

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Karen Bouquillon, Jamie Cahillane, Amy Donovan, Justine Fallon, Juliette Haas, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Veronique Blanchard Smith, Greg Superneau, and Eric Weiss.

Guest: Mike Moores: Springfield MRF Plant Manager

Agenda:

Eric called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the October 18, 2012 meeting were approved as presented. (Jan/Veronique)
- B. Treasurer's Report: Jan passed out a treasurer's report for review. She reported that our anticipated revenue was down about \$10,000 because the cities of Springfield and Chicopee had not paid their education fee. She also reported that the MAB had received a check for \$5,000 from Waste Management toward the mini grant project. All acknowledged the generous gift.

Justine added information about the education fund payments. She explained that both Springfield and Chicopee have some dual stream money in the account. Waste Management will release that money as payment toward the education fund amount owed. She informed the board that Chicopee owes \$2,750 and Springfield owes \$7,653. Justine said that she will issue an invoice to Chicopee and work with Springfield to collect the amount as MRF revenue funds become available.

- C. MRF Operations and Markets Update: Mike reported.
 - 1. Mike reported that operationally things are good at the MRF.
 - 2. The China market is not doing well and they are getting tougher on quality. Paper, plastic and colored plastic are all down. He is trying to improve quality.
 - 3. Paper market is down and bottles and cans are flat or down. This seems to be the trend right now. Mike said that the projections are that the market will stay flat all year.
 - 4. Mike reported that the bottles and cans stream from automated are now being sent to Birnie Ave for sorting.
 - 5. The normal weather related issues do exist but are being handled.
 - 6. There was a discussion about bulky rigid plastics and expanding that collection. Mike responded that the market for that material is not good at this time. Karen asked about "non bottle rigid plastics" and how can we move forward getting more info on the potential for collecting that material. Justine suggested that Mike, Karen and Justine meet to discuss this in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the Board for their next meeting.
 - 7. Justine reported on the 2012 tonnage numbers. She said that 41,000 tons had been recycled in 2012.
- D. MAB Mini Grant Update: Arlene reported that all but 3 towns had returned their signed grant agreements and checks to towns had been distributed. Those 3 towns will receive their check once the grant paperwork is completed.
- E. MAB Newsletter: Jan and Arlene reported that articles are being received and it is hoped that the newsletter will be mailed by the end of January.
- F. RRR Planning: Arlene reported that she had been in contact with the Republican and they are committed to working with us again this year on the RRR. There was a general discussion about doing an RRR in Berkshire County. It was pointed out by the Berkshire County representatives that there was not enough uniformity among the towns in Berkshire County to make producing an RRR practical.
There was a discussion about possible themes for the 2013 RRR. Anaerobic digestion, organics, casinos, wastes bans all were mentioned.

- G. MAB Efforts Update:
 - 1. There was a discussion about MRF revenue, spending and potential projects. This will be continued.
 - 2. There was a discussion about updating the MRF brochure. Should we do it? When should we do it and what would it cost? Justine volunteered to look into this and report back at our next meeting.

3. The subject of how we could do a better job with outreach was raised. Veronique, Karen, Jamie and Justine volunteered to look at new kinds of outreach and report back to the MAB.

4. America Recycles Day Event Discussion. All agreed our 2012 event was great. We discussed starting a list of potential speakers now for the November 2013 event. We also discussed possibly changing the event location.

H. Other: Amy offered some information about her recent visit to the compost facility in Halifax. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2013.

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller