

# Packaging EPR Advisory Board

## Meeting summary

Virtual via Microsoft Teams or in-person at the MPCA St. Paul office | 4 hours

Friday, June 20, 2025 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm CT

Recording available at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/events-and-meetings/packaging-extended-producer-responsibility-advisory-board-meeting-2025-06-20>

## Attendance

### Board member attendance

Present (9 members required for quorum)			Absent
Sara Bixby	Gabbie Batzko-Conley	Kris Coperine	Townsend Brown
Megan Daum	Kate Davenport	Mike Griffin	
Sydney Harris	Miriam Holsinger (Vice Chair)	Bill Keegan	
Kirk Koudelka	Gregory Melkonian	Shoshana Micon	
Victoria Reinhardt (Chair)	Maggie Schuppert	Mac Sellars	
Jon Steiner	Steve Vrchota		
Steve joined at 10:00 am			

**Guest presenters:** Lyle Clarke, CAA; Peter Hargreave, CAA; Brian Martinson, Association of MN Counties

**Agency staff:** Dave Benke, John Gilkeson, and Molly Flynn

**Participants:** Josh Allen, WM; Julie Ketchum, WM; Annaebelle Klien, American Coatings Association; Apurupa Gorthi, RRS; Dan Leif, The Recycling Partnership; Gretchen Spear, International Paper; Garth Hickie, Signalfire Group; Harrison Nix, Green Group Consulting; Tony Kwilas; Lucy Mullany, Eureka Recycling; Michelle Horan, Good to Go Cups; Peter Bierbaum, One World Resource; Brian Pontious, Ingevity; Sherrie MacWilliams, Amrize / Holcim Building Envelope; Taylor Loeber, General Mills; TS (unknown); Melissa Finnegan, Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy; Brian Olson; Amanda Erickson; Luke Norquist

## Meeting notes

### Call to order

Chair Victoria Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Introductions of attendees were made.

### Public comment

**Julie Ketchum representing WM** – Both the preliminary assessment and Resource Management Report look at material recovery facility processing capacity. WM made a significant investment to update its Twin Cities MRF and has increased capacity by 4-6,000 tons per month. These studies must consider potential capacity and not existing capacity at facilities.

## Agency updates

*Presented by Mallory Anderson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff*

Mallory provided an update on agency activities including the contract for assessments, which is moving to contracting soon, service provider registration, and efforts to sync outreach with other efforts, including the Resource Management Report. Fall 2025 meetings will be set up for the advisory board.

## CAA updates

*Presented by Lyle Clarke and Peter Hargreave, Circular Action Alliance*

Working on signing on MN companies as members. Have 1,300 registrants so far, deadline of July 1 for registration will likely increase this.

## Review Preliminary Assessment and Needs Assessment scopes

*Presented by Mallory Anderson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff*

Mallory provided an overview of what will be completed in the Preliminary Assessment and further discussed timeline, how to handle overlap between the Preliminary Assessment and the Resource Management Report. There was also discussion of how the Waste Characterization Study will inform the needs assessment and the status of that work.

## MN - Waste Management Act (WMA) overview, as it relates to the Packaging Act

*Presented by Kirk Koudelka, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and non-voting board member*

Kirk provided an overview of the WMA highlighting the different policy requirements for the metropolitan area and greater Minnesota. The WMA establishes a waste management hierarchy, sets goals, and sets requirements for counties and others to meet. In addition, there is funding for solid waste management through the solid waste management tax in Minnesota, some of these revenues go to counties through SCORE grants to fund activities (\$18.45M each year plus 3% of revenue).

## Overview of county role in solid waste management

*Presented by Brian Martinson, Association of MN Counties & Solid Waste Administrators Association*

Brian provided an overview of state law that establishes county responsibilities in solid waste management including Chapters 400 and 473, the WMA, and Rules 9125. Counties are mandated to provide access to waste services. Counties build programs, partnerships, and their own facilities. Each county has a plan that outlines the strategy to meet requirements of the waste management act and county duties around solid waste and must fund and resource these programs.

## Overview and contrast of five laws and status of program implementation in five states

*Presented by Kate Davenport, The Recycling Partnership & board member*

There is a lot of activity around packaging EPR across the country. One in five Americans live in a state that has passed packaging EPR. Washington and Maryland passed laws these years. Massachusetts and Hawaii are doing needs assessment studies. Reference the comparison chart.

## True cost of recycling

*Presented by Miriam Holsinger, Eureka and board member*

Eureka is a non-profit, mission-based recycler. Recycling is an essential service and provides material to manufacturing – it's a key service. Getting the price right is key to sustaining our infrastructure, workforce, and building public trust. Recycling infrastructure isn't cheap and is getting stretched as more materials are introduced on the market and MRFs are forced to adapt their systems. Effective and smart implementation of this law including the foundational aspect of the Needs Assessment is key.

Chair Victoria Reinhardt declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

**Notes compiled by:** Mallory Anderson

[Minnesota's Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board](#)