

WCSWMA

(Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 am Friday, May 12, 2023

Portage County Public Library – Pinery Room, Stevens Point, WI

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerry Neuser (Manitowoc County), Amanda Haffele (Portage County), Vinnie Miresse-via phone (Portage County), John Welch (Dane County), Dave Hagenbucher (Marathon County)

ABSENT: Fred Zaug (Waupaca County), Pat O'Brien (Winnebago County)

OTHERS PRESENT: Karin Sieg (Exec. Director), Jennifer Semrau (WDNR)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Gerry at 10:07 am
2. **Approval/Modification of Agenda:** Amanda / John to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Thank you to recently elected (and returning) Executive Committee members with terms ending at the 202 Annual Meeting:**
 - a. Professionals: Amanda Haffele (2025) and Dave Hagenbucher (2024)
 - b. Policymakers: Vinnie Miresse and Fred Zaug
 - i. *We have an OPEN SEAT for a policymaker:* Brief discussion.
4. **Approval of 2/22/2023 Annual Business Meeting Minutes:** John / Amanda motion to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **WIRMC - Joint Conference Update**
 - a. 2023 Update / Report from Karin Sieg, Recycling Connections: The Final Report was distributed and reviewed, noted that the number of Sponsors listed on the report needs to be corrected.
 - b. 2024 Conference: February 28 – March 1, 2024, Chula Vista Resort – WI Dells:
 - i. Noted the dates and location. Karin will not be present during the conference; she is retiring in January. Susan Schuller will be filling Karin's Executive Director position.
 - c. Representatives to the WIRMC Planning Committee
 - i. 2024 members: Pat O'Brien, Allison Rathsack, Jon Reisenbuechler
 - d. Approval of 2024-2025 Coordination Contract w/ Recycling Connections:
 - i. John / Dave motion for WCSWMA to approve the WIRMC-Recycling Connections contract for the 2024 and 2025 events. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Amanda
 - a. Financial Report: Waiting to deposit checks from WIRMC and Green Fire. John / Dave motion to accept the report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
7. **2023 WCSWMA Scholarship Program – Update**
 - a. Committee members: Sujata Gautum, Allison Birr, Vinnie Miresse: Vinnie reported on the changes for the application process this year. Deadline was extended to June 15th.

8. Legislative / Advocacy / Education Report

- a. WDNR – Updates and/or Education topic from Jennifer Semrau (report is on file)
 - i. State SWIFR grant funding \$500,000 & projects for states (WDNR). WI is going to focus their money on food waste projects focus. Will hire two contractors: one to work with municipalities / schools / businesses to help them, and the second one to get more information on what infrastructure is out there to assess opportunities and gaps.
 - 1. REO grants should be awarded in late summer / fall, before the end of the federal fiscal year. WDNR applied with The Recycling Partnership for a project that would cover 6 states (plus WI, total of 7) for an online education program.
 - ii. There were a number of 'big' changes to the Electronics Recycling Rules
 - iii. DNR Carve-out for School/education funding: The 3 orgs want to send a letter supporting more funding. Jennifer and Brad (WDNR) could help guide the wording so it would be most helpful.
 - iv. NR500 series:
 - 1. Landfill Rulemaking Advisory Committee – Update: A committee was developed, which isn't always typical for all Rulemaking processes. WDNR wants to get as much consensus and support from the representatives of the industry before finalizing the rules. They have met once so far, meet next in June 21st.
 - a. WCSWMA nominated: John Welch, Dave Hagenbucher, Greg Parins to be on the Committee, but only John Welch (Dane County) was accepted.
 - b. The industry would like to have changes to the Alternative Liners, but his may not be the same priority for the WDNR.
 - 2. NR544: asking for input in various ways, i.e. during WIRMC, and they've held Targeted 'Affected Parties' Feedback Sessions over the past couple of weeks. Discussed "OFR" = Owner Financial Responsibilities, something they want to add for MRFs. Results of the polls conducted at the recent Feedback Session were shared.
- b. Update on other pending legislation at the State and/or Federal level:
 - i. Federal: proposal from EPA to have PFAS fall under CERCLA but this could be problematic. Gerry has been sitting in on meetings/webinars
 - ii. State: Limit the ability to sue PFAs companies.
- c. PFAS in WI Conference for Municipal leaders – May 2, 2023 – Report: WCSWMA was a co-sponsor of this event. About 50 attended!
 - i. Discussed the Governor's proposed budget.
 - ii. Discussed issues for the WDNR to fund staff positions,
 - iii. There is a \$30 million surplus in the Environmental Fund (aka under control of the General Funds) that the state is now looking at how / what they can 'do' with this,
 - iv. Amanda suggested creating a sample resolution.
- d. Coordination on issues with AROW and SWANA-BC
 - i. Organics Envisioning Session at WIRMC: Attendees Comments were provided in the Committee's meeting packet.
 - ii. Rechargeable Battery Taskforce: No report; not sure if this Taskforce is still in place.
 - iii. PFAS Web Project / WI Solid Waste PFAS Coalition: Susan has been posting items to the website when things are shared with her. Reviewed the website analytics. The Coalition itself isn't really meeting anymore.
 - iv. Integrated Resource Management / Solid Waste 101 Course
 - 1. Survey results: There is interest in this!!
 - 2. Timeline and Funding: Susan gave an overview of the project's budget needs. Gerry proposes that WCSWMA support this financially and ask that SWANA and AROW do as well.

3. Gerry motions for WCSWMA to allocate up to \$10,000 for the SW 101 course development, but contingent on AROW and SWANA-Badger Chapter contributing a portion as well. Seconded by Amanda. All in favor, motion carried.

v. Discussed potential joint-industry letter of support to send to the WDNR, requesting more funding for education at schools.

e. WasteCon 2023: WCSWMA supports members to attend; Amanda will attend this year.

9. **Website Update / Analytics:** Report was shared.

10. **Other Matters as Allowed by Law:** None

11. **Next Meeting Date, Location, and Adjourn: In October, in Stevens Point.**

John / Amanda motion to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.
