

DPW Meeting Room
Northampton, MA

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

Guest: Steve Ellis, MassDEP

Agenda:

Greg Superneau, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting were approved (Jamie/Susan) as presented.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. MRF Related Issues: Steve Ellis reported.
 1. Steve reported that MassDEP anticipated being able to “back fill” a few positions. However, the “early retirement” offering outcome may not have created enough of a financial cushion in order to justify any or many back filling. At this time he had no information about if or when Justine’s position might be filled. Everyone agreed the position is very important to both the municipalities and DEP in helping to continue the efficient and smooth operation at the Springfield MRF.
 2. Steve reported on the status of the new MRF contract renewals. All towns that were MRF members in the past with the exception of New Marlboro (which left the MRF a few months ago), Amherst and Holyoke, have signed the new contract. Amherst and Holyoke have not given final notice of their plans. Steve was pleased with the response to the new contract.
 3. Kathleen asked for clarification about the recyclability of clear plastic cups and containers. Arlene offered to check with Mike at the MRF.
 4. Steve informed the Board about audits conducted by Waste Management (WM) over the course of the past year, on materials being delivered to Automated. Residue levels, they report, have been in excess of that allowed (10%) in the contract. Each municipality involved in the audit has been notified. MassDEP, Waste Management and the municipalities are working together on contamination reduction strategies as well as clearer audit guidelines and reporting. Improvements have already been noted in the City of Springfield’s recycling loads.
 5. Some changes are being made to the sorting mechanisms at both Automated and Birnie Avenue. The paper sorting equipment from Automated is being moved to Birnie Avenue to allow paper sorting and baling to occur at that site. Going forward, Automated will operate more like a transfer station for single stream (SS) recyclables. Delivered single stream recyclables will be collected at Automated and transported to another more efficient SS sorting facility operated by WM, such as the one in Billerica.
 6. Steve thanked the members of the Board for their assistance spreading the word to their communities about the importance of the timely signing of the new MRF contract.
- D. Elections: Greg announced that the Board should hold its annual elections. A motion was made (Arlene/Veronique) to nominate Greg (Chairman), Jamie (Vice Chairman) and Jan (Treasurer). The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Treasurer’s Report: Jan passed out a Treasurer’s report for review. She pointed out that at this point it appears as though we would be closing out the fiscal year with about a \$67,000 carry-over. She presented a proposed budget for FY 2016. There was a general discussion about the proposed budget. A motion was made (Arlene/Amy) to approve the proposed budget as revised. The motion passed. (See approved budget attached)
- F. Six month MAB meeting schedule: The Board discussed the meeting schedule for the next 6 months. It was agreed to change the monthly meeting day to the 4th Thursday of the month to accommodate Steve, since he had a regular conflict with our current meeting date. We agreed to meet 8/27, 9/24, 10/22 and 12/17. Meetings will be cancelled if it is determined by the chair that there is not sufficient need to meet.
- G. Annual November America Recycles Day event. All agreed that we should once again hold an annual event in November to celebrate America Recycles Day and recognize achievements of the western MA recycling community. The preferred dates will be November 18 or 19. Arlene will secure the event site.

- H. Education and Outreach committee report. Veronique reported that she has been working on the hauler contact list for the hauler education and outreach project. All agreed to continue the discussion at the August meeting about FY 2016 MAB projects.
- I. MAB Membership discussion: Greg reviewed MAB membership, saying that there are 2 vacancies on the Board. Jan reviewed the MAB contract section applying to appointments. It is clear that the Board is the appointing authority. All members agreed to give this issue some thought with the goal of finding some willing and capable folks to serve by the time of our August meeting.
- J. FY 2016 MAB project ideas: The board brainstormed ideas related to possible projects for FY 2016. The list includes:
 - 1. School recycling education. Possibly “sub” out this work, using some of our public education dollars.
 - 2. Repeat offering the public educational materials we developed and offered in FY 2015.
 - 3. The hauler project mentioned earlier.
 - 4. Develop guidelines to help MRF towns reduce contamination of recyclables.
 - 5. Develop a “widget” to direct folks to the MAB website.
 - 6. Develop and make available school recycling education materials.
 - 7. Develop an app platform as an educational tool.
 - 8. Create and print a rigid plastic collection sign.
 - 9. Radio ads.
 - 10. Delaney House event.
 - 11. RRR
 - 12. Newsletter

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2015 at 10AM in Northampton. NOTE—there will not be a MAB meeting in July.

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller