

MAB Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2012

Approved as corrected at the March 15, 2012 meeting

DPW Meeting Room

Northampton, MA

Present: Jan Ameen, Karen Bouquillon, Jamie Cahillane, Amy Donovan, Justine Fallon, Juliette Haas, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Barry Searle, and Veronique Blanchard Smith.

Agenda: Barry called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the December 15, 2011 meeting were approved as corrected. (Mike/Jamie)
- B. Treasurer's Report: Jan passed out a treasurer's report for review. She raised a question about our minimum payment to the Hampshire Council of Governments (COG) which resulted in a motion (Juliette/Karen) allowing the MAB to pay the COG a minimum of \$100/quarter for the accounting work they do for the MAB. The motion passed. The issue of "who represents who" was raised at this time and ALL agreed that we must review that at our next meeting.
- C. MRF Operations and Markets Update: Justine reported.
 - 1. The revenue checks for the first half of the year have been sent. Justine passed out the check/tonnage sheet. She reported that in 2011 a total of \$1.4 million was paid out for about 31,000 tons delivered to the MRF.
 - 2. Justine reported that in January the MRF took in 2500 tons, which was very good considering we do not currently have Chicopee or Springfield. Revenue share for January was \$30.46, down from last year.
 - 3. Justine reported that the MRF viewing area will be painted and/or washed. And that DEP would be funding that project. The issue was raised if this would be a good time to build a short stepping "platform" to help the shorter/younger students view the

MRF operation on a tour. There was a general discussion about what and how to make this happen. There was a motion (Jan, Veronique) for the MAB to fund the platform with a design pre-approved by Justine and a cost not to exceed \$500. The motion passed.

4. Justine reported that there were no operational issues. She also reported that Waste Management awarded the Springfield MRF its TopShop award. This is a national award that is given annually to one facility for excellence in plant operations.
5. While the solar panels are not yet operational—there is some positive movement in that direction.
6. The rigid plastics being collected in Northampton and South Hadley that are being delivered to the MRF are of good quality.

D. MRF Single Stream (SS) Recycling Contract update. Justine reported that Waste management has signed that contract and it is in DEP's hands for final signature. Tremont Street/Automated is up and running. The MAB asked Justine to arrange a tour for the board at a future meeting. There was a general discussion about how to present the new contract amendments to the communities. A joint mailing which would include a letter from Eric as well as one from DEP announcing the single stream option and the contract extension was discussed. There was a consensus to try to make the two-letter mailing happen, if timing worked.

E. Chicopee/Springfield MRF public education assessment: The Board reviewed prior discussion information on this subject. All agreed that once these two communities sign the MRF contract extension and begin to deliver their recyclables to the MRF, that they should be assessed the public education fee. More information was needed in order for the board to make a final determination about when and how to make this assessment happen. The discussion will be continued at our next meeting.

F. MRF website changes update: Jan, Veronique, Karen and Justine have met and Jan reported the following suggested changes/improvements to the website: (last updated in 2006)

1. Make it multi lingual with at least a Spanish version.
2. Add a click for the MRF video.
3. Make it accessible for the blind.

4. Change the editing software to make it more user friendly.
5. Add a “what’s new” section with a link to the newsletter. Meeting announcements as well as any special events could also be listed here.
6. Add a link to “other recyclable things”. This might include the “What to do With” lists.
7. Have a map with each member town and their information.

The board was very pleased with the progress being made on this project.

G. Blue Box News Update: Arlene encouraged folks to be thinking about articles for the May/June edition.

H. RRR review:

1. We talked about how to present the Single Stream and new contract amendment issues in the RRR. All agreed the topic would be pretty dry and should not be a main article.
2. The Republican version will be published on April 17th and the Hampshire County version might focus on Zero Waste.
3. There was a discussion about a MAB/MRF advertisement in both papers. A motion was made (Jamie/Jan) to authorize an ad in each one but the total expenditure should not exceed \$700. The motion passed.
4. Jamie and Juliette reported on their efforts to interest a newspaper in Berkshire County in participating in the RRR project. The interest was not there at this time.

I. Open Meeting law discussion: Everyone received a copy of the Open Meeting Law procedures. The last page requires a signature. Everyone present signed a page, signifying that they had read the Open Meeting Law information.

J. Other: Jamie announced the Compost workshop being lead by CET on February 25th. Jan mentioned the regional blue bin purchase.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM.

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller