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NOTES OF THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE WOOD RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, THE HILTON BIRMINGHAM METROPOLE

Board members present	Andy Hill Geoff Hadfield David Laing Richard Coulson Paul Caldwell Julia Turner	SUEZ Hadfield Wood Recyclers DJ Laing RWE IQR WRA	Chairman Executive Director
Apologies	Mark Hayton Clem Spencer	Timberpak/Egger Wood Yew Waste	
Advisers to the WRA	Vicki Hughes Gayle Whittaker	Technical WRA Communications	
Presenters	Howard Leberman	EA	

And 71 members and guests representing 47 companies and organisations.

Welcome and Introduction

Andy Hill welcomed everyone particularly our new members and guests (see slides)

Update from the Board Meeting

He also gave an update from the Board Meeting which had taken place the day before, giving an overview of the main things covered:

- Potential new member attendance at meetings – in future £250 + VAT will be charged and this will then be discounted from their membership fee when they join
- There has been a particular focus on Waste wood classification and FPP
- Accounts – Positive cash position as a result of improvement in debtors and slightly ahead on budget for 1st quarter
- Priority areas for the next quarter and beyond
 - Code of Practice
 - Working with HSE on dust and explosions

WRA Activity and Communications Update

Julia talked through her activity and stakeholder engagement over the last quarter focusing on the highlights covered in the attached slides. She advised members that invoices from now on would look slightly different as they were being generated by an accounts system called KASHFLOW. She also reminded members that the WRA now has new bank account details.

Gayle Whittaker then updated Members on communications activity, including the development of a communications plan to support the new business strategy - see attached slides.

Technical Update

Richard Coulson provided an update on behalf of the WRA Technical Committee on the latest developments on FPP and waste wood classification. See attached slides. He also thanked all those who had been involved in the Waste Wood Classification Sub-group for all their hard work so far.

Environment Agency Update and Q & A

Howard Leberman gave an update on the current regulatory changes affecting the waste wood sector now and in the future. He said that there had never been a better time to be a member of the WRA, which he felt was invaluable for both big and smaller players and users and producers alike. He also said that he felt that the WRA were receiving a lot of support from the wider wood industry to support its thinking in developing and understanding and responding to some of these key regulatory issues.

See Howard' slides attached.

On T6 exemptions, Howard mentioned that there will be a consultation in 2-3 months' time and comment will be invited from both the WRA and from individual companies. He stressed that he doesn't really support the withdrawal of T6 exemptions, but does support them becoming solely focused on the small operator processing 500 tonnes a year. Changes will be implemented in late2018/early 2019.

Howard thanked Richard Coulson for giving such a good update on waste wood classification and said that the focus now was on assessing the size of the problem, i.e. how much hazardous waste wood is going through the system. The EA are working closely with the WRA on this and they in turn are working with the wider waste wood industry and other trade associations to establish what the issue is and to find an appropriate solution. **The likely interim regulatory position statement will focus on ensuring that waste wood is not mis-described and that: 1. Clean, untreated waste wood goes into animal bedding and other products; 2. Treated, mixed waste wood goes only to panel board or IED Chapter IV compliant facilities.** Howard asked members to support the WRA Technical Committee by providing input.

On FPP, he confirmed that the national EA group had now disbanded and that everything was now embedded into areas with all decisions being made locally. He advised members to contact their Area Manager in the first instance if their FPPs are not being approved. He commended the Waste Wood FPP Template and recognised that the key to this being issued is the summary of alternative measures.

He explained that this was still held up in the EA legal team but that he was hopeful of news on this soon. Other Trade Associations were also about to send in their first FPP Templates for review.

RHI – the EA are working with BSL, Ofgem and BEIS to ensure that the work on waste wood assessment and classification previously mentioned feeds into their guidance.

Strategic Review of Charging – See slides. The key driver here is that the EA have to ensure cost recovery. SROC consultation will take place mid-October to end November and implementation will be in 2018/19.

Performance Based Regulation – This is now being run separately to the SROC as this represents the ‘expected’ category. This work will focus on agreeing what exemplary is and links closely to the work the WRA are doing to develop a new Code of Practice. Engagement on this will commence in January 2018. There will also be a formal consultation in Spring 2018 and implementation will follow earliest in 2021.

A Q&A session followed, which can be summarised as follows:

What’s happening in Scotland?– the EA are sharing everything they are doing with SEPA, but they have more alignment with NRW. It may be a good idea to get SEPA to present at the June 2018 WRA Members’ meeting which is being held in Scotland. Howard advised that SEPA is currently consulting on charging. Julia will check with the SEPA contact given to her by Howard.

Where are we going to find the necessary data on waste wood and its treatments? Howard referred to the BAV waste wood guide, which is based on a wood type approval approach. See <http://www.altholzverband.de/altholz-bav-guide-to-waste-wood-recycling.php> . He also stressed that Dilution is **not** the solution.

Will Brexit lead to changes in regulation? Howard felt that much of the environmental legislation from Europe will remain in place, but some will be improved.

On behalf of the WRA Board and its members, Andy Hill thanked Howard for his very thorough and engaging presentation.

Any Other Business and Dates of Future Meetings

Julia asked if anyone had any other AOB and then said that the Board had now set dates for the 2018 meetings – see below. She also reminded members of the WRA Position Statement on use of waste wood in domestic and small scale RHI boilers, wished everyone a good RWM show and closed the meeting.

Dates for the remainder of 2017:

Wednesday December 6th for Winter Members Meeting – Mercure Burton Upon Trent Newton Park followed by site tour of Environmental Scientifics Group

Dates for 2018 Meetings:

Wednesday 14th March for Spring Members' Meeting – venue tbc

Wednesday 6th June for Summer Members' Meeting – venue will be in Scotland

Tuesday 11th September for Autumn Members' Meeting – venue will be near NEC

Wednesday 5th December for Winter Members' Meeting – venue tbc