

MRF Report for May 2021.

May 3, 2021

April has come and gone and the MRF Staff is working to get ready for the upcoming busy season. Traffic is increasing and we are comfortably getting our 20,000 steps in a day. We continue to clean and organize the facility, as well as increase our signage to prevent cross contamination of our recycling efforts. We continue to access online research for current trends and practices in recycling and waste disposal as well as mining for grants and funding sources to support our efforts.

We are using more carts this year to streamline cardboard and paper unloading. It has been very well received among our senior MRF attendees. We roll the carts out to collect the cardboard and paper so they don't have to make multiple trips from the car. All of this is designed to reduce the amount of time customers spend waiting to unload as well as convenience.

We are in the final stages of the renovations of the future "Island Closet. The MRF staff along with Facilities Manager Ray Hakola have patched, painted and renovated the interior of the garage. As the interior electrical is being finished, we will continue to work on the priming and painting of the exterior as well as moving shelves in. We are very excited to partner with St. Johns on this endeavor and will update on progress.

The long awaited upgrade for The Beast was located and purchased on a whirlwind of a road trip to Nixa, MO. Evan and Joe left just after midnight on April 12th and returned early on the morning of the 14th with the yellow International truck that some may have seen out and about working already. The truck is a 2004 with low miles in good shape and should serve the town well for years to come. It's been on a couple jobs and worked great, hauling brush from a tree cleanup at the park, and picking up topsoil as a back haul from a demo load. Public support for this purchase has meant a lot to the crew and we look forward to finding ways to make this truck a great investment for the future.

We are still taking autos for scrap iron backed by a popular demand to rid the island of junk cars. The MRF and Roads crews worked together to haul a couple loads of cars off before freeze-up, and we are on the hunt for more! If you have a car you'd like to get rid of please contact a MRF attendant to make a plan for disposal. Last year's survey found that over 30 people had cars that they want gone and the MRF and Public Works Department are eager to help clean up the island.

Respectfully,

Marty Curry- MRF Supervisor

Joe Abhold- Recycling Specialist

MRF Report

June 3, 2021

Aaaand Just like that we are in the thick of the summer!!!

Memorial Day kicked off the busy season for many and here at the MRF is no exception. Many of our summer residents have popped into the MRF to share winter stories and summer salutations. We continue with the day-to-day operation of the MRF; baling plastics, cardboard etc as well as cleaning and office work. We are getting quite a good response from residents regarding our car removal program and have even progressed into boat demolition. We continue to alleviate the clutter by smashing and transporting everything to where it needs to go. With the amount of house cleanings, house building and house demolitions happening, We are always on the go go GO!

In the coming month, we will be working on MRF beautification including some flowers and light painting. We are working on clarifying recycling parameters for our new customers including the importance of presorting and answering the eternal question that has plagued us all for years now: "Is this Number 1 Plastic or Is it Number 2??" **FUN FACT: Its takes roughly one garbage can of contaminated recycling for processors to throw away an entire bale of recycling. Example: 1 garbage can of #1 Plastic (about 10 lbs) being inadvertently dumped into #2 Barrel, will cause a processor to dump a 1200lb bale of recycling into the landfill. Hence the importance of customers to pay attention to the signage and presort!!** Will Update on the progress.

Doing more research on the national trend to eliminate single use plastic bottles via the "Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act" that is currently in Congress as well as support for the extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that is being kicked around at the State level.

The first day of the Island Closet was on June 2nd and it was met with much enthusiasm from our patrons! We are very excited with our partnership with St. Johns and Manager Gwen Smith Patterson at being able to upcycle household items and materials that would normally end up in the landfill. Good Job and Congratulations to all involved!!

Respectfully Submitted,

MRF Staff

"We Crush It Every Day!"

Martin Curry
LaPointe Material Recovery Facility
Recycling Supervisor

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715-747-5084

⑤ TB, Micaela, Michael
Ben, Public

MRF Report July 7, 2021

During the morning hours before the MRF is open, there is a calm and silence that fills our little recycling center. The crows scatter when I pull around the corner after a full morning of pulling half eaten bags of chips and old sandwiches from the compactor. The lingering signs of last night bears and raccoons lay strewn across the driveway and into the woods. The work we do extends before and after our regular business hours and begins; usually right after I put the office coffee on.

July roared in with a storm of friends and visitors, complimenting us on the smiles, the assistance with trash and recycling and further questions like "Is this a #1 bottle or a #2?" Unfortunately, there is no consensus, even in the plastic industry as to what plastic *should* be. WE have gotten into a simple delineation: Clear Plastic-meaning you can see through it (including colored clear plastic-usually green) and Solid Plastic- you cannot see through it (milk jugs are a good example of #2 plastic). Each have there own separate place.

Another common mistake is the difference between aluminum cans and tin/steel cans. Most pop cans ("soda" in the southern vernacular) are aluminum cans. Most food cans that you food comes in, are tin/steel cans (thank you Bryan Donkin and John Hall-inventors) . These both have separate barrels and as usual, there are exceptions to the rule. If you don't know which is which, feel free to ask one of our lovely MRF attendants and they would be glad to assist you.

We continue to bale our cardboard (2 a week), aluminum (1 a week) along with processing other materials for sale. Cardboard prices are up and we continue to reach out to new markets to sell our cardboard (all time high prices) as well as aluminum (.50/lb). Joe continues to do the amazing work he does crushing cars, moving glass, punching tickets and compacting piles of dem con into splinters. When finished there, he's in the cab of the new yellow truck; appropriately dubbed WOODSTOCK, hauling boxes to the mainland and returning with road material in a cycle of pure efficiency. We are pleased to have the ever smiling and always friendly Evan Erickson Jr with us on Saturdays assisting with MRF duties and customer service; a great addition.

The gratitude of our community and seasonal visitors continues to roll in regarding the Island Closet. There are many happy faces leaving with new treasures and many grateful homeowners dropping off gently used items that deserve a 2nd chance.

As always, thank you for your support. Cheers.

Martin Curry

MRF Supervisor

MRF- "WE Crush It Everyday!"

RECEIVED
JUL - 9 2021
BY: Ben 8/5a

(5) TB, Michael, Barb, Micaela
Ben, Marty, Public

Dorgene Goetsch

From: Micaela Montagne
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Dorgene Goetsch
Subject: FW: MRF REport August 4th, 2021

Micaela Montagne
La Pointe Town Clerk
PO 270
La Pointe, WI 54850
clerk@townoflapointewi.gov
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From: Marty Curry <recyclingsupervisor@townoflapointewi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Michael Kuchta <administrator@townoflapointewi.gov>; Micaela Montagne <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>
Cc: Ben Schram <foreman@townoflapointewi.gov>; Joe Abhold <recyclingassistant@townoflapointewi.gov>
Subject: MRF REport August 4th, 2021

MRF Report August 4, 2021

We're less than a month away from our Clean Sweep Event here at the MRF and in the process of preparing our packaging materials and gaylords. Quite a few of our customers are ready to drop off paints, weed killers and miscellaneous household "industrial" cleaners. Our hope is that we can continue to change buying habits: "Instead of buying a gallon, using half of it and throwing the other half away, buy a quart and use it all". Our previous clean sweep was a huge success and were looking forward to "Sweeping" the Island Clean.

We are keeping an eye on the trending delta variant and its impact on values of recycling. Our push is to unload our cardboard and metals as fast as possible since any potential economic slowdown will have a ripple effect on prices. Will update in the coming weeks.

The Great Auto Haul of 2021 continues and we are in the process of having vehicles hauled to the MRF, smashed and packed for a haul to the mainland. Several customers have preemptively asked if we can get rid of boats, trailers and autos. WE have included boat smashing on our list of things to be "destroyed"; much to the great satisfaction of our customers (and employees).

One of the biggest compliments we continue to get is the assistance with recycling and dumping trash. Aside from the customer service aspect and helping our neighbors, the larger benefit is the reduction in cross contamination of recycling. We continue to have less "contaminated" bales of plastic and metal leading to an increase in revenue when selling.

Island Closet is closed for the near future for Delta Variant precautions.
Let the 100 days of August Commence!!!

Martin Curry
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(5) TB, Michael, Barb, Miranda,
Ben, Marty, Public

From: Marty Curry <recyclingsupervisor@townoflapointewi.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 10:15 AM

To: Ben Schram <foreman@townoflapointewi.gov>; Joe Abhold <recyclingassistant@townoflapointewi.gov>; Evan Erickson <ericksone21@gmail.com>

Cc: isg@cheqnet.net

Subject: Letters from MRFY September 2021

Letters from MRFY.

September 1, 2021

The summer is winding down here at the MRF and many of our summer residents have informed us that this will be the last dump run until next year! WE have received a lot of positive feedback including lift assist with heavy bags of trash, help with sorting of recycling, and our teams "coffee positive" friendliness. One of the biggest positive notes has been our musical rotation. On Saturday mornings, we have started out with an 8:30 Polka fest here at the MRF. The steady beat of tuba and accordion have caused Island men and women (young and old alike) to shuffle sway while sorting plastic bottles and cans in a way that has brought smiles and laughs to the drive through. Many fond recollections of Polka Dances during younger days in Milwaukee have been shared with the staff. During the afternoon, we shift into Pipe and Drum music from Scotland and the sweat beads on the brow for some of our island denizens who sort recycling with a fury usually reserved for hand to hand combat. There is a great appreciation for the atmosphere we are creating and our customers are excited about trips to the MRF.

We were also pleased to roll out our "soon to be a collectors item" MRF Magnet! Ben's idea to access funds for educational purposes was directed into a 5x7 refrigerator magnet that gives a "plethora of pertinent presort preferences" (say that three times fast) as well as hours of operation and contact information. We have distributed them to our residents and visitors who are not only excited about the recycling information and the "magnetic assistance to hold papers on our refrigerator", but also our "Instant Classic" catchphrase "Have a MRF-tastic Day!" On Wednesday September 1st, we shifted into CLEAN SWEEP mode. Residents pushed, pulled and highjacked vehicles to bring in an assortment of weed killers, oil paints, acetones, toxic sludge and "mildly radioactive" material (kidding-no radioactive material was collected). It was disposed of with assistance from the Sheldon Johnson from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and Warren Johnson and the team from the Veolia Environmental Services. This process was funded in part with a Grant from the Wisconsin DNR. It was a smooth and orderly process and we look forward to continuing this in the future.

Our Smash Team continue to "smashy smashy" our growing pile of cars and trailers. We continue to get requests to drop off vehicles, old campers, mobile homes and other assorted "bric a brac" to help clean up the island.

Joe continues to put the long miles in hauling our cardboard and aluminum to customers who give us the best price. Our revenue increase is a direct result of his efforts and his hauling expertise continues to be invaluable for creating solutions here at the MRF.

DID YOU KNOW?? Sliced Turkey is NOT recyclable! A recent customer put a bag of sliced turkey in the #2 plastic barrel. While we appreciate the zeal of individuals who want to recycle everything, sliced turkey (or any other sandwich meat for that matter) is not recyclable. The science is not there yet. We keep our fingers crossed that day may arrive soon.

Have a MRftastic Day!

Martin Curry
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Recycling Supervisor

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RECEIVED
SEP 3 2021
dg

(5) TB, Michael, Barb, Micaela,
MRF, Ben, Public

11-2-21

MRF Report
November 1, 2021
Marty Curry

"Trash has given us an appetite for art." - Pauline Kael

Well its happened again my intrepid friends
A year of beginnings and beautiful ends.
We have waded through a summer of moldy cheese wrappers,
Discarded shoes with broken tongue flappers.
Half-eaten sammys on moldy green bread and
Old tired tires that have lost all their tread.
Cheese chunky milk jugs and old Clorox bleach with
Pieces of docks that washed up on the beach.
Old renovations that took only four years with
2x4 ends and shingles and beers.
New vacuum cleaners with a broken old belt and
5-gallon pails that smelled like old smelt.
We've recycled countless cans that were full of old beans
Garbanzos, refried and everything in between.
A zillion and one wine bottles that smelled of merlot.
Chardonnay, Shiraz, Boones Farm, Prosecco.
Small bags of trash that were only a dollar
and big ones that cost more, and caused such a holler.
We've collected old cars and smashed them so tiny.
Ford Chevy Dodge (They are making us Money!)
We played fine polka music, some Buffett and blues
That got customers hopping in their soft summer shoes.
Come back to us next Summer!
We can Laugh and We can Play and as always remember...
Have a MRF-tastic Day!

RECEIVED
NOV 3 2021

Initial: dg

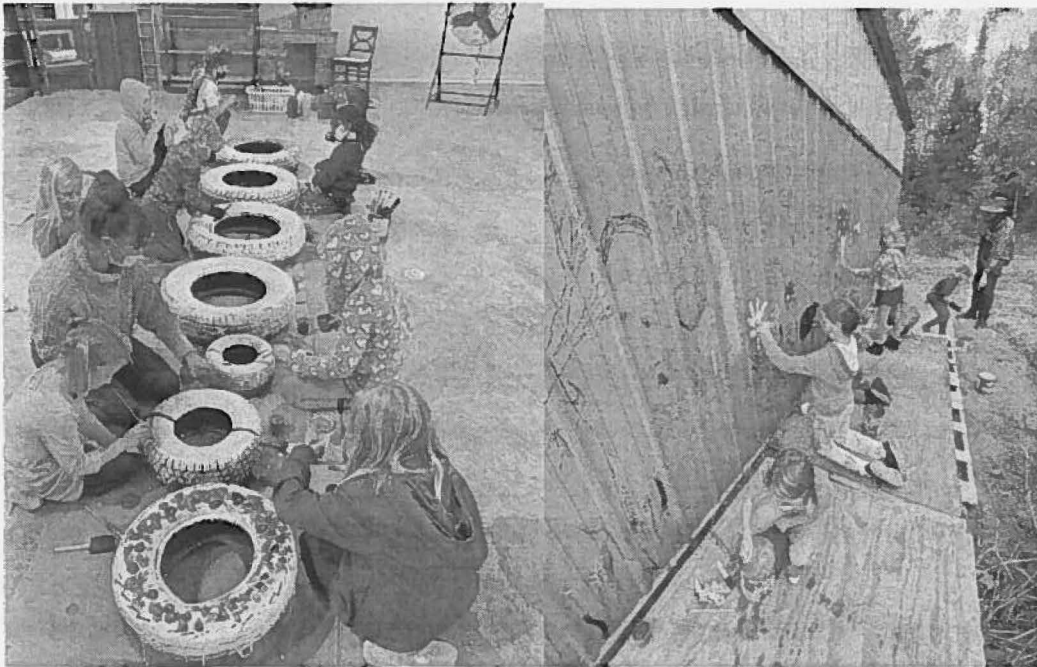
In all seriousness, we are wrapping up a fun summer and already thinking about spring here. We've been happy to host the LaPointe School kids in the after-school program in our future beautification programs. They have been painting old tires to make planters for our Pollinator Gardens as well as painting a nice little woodland mural on the old exchange building (complete with the soon the be famous Vampire Chicken).

Recycling Specialist Abhold is wrapping up the year-end hauling with paper and cardboard prices skyrocketing in the pre-holiday rush. We intend to "clear the floor" of all of this year's materials so we can get a more accurate picture of what "1 year in the Life of the MRF" looks like for revenue. Our preliminary numbers indicate that this was our most successful year from a revenue standpoint, with final numbers still rising. We will update as we learn more.

We have closed up the Island Closet and concluded a very successful first summer that increased traffic and upcycled a TON of household items for a very good cause. Other than that, we are preparing for this thing called winter (have you heard about this phenomenon??) We will continue to research grants

for future projects as well as explore operational efficiency measures to help make 2022 an even better year. As always thank you for your continued support.

"If one's man's trash is another man's treasure, then one industry's potential failure is another's opportunity." Adam Lashinsky



(5) TB, Michael Barb, Micaela
Ben, MRF, Public

Dorgene Goetsch

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

Micaela Montagne
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RECEIVED
DEC 1 2021
Initial: 

From: Marty Curry <recyclingsupervisor@townoflapointewi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Michael Kuchta <administrator@townoflapointewi.gov>; Micaela Montagne <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>
Cc: Ben Schram <foreman@townoflapointewi.gov>; Joe Abhold <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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