

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: May 7, 2026

Location: Virtual - Teams

Member Attendance: ☒ Doverspike, ☒ Kalvelage, ☒ Ketchum, ☒ Knudtson, ☒ Rabideau, ☒ Welch ☒ Michitsch,
☒ Reuter, Mathewson

Guests:

DNR WA Attendance: ☒ Semrau, ☒ Strom Hiorns, ☒ Murray, ☒ Flesch, ☒ Grimm, ☒ Krausensky, Nickel, Sullivan

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:00	Welcome/Agenda Review/Minutes	
9:15	Discussion of new co-chair and members	Study Group Charter • Consists of 6-12 members representing a range of stakeholder viewpoints • Consist of members appointed either as individuals or as representatives of an org • Be led by two elected chairpersons with each serving a 2 yr term • If anyone has interest, reach out to Kate. • Interest in having reps from GFL and consultants
9:30	Overview of proposed changes to review and licensing fees for non-landfill solid waste facilities	Plan review methodology • Staff survey of time spent • Avg and multiplied by avg NLF salary and fringe to calculate new fees Proposed plan review fee table update in 2028 • Beneficial use and construction doc fees are unchanged • Storage facility category removed • IW Treatment separated from Processing • Low Hazard Exemption fee unchanged (\$2,000) • Low Hazard Exemption concurrence fee added (\$1,000) • <50 TPD transfer and storage still plan review exempt • Compost facility non ISI fees still waived • ISI from \$550 to \$900

		- Expedited plan review category \$300 for reviews that take less than or equal to 5 hours Q: How many land spreading facilities are out there? (just wondering about exposure to PFAS and if land spreading is going away) A: Even before PFAS became a wider concern, land spreading wasn't commonly used for solid waste. They are unlicensed facilities so it's hard to do an accurate count, but DNR does 1-2 land spreading approval typically for drinking water sludge. Only 1 approval over the last several years for non-exempt. Overall very uncommon. Q: Medical waste reduction plans are rare. Do hospitals have to produce those reduction plans or is that part of a landfill permit process? A: Usually a hospital. A hospital can propose their own medical waste reduction plan or can request the DNR to do it on their behalf. License Methodology - Base of \$275 for customer services process and compliance time as well as database and software time needed for maintaining and providing records - Inspection cost added - Annual report review costs incorporated Proposed License Fee Table - IWAR review fee increased from \$55 to \$100 - IW Treatment separated from processing - Compost facilities continue to be fee exempt Q: Big jump in Infectious waste treatment and incinerator license fee. Is that an annual fee? Why is there a significant increase in license fees? A: Yes, that's the annual license fee. Infectious waste treatment facilities are inspected every year. Using the staff survey to get inspection cost of time is \$900. Infectious waste treatment facilities are jointly inspected/reviewed by infectious waste experts and whoever the regional non landfill expert is. Cost reflects the \$275 base amount + \$1800 for each inspection + \$400 for joint plan review.
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		Timeline • Winter 2028 – rule in effect • 5-100 tpd transfer facilities become “nonexempt transfer facilities” • <10 tpd MSW combustors become “MSW combustors” • Processing facilities operating under s. NR 502.08 (2)(i) Wis Adm Code no longer exempt from plan review and licensing • Not exempt from transporter licensing if waste collection and hauling is primary business • Transporter fees waived if transporting only source-separated compostable material for composting or processing • Expedited plan reviews in effect • January 2029 – plan review “2029” fees used • March/April 2029 – IWAR 2028 fee due • Sept 2029 – “license year 2030” fees due – Invoice sent May 2029 – Called 2030 license (runs Oct 1 2029 – Sept 30 2030) • January 2030 – plan review “post 2029” fees used • Sept 2030 – “post license year 2030” fees due NLF rule timeline • Rule drafting 3/25-3/26 • Draft Language public comment and edits 8/26-12/26 • EIA public comments and edits 6/26-8/26 • Draft rule approvals 4/26-5/26 • Rule adoption by NRB and gov 12/26-4/27 • Rule review by legislature 5/27-1/28 • Rule effective 2/28
9:50	DNR updates WMM Program staffing Status of rulemaking efforts Upcoming public meetings Updates on legislation Other business	• Rulemaking: Non-LF (502, 526, 520), E-cycle, HW • Reporting season, billing • CCR program submittal with EPA • New landfill section – next FY • Legislation Staffing • Hydrogeologist in SER starting June 1 • LRC specialist starting June 1

		• Organics Management Specialist starting June 1 • Retirements – Bob Germer and Joe Lourigan • Recruiting for HW specialist and Hydrogeologist Emerging Contaminants Expert Upcoming meetings & Reports • Council on Recycling 6/5 • E-cycle WI annual report in June Recent Legislation • Act 169 relating to retention of environ repair feed by certain MSW facilities • Act 200 relating to exempting certain persons from PFAS enforcement actions under the spills law • Act 201 relating to programs and requirements to address PFAS as amended • Act 170 relating to requiring battery stewardship organizations to administer battery collection and recycling programs and providing a penalty • Act 171 relating to funding for a battery collection and recycling program and making an appropriation
10:10	Overview of PFAS legislation and implementation timeline	Wisconsin Act 19 • 2023-2025 biennium budget allocated \$125 mil into segregated fund • Legislation defining allowable uses necessary before DNR could access fund • Fund accrued interest • In 2024 Gov Evers vetoes SB 312 • In 2025 AB 130 and AB 131 public hearings held Wisconsin Acts 200 and 201 • AB 130 and AB 131 pass the state assembly, and their companion bills pass senate unanimously • Fund at \$132 mil with interest • Negotiations between bill authors, Gov Evers, and DNR

		Several programs created and funded by the laws • Exemptions to the Spills Law – Set specific exemptions to the spills law (such as landfills and agriculture). Exemptions are for entities that may have used or collected PFAS but were not originally responsible for PFAS presence. Exemptions do not apply to industrial manufacturers or commercial facilities that use PFAS or contributed to a discharge. Offsite exemptions that focus responsibility on polluters and not on owners of adjacent properties. • Codification of Interim Biosolids Strategy – DNR has been updating wastewater general permit to require PFAS monitoring and sewage sludge. Public comments are now being accepted for draft changes to the permit and updated interim biosolids strategy. Anticipated permit issue will be July 1, 2026. • Airport and Industrial Possessor Grant Program - \$5.25 million dollar set aside • Municipal and Private Well Grant Programs - \$80 mil available for municipalities to sample private wells, public water systems, high-capacity wells, biosolids, leachate, and investigate/address PFAS in communities. Also \$35 mil added to well compensation grant program. • Other Provisions – Funding for temporary emergency water, changes to how rankings are made for clean water/safe drinking water loan programs, and coordination among various state agencies and UWM. • Staffing – DNR hiring 10 positions to support local communities by providing technical support and implementing grant programs Q: What makes someone liable to PFAS contamination? A: Spills law exemption – owner or operator of a municipal waste landfill is exempt from certain sections of ch. 292 (spills law) with respect to PFAS contamination that would be caused by that facility. What makes someone liable isn't determined by PFAS sampling levels. Liability is determined by who discharged a PFAS contaminating spill. Landfills would need to at least make progress towards installing leachate pretreatment by December 31, 2032 to be considered exempt. Comment: It would be helpful to have a webinar about this law. Could use some clarification on PFAS exceedance vs presence vs spill.
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		Q: It's unclear what the framework looks like for the pilot studies and pretreatment between solid waste and wastewater. What does the regulatory framework look like between solid waste and wastewater. Send additional questions and feedback via survey monkey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDL9DXY
10:25	Overview of battery legislation and implementation timeline	2025 WI Act 170/171 • Require producers of portable and medium format batteries to join a battery stewardship organization and submit a plan to the DNR for a statewide battery collection and recycling program • Program will provide free collection of batteries for recycling at locations around the state • Battery disposal ban • Funding for DNR implementation • Short implementation timeline will include providing guidance on overlap/conflict with existing solid and hazardous waste laws What's covered • Primary (single use) and rechargeable batteries weighing up to 25 pounds or with a rating of 2000 watt hours or less • Examples: common household batteries and batteries used in electronics/power tools/vacuums/etc. What's not covered • Lead-acid vehicle batteries • Batteries not designed to be easily removed (embedded batteries) • Battery-containing devices except those covered by E-cycle WI • EV storage and other large format batteries (>25 pounds or 2000 watt hours) • Batteries in certain medical equipment not sold for personal use • Batteries with an electrolyte as a free liquid What do I do with my batteries now? • Never put batteries in recycling bins/carts • Recycle lead-acid vehicle batteries through retailers or other drop-offs • Find electronics and battery collection sites on the DNR website

		• Store batteries safely by taping ends or putting in individual plastic bags Implementation of next steps • Hire LTE to lead implementation • Meet with potential battery stewardship organizations • Evaluate overlap/conflicts between battery law and SW/HW regulations • Provide guidance to potential collection sites on requirements and provide introductions to potential BSOs
10:45	DNR organics management updates Next SWIFR round plans Feedback on policy priorities	EPA SWIFR States and Territories Grant • Objective to reduce by half per-capita food waste disposed of in WI landfills by 2030 (from 2020 levels) • Focus on education, infrastructure and measurement • Round 1: October 2023 – September 2026 • Round 2: October 2026-September 2029 Recent Activities • Presentations to council on recycling, Green Tier Legacy Communities, EPA Composting/AD Peer Network/ WI Composting Council • New organics management specialist starting in June • Stakeholder feedback webinar April 21 • Celebrating compost awareness week SWIFR Round 2 focus areas • Full-time DNR staff member to lead statewide outreach and technical assistance, policy development, other project activities • Continued focus on residential and food service sectors
11:00	Overview and Q&A on state legislation related to food waste	Zero Food Waste Coalition – goal is to influence policy at the local, state, and federal levels to reach the national goal of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030 ZFWC: • Advocates for policies that address the climate crisis, improve equity, and increase access to healthy food by reducing food waste and advancing food recovery efforts. • Offers a central source of information that enables communities, organizations, and governments to reduce food waste.

		- Increases the visibility and diversity of organizations and leaders working to reduce waste and recover food across the country. Organic Waste Bans & Recycling Laws (Food Waste Diversion Policies) - FWDP are one of the most effective tools to keep good food out of landfills and on people's plates - Best practices include applying a tiered and phased in approach, granting limited/no waivers and exemptions, promoting outreach to generators, and providing grants for food waste reduction efforts FWDP Model State: Vermont - Encourages management in accordance with VT's food recovery hierarchy - No waivers and no exemptions - Applied a phased in approach - Provides for enforcement scheme and awareness/education efforts to support voluntary compliance Food Donation Requirements Best Practices: - Require donation of food that meets health and safety requirements and recycling of remaining food scraps - Apply a tiered and phased-in approach - Perform capacity planning and provide grants for food recovery organizations - Promote education and outreach - Monitor and track outcomes FWDP with Food Donation Requirements Model State: California (SB 1383—2016) - Sets targets for food recovery and requires the donation of food that meets health and safety requirements - Applies a phased in approach, based on the type of generator - Includes grant funding - Delegates educational authority to local jurisdictions Compost Procurement - Purchases finished compost to support end-markets - Best practices:
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		• Cover the maximum number of government agencies • Set targets for the amount of compost to purchase • Use an established standard for compost quality • Prioritize local compost • Outline compost uses • Require recordkeeping and reporting Compost Procurement Model State: Washington • Covers state and local governments • Prioritizes local compost made of food scraps • Incentivizes farmers to use compost Q: What's included when we say, "food waste from manufacturers"? What's included depends on what you can do with it. Manufacturer food waste can include food scraped, whey, blood, glycerin, etc. Really curious about whey waste. A: That data comes from ReFED which is another non-profit that does food waste data. Will share links to their data and methodology. More discussion topics to highlight: • Composting compostable packaging has market limitations and potential contamination risks • Storing food waste in bags has limitations • Stormwater benefits of compost. More organic matter can hold more water which is advantageous for municipalities that are experiencing more floods
11:45	Topics for next meeting	– Organics food waste – Updates on Non-landfill Rule – Next round of rule changes to NR 500 – External speakers