

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Veronique Blanchard, Jamie Cahillane, Kathleen Casey, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, and Susan Waite.

Guests: Mike Moores (MRF Supervisor) and Chris Lucarella (Waste Management)

Agenda:

Jamie Cahillane (Vice Chairman), called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the January 15, 2015 meeting were approved (Jan/Amy) as corrected.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. Treasurer's Report: Jan passed out a Treasurer's report for review and pointed out a few hi-lites which included:
 1. She noted the payment made to the tour-guide, Nancy Bobskill for her services.
 2. Jan also noted that the City of Springfield had sent a check for \$7,000 to cover its public education fee assessment.
 3. Everything else is OK with our budget.
- D. MRF Operations: Mike Moores presented.
 1. Mike said that he did not have much to report. The markets are on a downward trend. January revenue was at \$21.80 and February was at \$19.60. Paper, tin, steel and plastics have all either leveled or gone down. It is all related in one-way or another to the oil/natural gas market.
 2. Mike reported that operations are a bit slower in the winter. However, in spite of all of the snow, they have only had to close the plant one day due to storms. It is interesting that when they lose a day like that, they do not seem to make up the tonnage lost. The real cold weather has been an issue.
 3. Newark Group paper contract: Chris reiterated the issues that have surfaced because of the pending expiration of the Newark group contract. We have until July first to make adjustments. WM is definitely looking at local markets. There was a general discussion about the community loads, how they might be impacted and what WM could do to minimize any inconvenience. Chris did say that any contract community that delivers a mixed truck load (paper one side and B+C on the other) would still be able to bring both to the Birnie Ave site. Tandem load roll-offs would also be accommodated at Birnie Avenue. WM is working on problem solving to see what they can work out. MAB members were asked to check with the communities they represent to see how they might each be impacted. This issue will be discussed again at our March meeting.
 4. MRF Tours: A memo from WM was received by Arlene, asking that MRF tours be restricted to April 1st to November 1st each year going forward, "in the interest of safety." There was a general discussion about this request. MAB members asked if there had been any safety problems. What were the concerns? They also expressed dis-satisfaction with the request because it would compress the months when tours could be scheduled, making it more challenging to offer tours. The MAB restated its support for the tours and the benefit of them to the educational goals of the MAB. This issue will be discussed again at the March meeting.
- E. RRR: The "north" and "south" RRR insert committees gave updates. The "north" (Gazette) reported that their guide will be included in the Gazette, Greenfield Recorder and Amherst Bulletin on April 21, 2015. The "south" (the Republican) insert will appear in the April 22 edition of the Republican. There was a discussion about how we could maximize this opportunity –what message could be emphasized? A motion was made (Jan/Veronique) to authorize each of the two RRR committees to take out a half page ad in the papers, not to exceed \$2500 total. We want to use the space to send a message. The motion passed.

- F. 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 distributed a list from the MRF of haulers that have been authorized to bring materials for contract communities to the MRF. Veronique offered to call the haulers and get a contact person's information to help expedite the hauler education process. Because so many of our members are involved with the RRR project right now, it was agreed we would hold off on the hauler education project a few months until the RRR work is complete.
- G. MAB Web site Update: Amy reported that our new web master has been doing some update work. It is a work in progress.
- H. Who Represents Who: There was a discussion about our representation list. Now that Susan Waite is a MAB member, this might be an opportunity to re-assign some towns. A motion was made (Arlene/Kathleen) to move Belchertown to Veronique's list from Kathleen's list. The motion passed.
- I. Newsletter update: Arlene reported that the February newsletter is almost ready to be distributed.
- J. Other:
 - 1. Arlene mentioned the upcoming western MA MRC meeting and encouraged all to attend.
 - 2. Amy mentioned the availability of slim-jim containers at U. Mass Amherst that are being recycled because of the switch to single stream recycling. Folks can have them for free but they need to be washed. Amy provided the contact information for this activity.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36.

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

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller