

Julia Turner, Little Hill, Main Road, Inkberrow, Worcestershire, WR7 4HH  
07903 251287 [director@woodrecyclers.org](mailto:director@woodrecyclers.org) [www.woodrecyclers.org](http://www.woodrecyclers.org)

**NOTES OF THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE WOOD RECYCLERS' ASSOCIATION,  
WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, THE STIRLING COURT HOTEL**

<b>Board members present</b>	Andy Hill	Andy Hill Consultancy	Chair
	Paul Caldwell	IQR	
	Richard Coulson	RWE	Deputy Chair
	Geoff Hadfield	Hadfield Wood Recyclers	
	Mark Hayton	Timberpak/Egger	
	Jamie Plevin	R Plevin & Sons	
	Clem Spencer	Wood Yew Waste	
	Julia Turner	WRA	Executive Director
<b>Advisers to the WRA</b>	Gayle Whittaker	WRA Communications	
<b>Presenters</b>	Andrew Sullivan	SEPA	
	Dave Sanderson	EON	
	Alastair Kerr	WPIF	
	Simon Obert	BAV	

**And 66 members and guests representing 48 companies and organisations. (See attached attendee list)**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Andy Hill welcomed everyone, particularly our new members and guests (see slides). He thanked Blue Scotland for hosting the WRA Board Meeting the day before and for organising the tour which would take place after the Members' Meeting.

Andy then presented a Lifetime Presidency Award to David Laing to thank him for the contribution he had made to the WRA Board over the last 11 years.

### **Board Update**

Andy confirmed that the 2017 Statutory Accounts had been signed off by the Board and the Association was in a good financial position.

He also gave an overview of the Quarterly Financial Report and an update from the Board Meeting which had taken place the day before, giving a summary of the main things covered (see slides):

- The Board had agreed to a reciprocal partner arrangement with CIWM

- They had approved some initial spend from the WRA reserves to fund testing/sampling for HWRC waste wood
- Thank you to members for best ever response rate to 2017 waste wood statistics request
- WRA Members now represent 86% of the market by volume

## **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.

Julia reported that membership had increased with 2 new members since the last meeting, - Dow and Bruening Megawatt.

The focus for the next quarter will be on progressing work on FPP and Waste Wood Classification as well as responding on behalf of the WRA to the consultation on the Clean Air Strategy and representing the WRA at a range of high profile events

Gayle gave the communications update, giving an overview of media coverage since March and what the focus would be for the next quarter. She also reminded members of the free PR opportunities which were available.

## **Technical Update**

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

**WISH** – The phase 3 burn trials have been completed and they gave an improved understanding of fire fighting techniques as well as confirming that pre-crush wood behaves very differently to other materials and does not self-heat. A teleconference call had been held with both Chris Jones and Geoff Smallwood to discuss the FPP Template for Waste Wood and all agreed that until the EA have agreed their position on the WISH guidance, then the WRA guidance has to focus on the EA requirements.

**FPP** – Peter Buckley has been appointed as the EA's fire specialist and a meeting is planned in early July to progress the Waste Wood FPP Template. The EA has also said that they will give proper consideration to our plans to carry out additional testing on fraction size, pile size and storage durations.

**RHI/BSL** – Eligible heat use has been clarified. Scrutiny and coverage of this is increasing in the media and this has now been complicated by a Clean Air Strategy Consultation. The last BSL Advisory Panel meeting was held at Hadfield's Manchester site. This has helped to improve the understanding of waste wood.

**Waste wood Classification** – Further work has revealed key factors of Lifespan of the treatment, date when the wood product is treated and route by which material comes into a wood processor. The construction demolition route has the highest likelihood of having potentially hazardous waste wood and for the HWRC route, there is still a very small number of items where further work/sampling/testing is required. Initial Sampling/Testing Plans have been agreed for both routes with the EA and we are still aiming to complete the work by November 2018. The end game is to have two sets of closely aligned guidance – one for the waste wood industry to be produced by the WRA and one for the Demolition sector to be produced by NFDC.

**Hazardous Waste Reporting** – This has now been rolled out by members and initial results have shown very small amounts.

### **Scottish Regulatory Update**

Andrew Sullivan from SEPA thanked the WRA for inviting him to the meeting and said that he was looking forward to rekindling the SEPA relationship with the waste wood sector. He gave an update on the key regulatory Issues affecting the Scottish Waste Wood Sector.

**Waste Wood Classification** – SEPA is keen to support the work being done with the EA and is in contact with Howard Leberman. Andrew would like some of the testing/sampling work to take place in Scotland and involving Scottish WRA members.

**FPP** – SEPA have been watching the work of other regulators in this area with great interest. He said that they hadn't experienced the same scale of waste fires in Scotland so at present, they do not anticipate rolling out Fire Prevention Plans. They do however support the WISH work and they are working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, who are leading this work in Scotland.

**Fines** – Andrew explained that last winter the cost of straw went up in Scotland, so demand for fines for animal bedding increased. However, SEPA's position has always been to only support the use of Grade A waste wood into animal bedding. They are currently looking at how much mixed waste wood fine are going into bedding in Scotland and will be working with the NFU over the Summer to audit this and establish the risks. They will also engage with WRA members on this.

**Other** – SEPA have also been involved in Defra's Extended Producer Responsibility work and in the drafting of a Waste Incineration Briefing Note. There are big changes planned in Scotland in relation to permitting and SEPA are seeing this as an opportunity to integrate all permitting into a single framework. This was approved in Scottish Parliament last week. It won't change waste permits, but will affect exemptions, which in most cases will cease to exist. There is a big focus on stopping waste crime. SEPA will be consulting with WRA members to help with reforming exemptions. Julia agreed to send our response to the Defra Waste Crime consultation to Andrew.

**Questions** – A member asked how SEPA are going to support the ban on landfill of biodegradable waste from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Andrew said that C&D waste will sit outside of this, but they realise it will be challenging and SEPA are currently looking at guidance on this.

### **UK Biomass Market**

Dave Sanderson from EON gave an update on this from an operator perspective. He explained that the fuel supply model for EON was very different to other operators in the UK in that they use single long-term supply. He said that the virgin biomass forecast was relatively stable, but waste wood was a different picture (See slides). He also said that in terms of supply and demand, the UK would soon be in a position where everything available would be consumed and exports would stop. The graph Dave used showed a deficit in demand and a requirement for imports. One of our members asked whether this was likely to affect the price of waste wood. Dave replied that it may, but operators will also look at alternatives and at blending of other materials.

## **UK Panel Board Market**

Alastair Kerr from the Wood Panel Industry Federation gave an update on the other key offtaker for waste wood – Panel Board. He explained that the economic sentiment of the market was fairly positive across the UK and they were also seeing EU confidence from both an industrial and construction perspective. There is very little new capacity coming on stream in Western Europe, but more is being built in Eastern Europe.

The amount of recycled wood going into panel board has increased in 2017 which could reflect the economic update or supply issues in relation to virgin wood, so he is not sure of the long-term trend. There is definitely a risk to supply, even though forecasts are showing enough waste wood for both major offtakers, in practice things can be very different and can often vary by region.

Alastair talked about the impact of supply and demand coming closer together and the potential for increased imports. (See slides)

## **The German Waste Wood Market**

Simon Obert from the Bundesverband der Altholzaufbereiter und -verwerter e.V. (German Wood Recyclers' Association) gave an update on the market in Germany and informed members that a landfill ban for waste wood in Germany had led to an additional 1 million tonnes of waste wood being made available per annum. In 2016 waste wood arisings totalled 7.7 million tonnes and this grew to 8 million tonnes in 2017. 1.5-2 million tonnes goes to panel board and 6-6.5 million tonnes goes to power plants. By 2026 subsidies for power plants will go, but this will be staggered over the next 8 years. Germany has 3 new biomass plants planned.

The German Waste Wood Ordinance is being amended to reflect the waste hierarchy and panel board will be highlighted as the first use. There will also be the introduction of increased sampling/testing.

A member asked about the burning of hazardous waste wood in Germany and Simon explained that the large German biomass plants are all set up to burn hazardous waste wood.

Another Member asked those present whether we should be pushing for a landfill ban in the UK. This had previously been proposed by Defra, but then, the infrastructure had not been there. He asked for a show of hands of those in favour and the majority showed their support for lobbying on this subject.

## **Date and Location of Future Meetings**

- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September - Hilton Metropole near NEC to coincide with RWM**
- **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – venue near Coventry tbc**

## **Close of Meeting**

On behalf of the WRA Board, Andy Hill thanked all of our speakers and everyone for attending and wished everyone a good tour of Blue Scotland.