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Winnebago County

Solid Waste Management Board

The Wave of the Future

DATE: August 4, 2023

TO: Contracted Responsible Units

FROM: Kathy Hutter – Operations Manager
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920-232-1853

RE: July 2023 Signing Municipality Update & Monthly Scale Reports

January – June 2023 Percent Commodity Report – distributed with this email, the bi-annual commodity percent reports are provided to our Signing Municipal Partners to disclose what the Tri-County Recycling Facility is receiving from our communities and local businesses. Commodity percents remain consistent with prior years' data.

Single Stream Recycling Markets Update – We had hoped for commodity price increases during the first half of 2023, and we started to see it on the fiber side, but lost traction when the bottom dropped out of plastic values this summer. Our 6-month average composite price is around \$85/ton, compared to \$162/ton this time in 2022 and \$113/ton in 2021. Per industry insiders, the decrease in value is attributed to recycled plastic feedstock oversupply in the manufacturing sector and slowed consumer spending. As an example, PET (#1 plastic bottles) took a very unexpected and dramatic tumble in July, dropping in value from nearly \$250/ton to \$84/ton. Fiber values have increased slightly over the 6-month period, and while they're not at the all-time highs that we saw in late-2021, being ~60% of all sales, they are helping offset losses from plastic markets. We remain on target for tonnages and have made progress helping our Signing Municipalities keep their recycling in the County's system. We hope that plastic markets regain value and stabilize over the next 6-months and will provide a follow-up market update closer to the end of the year.

The WDNR Recycling Consolidation Grant 2024 Cooperative Agreement – was emailed to Municipal Clerks and Public Works Staff on June 13, 2023 (City of Neenah, City of Oshkosh excluded). We are working with a few remaining communities to complete and submit the Agreement. We will combine all returned Agreements into a packet and redistribute it to you for your records. Keep in mind that by completing this paperwork, your community will qualify for additional WDNR Recycling Grant Funds.

KH/kh

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