

WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP – Notes: December 2, 2021

Location: Zoom

Member Attendance: Curry, Doverspike, Johnson, Karwoski, Mathewson, Morgan, Pellitteri, Sexton, Sieg, Welch

Guests: 19 additional DNR and other guests listened using Zoom

DNR WA Attendance: Lamensky, Semrau, Strom Hiorns, Wolbert

Time/ Presenter	Topic	
9:30	Welcome, Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No October notes – meeting was shortened and included with DNR’s Solid Waste Interested Parties annual meeting. See https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waste/SWIP.html No changes to agenda
9:35 Wolbert	DNR Updates	<p>Staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retirements West Central Region landfill engineer and South Central Region (SCR) Waste Management Specialist/complaints coordinator. Finishing up recruitment for Northeast Region hazardous waste specialist and recruitment for SCR supervisor, New green and healthy schools employee started this month <p>Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-Cycle rule was approved at October NRB Board meeting, just signed by the governor’s office. E-cycle also sent report to legislature and governor. Coal combustion residual landfill rule on January NRB board meeting for approval for draft rule. Impacts 6 landfills owned by 4 utilities in the state managing coal ash. A lot of coordination with US EPA. <p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hauler trainings 12/7 - https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waste/Licenses.html MRF stakeholder 12/13 Council on Recycling 12/21
9:50 Johnson, Chris Blan-Brown County/AROW	Batteries	<p>Meleesa – Lithium Ion battery presentation created by recycling subgroup (Karin Sieg chairs recovery and diversion subgroup) Chris Blan presenting</p> <p>Demand for batteries are projected to double every 5 years especially EV batteries</p> <p>Problem – ignition issues. All photos from presentation are from Wisconsin</p>

State industry is trying to encourage batteries to be brought to battery specific drop off and not throw them in the mixed trash

State statute does allow batteries to be trashed

Battery fires happening at some facilities every 2-3 weeks. One route truck driver Chris talked to has had 3 fires in his truck over the last year.

Chris: suggest more regulations for larger batteries

Karin: subcommittee starting with education and then would like to move towards a specific advocacy goal

Meleesa: working together with SWANA, AROW, NWRA and Wisconsin fire chief's association also interested in joining forces

Melissa Wenzel MPCA – Does lithium get fully used up in a battery or can it be recovered? Chris – technology coming to work on recycling lithium in addition to cobalt and manganese Jennifer up to 40-50% of a battery may still be left when it is too dead to power a device

Sarah Murray - There are new (I believe international) fire codes going into place soon. One major issue with batteries is that the fire risk may make it difficult for many waste management facilities to get insurance.

David- Are there Li Ion battery recycling facilities in Wisconsin? What is the process? Chris – no facility in Wisconsin most Wisconsin batteries are sent to California, Ohio, Pennsylvania. More detail in EPA report. 2 recycling methods. 1 chemical one mechanical. Sarah – new facility in Canada working with call2 recycle and a facility in MI.

Tim Curry- economics for recycling: as a landfill operator he knows that even if recycling is available if landfilling is cheaper, they will end up in the landfill.

Meleesa: Cost can't fall solely on disposal or users and should be spread out including manufactures EPR. Marathon County had a landfill fire which cost \$20k.

Chris notes that sorting and taping batteries is very labor intensive; it's the primary cost over the actual disposal costs but cheaper than having to manage fires.

Sarah Murray - one recycler she recently saw speak at a conference: <https://li-cycle.com/>

The federal infrastructure bill has funding for battery recycling and battery outreach, but no details yet.

Tim the landfills can't sort this out from waste so it comes down to cost for the public and even then will end up in waste.

Karin – won't be able to just have voluntary solution.

Lynn – CA and WA have legislative efforts for battery recycling requirements; curious if anyone knows about them.

Sarah - DC also passed EPR for batteries recycling

Lynn – curious to ask fire chiefs about how many battery fires happen at generator locations (own home or workplace)

David – we all see a problem 1-2 a month MRF fires at his facility. What codes do we need to change to make this work?

What can we change to make recycling facilities come into the state?

Karin - If anyone is interested in getting involved with this topic, please email the following:

Karin@recyclingconnections.org, chris.blan@browncountywi.gov, meleesa.johnson@co.marathon.wi.us.

10:40
Q&A Session

- What are next steps the DNR should take with the alternative liner report? Would any members (or other stakeholders) be willing to join a couple brainstorming sessions?

Lynn – WM wants to participate in brainstorming sessions would like to see this come to fruition with more flexibility; would like to see it tackled independently from broader NR 500 updates; wants to see rule revisions to allow alt lines to the max allowed under WI state stats.

Lee Daigle with TetraTech also interested

Tim Curry – GFL also interested. This should be a priority for rule making; willing to assist with whatever can be done to allow alt lines to occur.

Kate - will get this moving forward in the new year; has not been a focus yet because of other rule making and recycling audit responses; not likely to be a stand alone scope statement/rulemaking

Lee - can't this just be an exemption? Brad: DNR attorneys have been very clear that exemptions are for special cases and we should be focusing on rulemaking

- Recent legislation requires the DNR to create a grant program to expand electronics recycling and recovery programs in underserved areas of the State. Language in the new section (s. 287.17 (10) (fm), Wis. Stats.) lays out several criteria for eligibility and other details that the DNR will use. What suggestions do you have for setting up the grant program? What should we consider?

Karin – Is there a map of underserved areas?

Bart - can this be modeled after clean sweep, working with already established programs

Lora B (guest): We are a collector – great opportunity for rural areas.

- DNR is compiling some information about solar panel and wind turbine materials and waste handling. Do any of you have experience with disposal of these materials? Where is this type of waste from WI being disposed of?
 - Is there a need to assess whether solar panels are treated as universal waste? Would you be open to a more in-depth discussion on this in the future?

John – had older solar panels come to Dane County and the option was URT but it was very expensive. Reached out to some environmental group and they recommended landfilling for most panels (some don't contain heavy metals) so they did landfill.

Bart - What waste type is being generated from wind turbines? Are there elements of concern? Kate – no mostly just fiberglass, it's just about the size; Lynn we have dealt with this in Iowa

Chris Blan - Crystalline solar panels are recyclable, "thin film" ones are not (?)

Kate – would like resources to provide people when they ask us how do I dispose of ____? CA is looking at solar panels as universal waste, is that something of interest to us in WI?

Sarah – WA state is treating them as universal waste and Minnesota is having a meeting for proposed legislation as well (MN meeting is being recorded)

Meleesa – seems like we should start acting on solar panels.

Bart – agree

Tom – will talk with west coast branches to get more info on solar panels

- Does this Group want to discuss PFAS, and if so, how? Would you rather discussions occur through the [PFAS External Advisory Group](#), set aside time at certain Study Group meetings, or something else?

Lynn – group should be continuing to talk about PFAS at these meetings. Industry specific

		<p>Bart – may not be worth our time. Standards are being developed and we will just have to go from there. Too much conjecture</p> <p>Paul – group should continue to talk about it. Part of the reason why Clean Wisconsin wanted to stay on group was for PFAS discussion and actions. Upstream solutions</p> <p>John – shouldn't take over everything we do, but we can make an influence even with regs being propagated. Seeing non-industry members saying landfill is the solution (dumping ground) but also a source. Seeing financing proposals for some organizations but not landfills.</p> <p>Karin, Tim, Tom, Chad, Meleesa – yes keep pulse on pfas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have the businesses, municipalities, or organizations you represent had any preliminary thoughts on utilizing federal infrastructure bill funding? <p>Meleesa – still waiting for details on infrastructure plans. Brad - DNR in same place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does this Group want to continue to meet 6 times per year? (the charter allows 3-6 meetings per year) Still good with the first Thursday of the month? Do all members want to continue their involvement with the Study Group? <p>Group agreed to change to quarterly meeting schedule</p> <p>Next meeting discuss new group chairs - Meleesa and Chad looking to step down. Bring it up at next meeting</p>
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11:50	Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: February 2022