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**NOTES OF THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE WOOD RECYCLERS' ASSOCIATION,
WEDNESDAY 12.06.19, MATERIALS PROCESSING INSTITUTE, MIDDLESBROUGH**

Board members present	Andy Hill	WRA Chair
	Paul Caldwell	IQR
	Geoff Hadfield	Enva Wood Recycling
	Mark Hayton	Timberpak/Egger
	Jamie Plevin	R Plevin & Sons
	Julia Turner	WRA Executive Director
	Alan Webb	JM Envirofuels
	Gayle Whittaker	WRA Communications Lead

Apologies	Richard Coulson	RWE and WRA Deputy Chair
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Advisers to the WRA	Vicki Hughes	WRA Technical Committee
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Presenters	Peter Buckley	Environment Agency
	Tunde Ojetola	BEIS
	Lauma Kazusa	Suez Trading Europe
	Simon Obert	BAV

And 82 members and guests representing 51 companies and organisations. (See attached attendee list)

Welcome and Introduction

Andy Hill welcomed those present and he and Geoff Hadfield paid tribute to Clem Spencer, who had sadly passed away in his sleep in the early hours of Thursday 6th June. Clem was a major part of the WRA, having been involved in it since the early days. During his time on the Board he had served as Chairman for four years and Deputy Chairman for five. He said that Julia would send out details of Clem's funeral and provide details of the charity he was Chair of Trustees for, [Heartswell Southwest](#), for those who wanted to donate in his memory.

Board Update

Andy gave an overview of what had been discussed at the Board meeting the day before and presented the quarterly management accounts. (see attached slides)

- The accounts showed a healthy position with reserves of £42,439, but £15 k of this had been allocated to support the waste wood classification work.

- The Rules of Association had been updated to reflect that members would have to give 3 months' notice in writing if they wanted to leave the Association.
- He also asked member view of a meeting taking place in Sweden hosted by IQR. The results of a show of hands on this were split, so the Board will discuss further and come back with recommendations.
- He gave a plea for all processing members to return their 2018 waste wood statistics and reminded them that this was a pre-requisite of membership.

WRA Activity and Communications Update

Julia Turner gave an overview of her activity over the last quarter (see attached slides) and gave an overview of the 2018 WRA and extrapolated UK waste wood statistics and the likely future impact on demand post 2019. The amount of waste wood processed in the UK last year (2018) rose by almost 1.5 per cent from the previous 12 months. There was a 10 per cent increase in the processing of grade A material (packaging waste wood) into animal bedding, and biomass wood fuel usage was up by 24 per cent overall.

WRA members themselves processed 3.4 million tonnes of waste wood last year, an increase of more than 6 per cent on 2017. This is a reflection not only of more waste wood being processed, but more processors joining the WRA, which now represents over 90 per cent of the UK's waste wood industry.

Gayle Whittaker gave a communications update for the last quarter, focusing on the highlights covered in the attached slides.

She also talked about increased social media coverage and the new Eventbrite registration for meetings.

Technical Update

Vicki Hughes gave an update on the key technical issues the industry was facing. (see attached slides)

On FPP, general feedback from members continues to be that things are now moving on the ground and the FRS are getting more involved in signing off final FPP versions. Peter Buckley was presenting later on alternative measures at the Members' meeting

On Waste Wood Classification, the initial sampling and testing of fence posts and decking using XRF screening has now been completed and, as a result, further permethrin testing is not required and the £15 k budget from WRA reserves agreed by the Board can be used to laboratory test all 300 samples against the full metals suite. This is a major breakthrough and means that there will be the maximum evidence to support the project. The first phase of the wide-scale sampling/testing was starting that week with preparation of 40 samples taking place at Veolia's Chilton site. The construction/demolition industry also now have an initial 25 samples for laboratory testing.

The EA have been closely involved with progress to-date and are very supportive of the process. The aim is still to have the work completed before the RPS finishes on 30th September.

On Biomass Suppliers List/RHI Guidance, Tunde from BEIS was presenting later and Richard and Julia continue to represent the WRA on the BSL Advisory Panel Meetings.

Vicki reported that Dust was the next big thing to focus on. A benchmarking study will be sent out to members which will incorporate questions from both a health/safety and an environmental/nuisance perspective. The importance of member involvement was stressed.

Update on FPP and Alternative Measures from the Environment Agency

Peter Buckley from the EA gave an overview of the key alternative measures which should be considered by operators wishing to move away from the standard requirements of the FPP Guidance. (see slides attached) He talked about the WISH guidance and said it was useful additional information, but it was unlikely that the EA would ever support the separation distances advised in their documentation.

Update on Non-domestic RHI from BEIS

Tunde Ojetola from BEIS talked about the planned closure of the RHI and said that the WRA was involved in technology groups looking at the likely impact through its involvement in the BSL advisory panel. He also talked about the proposed extension of tariff guarantees (see attached slides).

Overview of the European Waste Wood Market

Lauma Kazusa from Suez Trading Europe talked about developments in the European waste wood Market. She said that waste wood usage was continuing to grow in Europe for both panel board and biomass and increasingly in Eastern Europe. She also talked about the differences between classification of waste wood in each European country (see attached slides). Andy asked whether there could be an agreement on this across Europe and she said that some collaboration may be possible.

Developments in the German Waste Wood Market

Simon Obert from BAV talked about the latest developments in the German waste wood market and explained the differences between the German and UK waste wood classifications. (See attached slides). He also talked about a specific situation in Germany relating to problems with bark beetle and the damage it was causing to forestry. There is currently oversupply of waste wood in the German market and they are looking at export routes into Scandinavia. There are also planned changes in terms of the Waste Wood Ordinance and a requirement to meet the five-stage waste hierarchy.

Date and Location of Future Meetings

Wednesday September 11th 2019 for Autumn Members' Meeting – Venue will be the Hilton Birmingham Metropole near the NEC and start time will be earlier to allow for attendance at RWM

Wednesday December 4th 2019 for Winter Members' Meeting – venue tbc but will be in the Midlands

Wednesday March 11th 2020 – venue tbc

Wednesday June 3rd 2020 – venue tbc

Close of Meeting

On behalf of the WRA Board, Andy Hill thanked all of our speakers and closed the meeting. He also thanked Enva Middlesbrough and Sembcorp for hosting the site tour taking place after lunch.