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**NOTES OF THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE WOOD RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION  
 THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE, THE HALLMARK EAST CLIFF HOTEL, BOURNEMOUTH**

<b>Board members present</b>	Andy Hill Clem Spencer Geoff Hadfield Mark Hayton Richard Coulson Paul Caldwell Julia Turner	SUEZ Wood Yew Waste Hadfield Wood Recyclers Egger/Timberpak RWE IQR WRA	Chairman Deputy Chairman     Executive Director
<b>Advisers to the WRA</b>	Vicki Hughes Gayle Whittaker	Technical WRA Communications	
<b>Presenters</b>	Richard Coulson Simon Obert Craig Bartlett	RWE BAV MDF Recovery	
<b>Apologies</b>	David Laing	DJ Laing	

And 66 members and guests representing 42 companies and organisations.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Andy Hill welcomed everyone particularly our new members and guests (see slides). He gave a special thanks to **Justin Dampney at Eco Sustainable Solutions** for hosting the site tour at the end of the meeting and gave a brief overview of recent developments at their Parley site. He also thanked the **Technical Committee (Geoff, Vicki and Richard)** and all those who had been involved in supporting them and Julia in the work on FPP and WCC. This included **Mark Hall and Bill Griffiths from Stobart Biomass, Charlie Trousdell from Countrystyle, Graham Hobson from Plevins, Ray Parmenter and Oliver Latter from Veolia, Chris Griffiths from FCC, Lucy Binnie working on behalf of Jenkinsons, Alistair Kerr from WPIF and Jennifer Watts from UROC.**

**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:

- New Business Formation - the new business had been formed and all WRA Board Directors had been appointed as guarantors. The new Bank Account was now set up so JT will be circulating the new account details shortly.
- A discussion on Chair/Deputy Chair roles resulted in it being agreed that the Deputy Chair should be a Chair in waiting role in the future. Clem Spencer will retain the role for the interim, but Julia Turner will talk to other Board Members about their interest in the future role.
- Concern about Trade Debtors - The number of trade debtors had increased to £18,000 and 9 of the membership debtors were older than 6 months. This is clearly not acceptable. It has been agreed that Clem Spencer will help Julia to chase late payment and a harder approach will be taken. Those who have not paid will no longer receive updates or be invited or allowed to attend meetings.
- Priority Areas for the next quarter:
  - FPP Waste Wood Template completion
  - Waste Wood Classification
  - Development of Code of Practice
  - Stakeholder engagement

## **WRA Accounts**

The draft statutory and management accounts for the Wood Recyclers Alliance Ltd for the extended period to the end of March 2017, which showed a reduced turnover and higher loss than expected due to the requirement to account for deferred income from membership and a number of other reasons highlighted in the attached presentation were accepted by the Board.

## **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 made a plea for those that haven't provided them already to send her waste wood statistics for 2016 so that she can produce an anonymised overview. Currently, she has only received 23 out of 53 returns.

Gayle Whittaker then updated Members on communications activity and gave a live demonstration of the new website launched that day – see attached slides.

Now that the website was live, there would be a renewed focus on media activity and on developing a communications plan to support the new business strategy.

## **Technical Update**

Vicki Hughes provided an update on behalf of the WRA Technical Committee on the latest developments on FPP and waste wood classification:

FPP – Vicki asked for feedback from members on FPP. It seems that there are still a lot of processors who have received approval. The first draft of the waste wood template has gone to the EA and CFOA for comment. Positive comments have already been received from the EA and they have asked if they can circulate to other trade associations to use in their template development. It was agreed that this was a good idea, but not until ours had been fully approved. We are still waiting for full feedback on the proposed model and testing and a summary of alternative measures that have been approved as part of successful FPP approvals. There is also further work being proposed by WISH to evaluate fire prevention

measures. This should feed further information into our template, which will be circulated to members once signed off.

Waste Wood Classification – Following concerns raised by the RHI about non-WID boilers receiving mixed waste fuel rather than grade A and the European Commission querying UK reporting of hazardous waste with one area of concern being waste wood (In Germany, 15% of waste wood is reported as hazardous while in the UK we report only 0.5%), the EA and NRW have asked the WRA to lead the wider waste wood industry in developing a practical way of classifying waste wood at the front end. The WRA have pulled together a subgroup, including processors, large waste management companies, local authority contacts – LARAC and NAWDO, skip operators, the panel board industry and the biomass energy sector. The group is a mixture of technical specialists and those with industry/commercial experience and local authority/civic amenity site knowledge. The regulators are keen for the WRA to lead the wider waste wood industry in the development of 3 new grades of waste wood – clean untreated, treated non-hazardous and treated hazardous. They are also keen for the WRA to develop a code of practice focused on waste wood processing and covering front-end waste wood classification based on the German BAV waste wood guide. They would like this in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

The WRA position on this is that:

- Small diminutive amounts of hazardous waste wood will always be present
- Wood treatments which produce a hazardous outcome are reducing
- Grade D – should be excluded & if found reported
- We continue to work with the regulators to reach a practical and risk based solution

Following a workshop with the EA on 27<sup>th</sup> April, the WRA were asked to get feedback from their Board and wider members on the possibility of changing operators permits so that they can continue to handle mixed waste wood loads which may have hazardous content in the interim. This would be an administrative process to change permits. **This possibility was discussed with the Board and Members and it was unanimously agreed that this would not be acceptable, particularly for end users/customers and from a site planning perspective.**

Vicki explained that the industry subgroup were holding a workshop in July to start the process of developing a code of practice and that this initial workshop would:

- Agree sub-types of wood
- Review existing evidence from manufacturers – both products and treatments
- Review German guidance and WM3 to agree what levels of chemicals are acceptable for which end products
- Agree testing /sampling to be undertaken

In the interim, some operators have agreed to start recording levels of hazardous waste wood rejected and found on site, so that we can start to get a picture of what the % should be.

Vicki also discussed the issue of RHI/BSL and explained that there seemed to be confusion on whether both A and B grade wood could be used in small scale non WID boilers. The main area of confusion seemed to be that EA permits clearly state only Grade A or virgin in non IED Chapter IV boilers, while Local Authority B permits for facilities burning less than 3T/hr indicate that grade B material can also be used.

Julia Turner and Richard Coulson are attending the next BSL Panel meeting to speak with key stakeholders of the RHI – Ofgem, WHA, BEIS - and to provide input into their guidance on waste wood. Once this guidance is approved, it will be circulated to members and will be used as the WRA policy relating to new member acceptance

### **Waste Wood to Energy – Market Overview**

Richard Coulson gave a presentation on the role of waste wood in UK energy generation. See attached slides. Some of the

### **Overview of the German Waste Wood Market**

Simon Obert, the Executive Director of BAV (Bundesverband der Altholzaufbereiter und -verwerter), the WRA German counterpart gave an overview of the German Wood Recycling sector, including key challenges and a look to the future. See attached slides.

### **Recycling of MDF**

Craig Bartlett, MD of MDF Recovery Ltd, presented an update on fibre recovery from MDF, including an update on the pilot plant activity and planned commercialisation. See attached slides.

### **Tour of Eco Sustainable Solutions, Parley**

### **Dates of future 2017 Meetings**

**Tuesday September 12th for Autumn Members' meeting – Hilton Metropole Hotel, NEC – Early start of 8.30 am to allow for attendance at RWM**  
**Wednesday December 6th for Winter Members Meeting – Mercure Burton Upon Trent Newton Park followed by site tour of Environmental Scientifics Group**

### **Actions:**

- **Recycling Members to send waste wood statistics for 2016 to Julia ASAP**
- **Members to review new website and to get login details for members' area**
- **Members to feed back on progress with FPP approvals**
- **Any Members who have sites suitable to host 2018 meetings, please contact Gayle (June 2018 site meeting already agreed with Blue Machinery in Scotland)**