

## Wisconsin Council on Recycling Meeting Notes

Friday, March 6, 2026  
Via Teams/Conference Call

**Council Members Present:** John Anderson, David Keeling, Marty Oxman, Mark Walter, Jarrod Holter, Jerry DeMers

**DNR:** Jennifer Semrau, Sarah Murray, Kate Strom Hirons

**Public:** Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling; Kathy Hutter, Winnebago County; Allison Burr, Waupaca County; Laura Stevens, City of Milwaukee; Susan Schuller, Recycling Connections; Jana Suriano, SCS Engineers; Eric Tapper, Pellitteri Waste Systems; Anabelle Klein, PaintCare; Candice Grunseth, Village of Gilman

Note- due to the call-in/virtual ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be properly identified above; omissions or errors are not intentional.

| Agenda Item                         | Notes   |
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| Call to Order                       | Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.   |
| Introductions and Announcements     | Council members and attendees introduced themselves.  |
| Approval of Minutes (December 2025) | Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by David Keeling to approve the minutes of December 5, 2025. Motion carried (6-0).  |
| Election of Officers                | John Amderson motions to nominate Mark Walter as Chair. Seconded by Marty Oxnam. Motion carried (6-0). Marty Oxman motions to nominate David Pellitteri as Vice Chair. Seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (6-0). Mark Walter motions to nominate John Anderson as Secretary. Seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried (6-0).  |
| DNR/Legislative Updates             | <p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New- Sally Klein, SE Region Hydrogeologist, starting 6/1</li> <li>• New- Erik Flesch as E-cycle WI Coordinator</li> <li>• Recruitment just closed 3/3 on Licensing, Reporting and Compliance specialist position; will assist with reporting, licensing, public records requests</li> <li>• Upcoming recruitments include an Organics Waste Management Specialist LTE, Northern region supervisor</li> <li>• Sarah Murray recipient of 2025 Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year award at WI Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC)</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busy with reporting season for infectious waste, hazardous waste, landfills, E-Cycle Wisconsin participants, Responsible Units (RUs), Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MRF report released 2/26, due 3/30</li> <li>○ RU report released mid Mar, due 4/30</li> </ul> </li> <li>• RUs and MRFs transitioning to MyWisconsin ID</li> <li>• Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) funded food waste evaluation report released- more later on agenda</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> round of SWIFR, similar amount, determining workplan/priorities</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various rulemaking/legislative updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recycling rule revision – presentation later in agenda</li> <li>● Non-landfill rule: drafting stage wrapping up, look for public input opportunities this summer</li> <li>● E-cycle rule: public comment period on economic impact closed 2/26</li> </ul> <p>Legislative Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AB 713/SB 703 Battery EPR Safety Bill- more later on agenda             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AB 911/SB 895 accompanying funding bill</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bills which did not advance             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AB 769/SB 741- food waste reduction grant program</li> <li>○ AB 772/SB 778- packaging extended producer responsibility</li> <li>○ AB 782/SB 779- prohibiting foam polystyrene packaging for food/beverages</li> <li>○ AB 783/SB 777- eliminating prohibition on local regulation of certain containers</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Monitoring several PFAS bills</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various upcoming meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Green and Healthy Schools virtual WI Sustainable Schools Coalition 3/18, 430-5pm featuring Eau Claire Area School District speaking about their composting efforts             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://secure.waee.org/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F33099">https://secure.waee.org/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F33099</a> (Registration Link)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● WMM Study Group 5/7             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agenda TBD, probably via Teams</li> <li>○ May be looking for additional WMM Study Group members (Bart Sexton has retired); also need new co-chair</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p>Food Waste Evaluation Report</p> <p><a href="#">Slides</a></p> | <p><b>Sarah Murray, DNR</b> presented an update on the DNR’s EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant progress to date. (See link to slides at left.) An overview of the Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation Study (funded by SWIFR) was provided. The study covers food waste destinations, existing infrastructure and recommendations. S. Murray solicited feedback from the council.</p> <p>Q: For food service facilities, does it include public and private?<br/>         A: Yes, includes universities, public/private food service.</p> <p>Q: Didn’t Wisconsin used to prohibit animal feed (from food waste)?<br/>         A: DATCP regulates/has restrictions, but some definitely goes to animals.</p> <p>Q: Would like to see promotion of home composting in DNR priorities, felt this was missing from the report. Recycling Connections research shows each resident composted 50 pounds/month or 600 pounds/year.<br/>         A: DNR would be interested in seeing data/research on this.</p> <p>M. Walter said the report is a great resource.</p>  |
| <p>Recycling Commodity Market Updates</p>                         | <p><b>Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling</b> presented an update on commodity markets (See link to slides at left). Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) increased</p>   |

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| <p><a href="#">Slides</a></p>                                       | <p>in February. New plant in Waco, TX. Overall buying is down which affects box demand. Aluminum is the only commodity benefiting from tariffs. PET/HDPE color hit record lows in August and pricing is still depressed. HDPE natural trending upward. Expect PET to increase gearing up for summer. PET reclaimers shuttering: 25% of capacity has been lost in last 1.5 years. Tarriff uncertainty is a significant factor. Oversupply of HDPE natural virgin resin, investigating material dumping. Not a lot of construction using HDPE color. War in Iran also a factor.</p> <p>Q: Seems to be more PP recycling efforts from The Recycling Partnership, Coke, McDonald's, etc.?</p> <p>A: Yes, more MRFs are taking it, including WM.</p> <p>Marty Oxman shared PET pricing of \$0.04 to \$0.045 range. Seeing it come down even more with Evergreen closing. Heard it's going to reach \$0.02.</p> <p>A: Could be but expect buying up to summer production.</p> <p>M. Oxman: only one PET end market in the Midwest.</p> <p>A: PET could even go negative, like film C-bales.</p> <p>J. Semrau stated while some states can landfill PET or HDPE, WI has a landfill ban.</p> <p>Q: Manufacturers are lowering targets for recycled content, claiming they cannot get enough resin, yet reclaimers are closing due to lack of demand.</p> <p>A: Manufacturer targets weren't versed in mechanics of switching from virgin to recycled content (at an executive level).</p> |
| <p>Battery Legislation: Summary and Update</p>                      | <p><b>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair</b> provided an overview of AB 713/SB 702 with amendments. The council issued a letter of support in December. The Senate's final session is in March. Proposal includes portable and medium format batteries of a certain size. Lead acid batteries are excluded, but alkaline batteries are now included. Producers are required to join a Battery Stewardship Organization (BSO), which will produce a plan and submit it for DNR approval. Jan. 1, 2027, bill goes into effect with plan due to DNR. Prohibition on landfill disposal begins in 2028. Collection standards were improved by amendment. Amendment also provides funding to the DNR which is \$75,000/year for each BSO. Passed the Assembly 99-0. Hope Senate takes it up for a vote and Governor Evers signs it. J. Semrau added that Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 provides \$150,000 to the DNR as of July 1 for initial implementation work. M. Walter shared that Winnebago County passed a resolution in support.</p>  |
| <p>Recycling Rule Revision Update</p> <p><a href="#">Slides</a></p> | <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> provided the council with an overview of changes which affect MRFs, haulers and RUs in the recycling rule revision (See link to slides at left.)</p> <p>Q: How is the DNR getting information out to RUs on the new rules?</p> <p>A: DNR has sent a number of direct emails to RUs, held a RU-rule focused webinar, posted resources on DNR's website (including the webinar recording, slides and summary documents), included articles in Recycling Updates e-newsletter (GovDelivery), and delivered presentations at the Wisconsin Towns Association Conference, Clerks College and the WI Integrated Resource Management Conference.</p>  |
| <p>Public Comment</p>   | <p>No comments.</p>   |

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| Other Business/Next Meeting Dates/Topics/ Location | Next meeting will be June 5 with the location to be determined. M. Walter suggested the following locations for a tour: Green Bay Packaging, Sibelco, WI aluminum foundry, Veolia hazardous waste. M. Walter asked for feedback from the council. September meeting will also be in-person, and the December meeting will be virtual. |
| Adjourn  | Motion to adjourn made by Jarod Holter, seconded by David Keeling. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.  |