

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, and Greg Superneau.

Guests: Mike Moores (MRF Supervisor) and Susan Waite (Northampton Recycling Coordinator)

Agenda:

Greg called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the December 18, 2014 meeting were approved (Jan/Amy) as presented.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. MRF Operations: Mike Moores presented.
  1. Mike reported that operations are a bit slower in the winter and that it is cold in the plant. We are starting to see plastics prices drop (color, PET and clear) due to the lower oil prices. That has impacted the index. In January the revenue share was down to \$21.80. Fiber pricing has not moved. Mike said that the current dual stream revenue is based on a price mix—not just fiber.
  2. A motion was made (Arlene/Jan) to appoint Susan Waite to the MAB as a Hampshire County representative to fill a vacancy. The motion passed unanimously.
  3. Newark Group paper contract: Mike reported on the status of the Newark Group paper contract with the MRF. It will end on July 1, 2015 and Waste Management is currently looking at other cost effective options for the paper. One option they are considering is to bring the dual stream fiber to Tremont Street and send all the single stream material to Birnie Avenue. There was a general discussion. Several MAB member registered concerns with that option, stating, among other things, negative effects on their existing hauling contracts.  
A motion was made (Arlene/Tracy) to have the MAB draft a letter to WM and DEP, registering our concerns about the proposal and the negative impact on several hauling contracts and asking to be kept in the loop as these discussions continue. The motion passed unanimously.  
Other MRF related issues included:
    - a. Arlene reported that she has tried to get a 6 month tonnage and revenue report but was told it was not yet available.
    - b. Arlene reported that there is now a hiring freeze at DEP so filling Justine's position is on hold.
    - c. Arlene reported that 19 communities have signed the new MRF contract. Steve Ellis will resend a letter reminder to all towns that have not signed in the near future as well as to towns that are not currently MRF members.
    - d. All agreed that the MRF tour arrangement we have with Nancy Bobskill should continue.
- D. Treasurer's Report: Jan passed out a Treasurer's report for review and pointed out a few hi-lites which included:
  1. The MassDEP check for \$1400 to the MAB public education project has arrived.
  2. Under Special projects, Jan pointed out that about \$1700 is still outstanding but is dedicated to ACE presentations. About \$14,500 remains in that line item. In addition, the City of Springfield's public education dollars are not yet reflected in the budget total. They will arrive shortly.

- E. MAB Organizational Issues: There was a discussion about who should represent whom. A motion was made (Jan/John) to add Westfield to Tracy and give the 3 Hamptons and Hatfield to Susan. The motion passed.
- F. MAB Outreach Committee: Amy and Tracy reported on this project. The project is complete with the exception of a few invoices to follow as mentioned above.
- G. Project ideas: There was a general discussion about possible uses for the money remaining from the public education project (about \$14,500). The discussion focused on outreach and education to haulers. Arlene agreed to send a hauler list around to all. Ideas included sending all haulers one of our new education pieces such as the post card or tri-fold, sending a survey about their outreach needs or creating a bill-insert sized information piece for private subscription haulers to use for their customers. No decision was made.
- H. MAB Web site Update: A motion was made (Jan/John) to authorize Amy (representing the Board) to hire Louis Bordeaux as our new web master at \$40/hour. The motion passed. Amy agreed to be the contact with the web master. She provided Greg with a contract for his signature, allowing us to hire Louis.
- I. Newsletter update: Arlene reported that the plan is to prepare the next MAB newsletter for distribution in February 2015. There was a discussion about articles. The newsletter team of Jan, Arlene, Tracy and Veronique will try to get this completed by mid-February.
- J. RRR: There was support for doing a 2015 RRR. Both the Springfield Republican and Gazette are interested in working with us again. Volunteers for the Gazette included Amy and Susan. The Republican volunteers included Mike, Tracy, Arlene and John.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2015 at 10AM in Northampton.**

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller