p>AI Technology Installations in MRFs</p>  <p>AMP SCONNIE AI Presentation 6.22.pdf</p>	<p>Tim Barry, AMP Robotics provided the council an overview of AMP Robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) use at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). AMP is headquartered in Boulder, CO, where they have manufacturing operations. In addition, they have three secondary sort facilities across the U.S. The three primary robotic components are vision (cameras), neuron (brain/control) and cortex (mechanical equipment). Vision equipment can be used for waste audits and/or data collection only. A dual arm sorts 120-140 picks/minute. The belt width determines how many arms, as each can only reach so far. The system has 99% recognition and 90% pick rates, which is better than human sorters. System provides clarity, gets rid of need to rely on “gut feel.” System also gives data on how well robot itself is picking. What’s next? Plastic bag removal system, using AI and vacuums.</p>
<p>Food Waste Reduction</p>  <p>Food Waste Reduction Update 6.2</p>	<p>J. Semrau, DNR provided the council with a presentation on food waste reduction strategies being worked on by the DNR, as well as information on the scope of the problem. Barb Worcester, Governor Evers’ Office, asked if food waste generation differed in rural versus urban environments. J. Semrau indicated food waste is the number material Wisconsinites throw away across all sectors (rural/urban, residential/commercial, different DNR regions). Dave Keeling, Appliance Recycling Centers of America, said food waste has odor and is wet and heavy, so if it is reduced the frequency of waste collection can be reduced. David Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste Systems, asked about the benefits of methane collection at landfills versus composting. J. Semrau indicated that methane collection at landfills, while certainly reducing the amount to methane emitted to the atmosphere, does not eliminate it completely. Further, methane is generated in a landfill environment because the waste breaks down without oxygen (anaerobically). However, when composting, materials break down with oxygen. M. Walter shared that a new company called Green Box is operating in the Madison area, providing curbside organics collection; contamination is the biggest issue.</p>
<p>Rechargeable Battery Taskforce Update</p>	<p>M. Walter, Brown County shared updates from the Rechargeable Battery Taskforce, but also invited D. Pellitteri (who also attended the last meeting) to contribute. The taskforce has established three subgroups: landscape (to get a better understanding of existing infrastructure for battery collection and recycling, as well as the prevalence of fires), legislation (to review other states legislation and polices, and perhaps recommend steps for WI) and education</p>

	(understanding what educational resources already exists on storage, handling and disposal of different battery types and evaluating gaps). D. Pellitteri suggested that given the gap in education, perhaps in the NR 544 administrative code revision, education on batteries could be added to Responsible Unit responsibilities.
Recycling Market Updates	M. Walter, Brown County indicated markets are good. HDPE and PETE are up, and aluminum is flat. Local paper markets are strong. D. Pellitteri concurred with strong markets all around (metal, fiber, plastic), though there are challenges with transportation (drivers, ports, fuel). Marty Oxman, AMP Robotics shared that nationally a softening of PETE and steel are expected, but aluminum is picking back up. D. Keeling said steel is down 14% and likely will go down further in June. D. Pellitteri stated that even a 10% reduction in pricing is better than three years ago.
Recycling Compliance Issues	J. Semrau, DNR said new recycling compliance issues received since the last meeting include: complaints or alleged compliance issues at multi-family properties or non-residential properties in Menomonee Falls, De Forest, St. Croix. A notice of non-compliance (NON) was issued to MRF for failing to operate in a nuisance-free and environmentally sound matter. To come back into compliance, the following is required; written plan to prevent nuisance conditions during current downtime (divert, use of liter control measures, etc.), liter plan for addressing on-going debris during routine operations, and contingency plan for handling future downtime events. Finally, staff are still working through compliance issues at a MRF processing a backlog of material.
Public Comment	None.
Other Business	The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1, 2022. Location to be determined.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.; motioned by David Keeling and seconded by Jarrod Holter. Motion carried (5-0).