

**Wisconsin Badger State Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America
Annual Meeting / Board Meeting
February 28th, 2024 at 9:45 AM
MINUTES**

Call to Order: 9:45 AM

Roll Call & Introductions

BOD: MaKayla Galecki, Lee Daigle, Dave Hagenbucher, Ali Rathsack, Abby Lichtscheidl, John Welch, Benjamin Hintz, Mark Torresani, Julie Ketchum, Chris Anderson

BOD Not Present:

Also Present: Kate Strom Hiorns (DNR), Michelle Nieuwenhuis (RC), John Peralta (Marathon Co), Susan Schuller, Allison Birr, Paul Klose, Craig Brent, Jon Roisinbachler, Jennifer Semrau, Valerie Parker, Amanda Hafele, Vincent Mirresse, Chris Blare, Chad Doverspike, Erik Lietz, Dillon Peters, Logan Dwyer, Madison Thompson

Minutes of Previous Meetings [January 2024](#)

Abby moves to approve December Minutes.
Lee – Seconded
Approved – Motion Carries

Treasurer's Report [Abby \(emailed\)](#)

Checking: \$ 5,547.67
Savings: \$ 14,268.18

Abby reported about some transactions this past month.
Ben motions to approve.
Mark seconds.
Approved – Motion Carries

Committee Reports

DNR Report - [Kate](#)

- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant activities:

- Recruitment closed to hire an Organics Management Specialist earlier this month. Hope to have someone on board this spring to focus on statewide prevention and management of food waste, including providing technical assistance to solid waste facilities, developing public education and outreach, partnering with other Wisconsin agencies and universities on advancing food waste reduction and composting projects, and managing contracts.
- We are also soliciting proposals for a statewide Food Waste Management Evaluation. Bids are due by March 4. (If interested in viewing the bid documents please follow the link: [Bidders \(wi.gov\)](#) and search using the key word “waste” or the bid number “24-437-20”) The study is intended to:
 - Identify geographic and structural areas of organics waste generation and gaps in current organics waste management infrastructure relating to food.
 - Assess statutes and administrative code for opportunities to promote food waste prevention activities (source reduction, feed people, feed animals, composting/anaerobic digestion, landspreading).

- Evaluate food waste management options in Wisconsin, including options throughout the food waste reduction hierarchy/[scale](#).
- Develop a plan that incorporates strategies and policy options for sustainably managing food and food-related organics and meeting the DNR Climate Action goal.
- Analyze the economic costs and benefits of implementing the food waste management plan.
- Design data collection, measurement and analysis methods to track progress towards the state's food waste reduction and diversion goal.

- We are in the mid to later stages of the rule focused on effective recycling programs and MRF regulations. We made some updates after getting public hearing comments – most comments in support, but some opposition to requiring owner financial responsibility for MRF closure. In response, we are delaying OFR implementation until 2027 and limiting OFR costs to disposing or recycling negative value materials that would be left behind, such as glass, hard plastics, and residuals. Next we expect to bring the rule to the Natural Resources Board for approval in May – at which is another opportunity to provide comments, then we need governor's office approval and then legislative review starting in January 2025.

- Landfill design and solid waste fees rule is still making progress. The rule's advisory committee met again on Feb. 13 to discuss fees and potential economic impacts. Next step is finalizing documents and the economic impact analysis, with an official comment period in late spring/early summer. Any questions or comments to share, please contact your SWANA reps on the committee or Kate Strom Hiorns kathrynm.stromhiorns@wisconsin.gov

- Thank you to everyone who has been involved with these two recent rulemaking efforts. Your input always makes the result better and provides real world context. Your time is appreciated!

- Reminder that most Wisconsin facilities that dismantle or further process electronics will need a solid waste processing approval and license from the DNR before June 30. Here is a link to a [Fact sheet summarizing new requirements](#). The DNR also created the [E-Cycle Wisconsin Retailer Toolkit \(WA-1595\)](#) to explain updated requirements and to help retailers meet them.

- We're in reporting season for infectious waste and hazardous waste generators and soon to get the annual self-certification report out for MRFs and annual report for recycling responsible units in March. Reminders will be sent to reporters primary contact emails – please let DNR know if there are any contact changes.

- The Governor's Council on Recycling recently sent a letter of support for several bills to the governor and all legislators noting the following:
Senate Bill 906/Assembly Bill 987, the recently proposed legislation regarding education about rechargeable batteries and providing grants for collecting and recycling rechargeable batteries. The Council on Recycling supports this legislation as a proactive solution to battery disposal and recycling and this piece of legislation is an important first step.

2023 SB 866/AB 958 proposes to update language in Wisconsin's electronic waste recycling program. The Council on Recycling supports this bill as it will make much-needed changes to the E-Cycle Wisconsin program to recognize changes in technology and allow manufacturers to more

accurately meet their target recycling weights. The bill also expands the definition of eligible electronic devices.

2023 SB 876/AB 935 would remove the prohibition on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from utilizing its existing appropriation to conduct statutorily required statewide education on solid waste reduction, recovery, and recycling. The importance of a consistent statewide educational program is significant, and the Council on Recycling supports this proposed legislation.

2023 SB 273 would create a food waste reduction grant program at the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The program would provide grants for food waste reduction pilot projects that have an objective of preventing food waste, redirecting surplus food to hunger relief organizations, and composting food waste. The Council on Recycling supports this proposed legislation as an important first step in helping to reduce food waste in Wisconsin.

- Staffing: Vacant Waste and Materials Management bureau director position with Brad Wolbert's retirement. Recruiting soon. Currently recruiting for a Hazardous Waste Plan Review and Licensing Engineer.

Mark Torresani may cover this in his legislative updates:

- Busy time at Legislature on bill proposals. DNR providing initial input if asked, conducting fiscal estimates on proposed bills, and giving testimony at public hearings. Bills include:

- **Proposal: [SB906 \(-4840\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: education about rechargeable batteries and providing grants for collecting and recycling rechargeable batteries**

- **Proposal: [AB492 \(-0632\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: method for establishing proof of financial responsibility for municipal solid waste facilities; payments for closure, long-term care, and corrective action costs for certain solid or hazardous waste facilities; extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures; providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures; granting rule-making authority; and making an appropriation**

- **Proposal: [SB866 \(-5411\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: changes to the electronic waste recycling program and granting rule-making authority**

- **Proposal: [SB876 \(-5362\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: funding for education on solid waste reduction, recovery, and recycling and making an appropriation**

- **Proposal: [SB1073 \(-5924\)](#) [View Bill History](#) relating to: requiring paint manufacturers to administer paint collection programs, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation. 2/26/2024: Read first time and referred to Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs**

- Check out DNR's new 30-second PSA about proper handling of batteries. Feel free to share with others!

https://youtu.be/4H_cXXcDT4?si=XXGPFwL3wIBv15nw

- And we currently have 12 landfills in some stage of approval for expansion or a new site – check out the DNR booth for a poster on those sites and the stages they are at.

DNR also has a presentation on Friday that discusses common questions and regulations – test your knowledge on compliance and best practices.

Safety Ambassador Report *Dave/John Peralta*

- February is heart month; be aware of where your AED is in case it's needed.

- Theme of Safety Resource Center this year is Safety Over Service located by registration desk – be sure to check it out.
- 5 members of the safety committee will be doing a presentation on Hauler Safety on Friday at WIRMC.

Membership / Social Media Report *Ali*

- Ali went over goals for upcoming year which are similar to previous goals with some differences.
- Reviewed feedback from e-newsletters – key takeaways were what content people liked or wanted to see and what kind of frequency they want seen in the newsletter.
- Membership dropped slightly over the last few months but recently went back to up to 158.

International *John*

- Previous way of counting members and the structure of the budget was inaccurate and funds had to be borrowed from reserves but they are working towards fixing that.
- Overall finances are doing really well and above thresholds, but changes need to be made for year to year budget for it to not be an issue.
- New CEO is doing really great, making changes and listening to the chapters.

YP Report *Abby*

- A lot of time was spent planning the welcome event at WIRMC (Laser Tag and Musical Mingle) which was funded by SWANA, WCSWMA, and AROW and is hosted by the YPs of SWANA and ELs of AROW.
- Working at scheduling a tour at Rock Oil Refining March or April.
- Contacted Ed the Diver and will hopefully team up to clean up a local river or park, but there's lots of planning still.
- YP of the Year will be announced tomorrow during the award ceremony.

Advocacy Report *Mark*

- Legislative Committee has gained new members which is been beneficial to have different people with different interests on the committee.
- Committee members are paying close attention to lithium ion batteries and PFAS and looking at them from a national level as opposed to a local level.
- NR 500 rule changes regarding the implementation of liner modifications will be sort of a hierarchy of when the DNR will take them. DNR won't want to get flooded with them due to limited staff and limited time.
- John touched on AB492 related to owner financial responsibility.

Scholarship Report *Lee*

- 3 scholarship winners of 2023 will be in attendance and will be acknowledged at lunch.
- The scholarship email for 2024 will be sent out within the next couple weeks.

The timeline was reviewed.

Meet in person at conference	Feb/March	President/Admin
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	February	Treasurer
Website Updates	March	Website Chair

Review goals	March	Board
Wisconsin Non-Stock Corp Annual Report Form	March	Treasurer
Tax Form 990	March	Treasurer
Check Balance to make sure it's not under \$5,000	March	Treasurer
Review bank statement	March	Treasurer

Unfinished – New Business

- Moment of Silence for Pat O’Brien
- Solid Waste 101 Course Update
 - i. Walkthrough of the platform will be presented at Thursday Lunch.
 - ii. Registration will be launched in May.
- WIRMC Update
 - i. Happy for the weather! (Even though it’s weird.)
 - ii. This year we’re at 272 attendance, very happy with our sponsorship response – THANK YOU!
 - iii. Exhibit Hall is full! Thank you, Exhibitors!
 - iv. Be sure to check out the Trash Lab and Safety Resource Center!

Next board meeting is March 21st, at 10:00 AM

Motion to adjourn by Abby
 Seconded by Lee
 Approved

Adjourn – 10:37 AM

Minutes recorded by Michelle Nieuwenhuis, SWANA BC Administrative Assistant