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**Dorgene Goetsch**

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**From:** Micaela Montagne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** Dorgene Goetsch  
**Subject:** FW: December MRF Report

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Initial: *dg*

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**From:** Marty Curry <[recyclingsupervisor@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:recyclingsupervisor@townoflapointewi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:41 AM  
**To:** Michael Kuchta <[administrator@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:administrator@townoflapointewi.gov)>; Micaela Montagne <[clerk@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:clerk@townoflapointewi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ben Schram <[foreman@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:foreman@townoflapointewi.gov)>; Joe Abhold <[recyclingassistant@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:recyclingassistant@townoflapointewi.gov)>  
**Subject:** December MRF Report

**MRF Report December 1, 2021**

MRF Staff has been adjusting to the seasonal slowdown by wrapping up projects. We are sorting and baling the last of the summer recycling materials and in the coming weeks we will prepare one last haul of auto scrap metal, a final haul of fluorescent bulbs to Duluth as well as plastics and tires. As we wrap up the 2021 season, we will review our final numbers and figure out how we can increase efficiency and marketing of our materials in the new year. We have painted and repaired our snowplow for the upcoming plow season. Additional works projects also include finishing our stair project to increase storage above the MRF office; cleaning and priming our compactor boxes to stop the rust and degradation of vital pieces of infrastructure; continuing to install insulation in the large warehouse as well as grant research, market analysis for 2022 and legislation trends that affect our industry.

In my previous report I forgot to include the update of our onsite DNR Inspection. Robert (Bob) Germer is the Wisconsin DNR Material and Waste Specialist headquartered in Spooner. He was contacted by Warren Johnson at the Northwest Regional Planning after our Clean Sweep event, who was overly impressed with the progress made on our MRF clean up and organization since his last visit. In our tour with Mr. Germer, we updated him on our process and directions for reducing material contamination as well as improving customer service. In our discussions, he made recommendations for us to tour regional MRFs and see how they are processing customers, hauling materials, and dealing with industry challenges. He did make notes on how we store our materials (perhaps an increase in storage capacity?), making sure that we appropriately label our used industrial fluids as well as our fluorescent bulbs. Overall, he was impressed and very apologetic that it had been more than 6 years since the DNR conducted an onsite inspection. We will continue to follow DNR protocols on material processing and storage. He informed us that the DNR will often conduct spontaneous and interim inspections, as such, we are well positioned to pass any future inspections planned or otherwise.

As we look toward 2022, further work and material planning for our compost program is ongoing. I have been in contact with Jamie Tucker, a private entrepreneur who has established a mainland bulk composting program. He has offered free consultation and will conduct an onsite visitation in the coming months. He has informed me that Northland College is in the process of selling some of their "gently used" composting machinery and to keep an eye on the upcoming grant cycle that will fund these programs. I have also been contacted by Kent Tenney, the Sys Admin of Red Cliff who is heavily involved in E-Cycling and removing, repairing, and reusing computer hardware. He attended the Chicago E-Cycle

conference and wants to share stories on computer waste processing but also to get a tour of our facility and our process.

I have also been contacted by Jeanna Penney, the Supervisor of the Iron River Waste and recycling facility regarding the sale of recycled materials. I sent a letter to her and the Iron River Town Supervisor giving a brief background of our facility as well as the current trend of an increased value of recycling materials. This letter was being framed as a justification of a new storage building for their facility and how long it would take to reclaim the funds through sale of recycled materials. The letter was well received and, in the end, they approved the new building. They have stated in correspondence that they would love a tour of our facility. (copy of it enclosed below)

I am personally taking it as a good sign that outside entities are reaching out to us to see how we are running our facility. It seems that we are heading in the right direction.

Have a Great Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

MRF STAFF

(Letter to Iron River MRF)

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding our season here at the Madeline Island Material Recovery Facility (MRF). This is my first year as the MRF Supervisor and we have made some significant changes in our daily operational structure but more importantly how we handle the marketing of our recycled materials.

The Recycled Materials Economy (RME) is expanding in large part due to changes in global supply chains, shopping habits, and COVID, but also benefits from an increase in recycling education and its impact on the American Household. Madeline Island is an endpoint tourist destination and although we have only 425 year-round residents, we process the solid waste and recycled materials from thousands of seasonal visitors. In an effort to promote local recycling education for seasonal and year round residents, we created a household refrigerator magnet that give hours, contact info as well sorting preferences and an itemized list of items to be recycled. Our MRF operates with a 2 person staff including a "Supervisor" and a "Recycling Specialist"- who holds a CDL to haul our solid waste and processed recycled materials. We also have the added support of our Public Works Division who provides supplementary work regarding building maintenance, plowing, construction. We also lease out one of our small buildings to our local church to set up a small "donation only" thrift store, in an effort to reduce our waste and provide an outlet for recycling of useable household items and clothing.

Our MRF infrastructure includes:

1. Two Compactors Boxes to hold our solid waste and household refuse,
2. A 40 yd. demolition box to hold construction and demolition debris,
3. A 40 yd box to hold metals and recycled white metal appliances,
4. We have a glass crusher to process our glass that we use as an aggregate material for culverts and miscellaneous road fill for projects and,
5. An Excel X-60 Compactor to process and bale our cardboard, tin, aluminum, and plastics to sell at end point markets.

During the 2020 and 2021 season we saw significant increases in the overall value of our recycled materials due to a combination of supply short falls and selective marketing of recycled materials. This past year we have gone from a static approach to marketing our materials, to doing in depth research, regional market trends and have found that we receive a greater return for our recycled materials due to this change. During the initial lockdown phase of the COVID pandemic, America experienced an aluminum shortfall due to fact that bars were closed and "on tap" beer and soda were nonexistent. The consumers option to buy beverages in cans caused aluminum prices to go from between .25-.35/lb to .50/lb. Our compactor creates 500lb bales of aluminum that we sell to recycling hubs for \$250 a bale with each bale containing approximately 36- 50 gallon bags of cans During our peak season we generate one bale of aluminum every 6 days. During this same time, we have seen a dramatic rise in OCC (Old Corrugated Cardboard) prices. Our compactor produces 1400lb bales of cardboard and during our peak season (from June-August) we produce one bale of

cardboard approximately every 4 days. Prices started out at around 80/ton but as we head toward the holiday season, we are receiving approximately \$240/ton for OCC. Scrap metals are also on the rise due to changes in supply chains with local prices at about \$130/ton. Our biggest challenge is to find viable markets for our #1 and #2 plastics. We continue to do research and outreach to find buyers of these materials including exploring rail options through Superior Wisconsin as well as hauls to Green Bay or similar manufacturing hubs.

For our 2021 budget, we were projected to generate around \$6000 in sales of our recycled materials. As of November 2021, we have generated over \$24,000 in gross revenue generated from recycled materials alone. The continued increase in RME is projected to stay strong as well as some continued increases in the price of cardboard and mixed paper due to the "Amazon Effect" and online shopping. It is significant enough that some pulp mills are switching over to process recycled cardboard exclusively due to lower energy costs as well as a steady supply of lower cost materials from MRFs and Businesses. As we move forward, we will be adding further educational outreach to the community including partnering with our after-school program to create murals and painting old tires as flower planters as part of our beautification initiative. This past summer we have given tours of our MRF facility to families and students to showcase the financial and environmental benefits of the Material Recovery Facility.

If you have any other questions or would like to schedule a tour of our facility, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sent 11/5/2021

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