

## WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### \*\* MEETING SUMMARY \*\*

January 20, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

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John Sherman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2014 meeting notes. Suellen Mele asked to change Page 3, second paragraph, first sentence to “*Suellen Mele said that since funding isn’t addressed in the law . . .*” There was a motion to adopt the meeting notes as amended. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

#### ***Legislative/Budget Update – Lorie Hewitt for Laurie Davies***

**Contact: 360-407-6103l; [laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov)**

Lorie talked about the Governor’s budget, which was released in December. She also reviewed bills Ecology is tracking to date. Regarding legislation, Susanne McLemore will send W2RAC a list of reducing toxic threats legislation that Ecology is tracking.

John Sherman asked about the revenue projections for MTCA, considering oil prices are down, and how that affects the budget. Lorie said the Governor’s budget wasn’t developed with consideration of the recent lower oil prices and probably won’t be readjusted. Legislative budget development will rely on the March forecast and take the revenue decrease into account.

Suellen Mele said that a hearing is scheduled on Thursday for the beverage container legislation (SB 5008), which could result in some beverage containers having detachable metal rings or tabs. Suellen encouraged Committee members to testify. She plans to oppose the bill. She considers it a recycling issue. Detachable metal rings/tabs are small and could fall through the MRF. The legislation would result in taking a step backward in recycling and erode what we’ve had in place since 1982. Chris Piercy commented that it would result in two pieces of litter for each beverage container.

Art Starry said there are several bills focused on Ecology’s enforcement authority, including whether rules need to be specifically authorized.

Suellen Mele said the American Coatings Association is moving forward on paint legislation. It will be introduced soon.

#### ***Recycling Rate – Dan Weston***

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Dan gave the Committee a presentation on the 2013 recycling rate data. See Dan’s presentation posted on the W2RAC website. The numbers are based on recycling data received from 604 facilities. Ecology sent annual reports and surveys to more than 1000 facilities. It seems the recycling rate has plateaued.

Dan presented rates for the following materials:

- Electronics - Increased.
- Plastics - Level with the prior year.
- Paper - Slight increase, but overall decrease in the last five years.
- Organics, recycling and composted - Down by 6%.
- Ferrous metals - Decreased.
- Asphalt/concrete - Increased from the prior year.
- Construction and demolition – Slight increase; large increase in disposal.
- Wood burned for energy – Large decrease (Kimberly Clark closed in 2012).

Suellen Mele pointed out that with the shift to lighter electronics, the number in terms of weight is going down.

Brad Lovaas said that newspaper, plastics, and glass are all lighter.

Troy Lautenbach said part of the reason for the wood situation is that Kimberly Clark made it lucrative enough for people to take it to them. Since Kimberly Clark closed, that is no longer the case. Mobile grinders used to take wood piles for free.

Sego Jackson asked if that would also be true at job sites where wood is no longer separated from the other C&D. The wood might end up in mixed C&D.

Troy Lautenbach also mentioned that since Glacier shut down in 2010, there are uncertainties in the reporting world.

Brad Lovaas asked Dan if he compares the rates between exempt and permitted facilities. Dan said he has a list of exempt facilities and he could compare the data at some point.

John Sherman asked what the most problematic areas are. Where is our data the weakest? Dan said heavy materials affect the recycling rate the most. In the C&D area, there is a major lack of consistency, with huge increases and decreases. However, that could be attributed to the economy (construction). Ferrous metals also have a big impact on the rate.

Lisa Sepanski asked if the recycling rate for plastics decreased. Dan said the rate stayed about the same. Lisa wonders if packaging design has contributed to that stagnation, e.g. flexible pouches that aren't recyclable. Dan said there are four categories of plastics. Mixed plastics may not be recycled, so this category may be increasing.

Sego Jackson asked if we have looked at greenhouse gas savings on a materials basis. Dan said he does every year, and hasn't done this yet for 2013. He shared an example of the 2012 numbers that Ecology published on a focus sheet. Susanne McLemore will send a link to the focus sheet and other recycling information to the Committee.

Suellen Mele asked if we back out the residuals from the numbers we receive. Dan said if facilities report it that way, we do; a lot of facilities don't report residuals. He changed the reporting form this year to make it clearer that we want that information. Suellen Mele asked if that means most facilities report what's coming in vs. what's going out. Dan said that we ask for both. If facilities report it, we back it out. Hopefully we'll get more complete information when we move to an online reporting system.

Scott Windsor asked if we have considered the factor of home ownership and its impact on the recycling rate. Spokane has found that renters participate less in recycling programs. Dan said we haven't had the resources to look into that.

Regarding residuals, Suellen Mele wanted to know if we asked everyone for information. Dan said only those who fill out a recycling report; not landfills or transfer stations. Recyclers and processors fill out the report form.

#### ***Agenda Items for Future Meetings***

- Update on Junk in Compost – TBD
- 1-800-Recycle Hotline Changes – TBD

***Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.***

**Submitted by:** Susanne McLemore