

MAB Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2014
DPW Meeting Room
Northampton, MA

Approved as corrected at the April 17, 2014 meeting

Present: John Alphin, Jamie Cahillane, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Justine Fallon, Janine Greaves, Juliette Haas, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Barry Searle, Veronique Blanchard Smith, Greg Superneau and Eric Weiss.

Guest: Mike Moores, Springfield MRF Operations Manager

Agenda:

Eric called the meeting to order at 11:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the January 16, 2014 meeting were approved (Mike/Jamie) as presented.
- B. Treasurer's Report: Jan was not present at the meeting but Jan had distributed an updated Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or questions associated with the report. Justine did add that both Springfield and Chicopee have paid their public education fees so all towns are currently up to date with payments.
- C. MRF Operations: Mike Moores reported.
 1. Mike reported that both the extreme weather (lots of snow and cold) as well as the road construction in front of the MRF have been somewhat problematic. The good news is that both should soon be over.
 2. When asked to define what the "Springfield MRF" includes, Mike responded that both the Birnie Avenue facility and Automated are included in that phrase.
 3. Justine was asked how the solar panels at Birnie Avenue are working. They are working. However in February 2014, there was no electricity produced because they were snow covered. On a good day, the electricity from them provides 50% of that needed to operate the MRF. In winter it produces about 10% of the electricity needed.
 4. Justine gave a MRF market update. She said that for the month of February, the revenue share was \$23.09 for dual stream and zero for single stream. Tonnage was 1700 tons for dual stream and 1000 tons for single stream. She also reported that the price of OCC increased by \$15 in February.
 5. Justine discussed the ONP index. She provided a handout and explained that the ONP # 6 index is gone. A formula has been created to calculate/translate the index to reflect an ONP equivalent to be used now for our payments. In 2015 when the MRF contract extension goes into effect, we will be using the ONP 8 as the index to determine revenue shares. The index calculation and the conversion are complicated.
- D. 2015 MRF Contract: Justine shared information with the Board about her discussions with Waste Management regarding the "conditions" in the 2015 MRF contract. She emphasized to Waste Management that there is growing competition from other vendors for the recyclable materials in western MA. They (Waste) concluded that their proposed terms were competitive and the best they could offer. No changes will be made at this time. Justine explained that the current contract expires on June 30, 2015. Municipalities must sign the contract extension by that date if they wish to continue bringing materials to the MRF. However—the MRF will allow towns until December 31, 2015 as the drop-dead date to join in this contract extension. There will not be an opportunity to join after that date. The MAB discussed a draft letter to go to member towns and a timeline. It was agreed that the letter should be sent no sooner than June 2014.
- E. Commodity Letter to Waste Management: Michael Pattavina presented a draft letter for the Board's consideration regarding increasing the mix of commodities accepted at the MRF. The letter should be

edited and sent by Eric to Waste ASAP. A motion was made (Veronique/Jamie) to have Eric send the letter once the edits are complete.

- F. Blue Box News: The last newsletter (electronic only) was sent in January 2014. Justine reported that 188 received the letter and 81 opened it. Tracy suggested that the newsletter committee consider using a different “subject line” in order to peak interest in readers to open it.
- G. MAB FY 2014 Outreach Committee: Justine reported that the education committee has been hard at work. They have developed a menu of educational materials that have been updated and will be available thru the MAB to each MRF municipality. The items include an updated MRF brochure, 2x3 posters of the brochure, an updated magnet of the brochure, an on-line flyer, room specific flyers and event bins. These might be ready by the end of April 2014. There was a general discussion about this project. The Board was very please with the work being done by the subcommittee and will decide at a future meeting issues related to allocating these funds to member towns.
- H. Other: Justine relayed an issue raised by a resident about the MAB. It was agreed that an e-mail should be sent to all MRF towns reiterating the list of who represents whom on the Board. Justine will do that.
- I. RRR: The North and South RRR committees reported on the status of the 2014 editions of the Earth Day RRR. The south text is complete and the north text will be submitted on 4/1/14. Both verisons will be on the newsstand the week of April 14th. Amy reported that she has been doing a lot of work on soliciting ads for the RRR north.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33AM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2014.

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller