

DPW Meeting Room  
Northampton, MA

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

Guest: Steve Ellis (MassDEP), Mike Moores (MRF Plant Manager) and Jacob Seldin (Springfield's DPW Project Director)

Agenda:

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

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the June 18, 2015 meeting were approved (Jamie/Susan) as presented.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. MRF Related Issues: Steve Ellis and Mike Moores reported.
  1. MRF Contracts: Steve reported that all of the most current MAB members signed their contract renewals on time with a few exceptions. The Town of Amherst decided to not continue with the MRF. He reported that we gained the towns of Mt. Washington and Orange. Three parties need to sign the contract (Waste Management (WM), DEP and the towns) There are a few contracts that still need signature from WM. Steve will mail back an original signed copy to each town as time permits.
  2. MRF Revenue checks: The January-June 6 month revenue checks need to be processed. A few adjustments need to be made and the checks will be sent. Steve will work on that task sometime in the next 2-4 weeks.
  3. Contaminated loads: Steve applauded the efforts of the City of Springfield to address contaminated load issues. Greg lead a huge effort to enforce recycling guidelines in the City's curbside program and the results have been fantastic.
  4. MRF Operations: Mike Moores reported on the MRF operations. Markets are not doing well at all. The price of oil continues to be down and he is seeing the worst markets since 2008. Fiber is around \$90 and #8 news around \$55.
  5. New fiber sort line at Birnie Ave.: On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the MRF contract with the Newark group expired. A new and improved fiber sort line has been installed at Birnie Avenue to sort dual stream paper. The sort separates the OCC from the news. It is a very clean sort. The buyers are happy with the product and this should improve revenue. Prices for rigid plastics are also down. However, the operation and collection of rigids will remain the same. Waste Management has invested money also to improve the sort on the co-mingled side of the MRF. That is also working well.
- D. Treasurer's Report: Jan passed out a Treasurer's report for review. She pointed out that our public education fee revenue will be slightly less in FY 2016 because of the loss of Amherst from the MRF, even though we gained both Orange and Mt. Washington. The MRF contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments needs to be renewed. Greg will sign the necessary documents.
- E. MAB Vacancy: Greg reported that Janine Greaves, representing Hampshire County, has resigned from the Board, leaving a vacancy. A motion was made (John/Susan) to appoint Mike Pattavina, who lives in Hampshire County, to fill that vacancy. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Education and Outreach committee report. This committee has 3 members. (Veronique, Amy and Tracy). Amy presented their report. The group is proposing that we expand slightly on the public education materials we offered to MRF member towns last year. The expansion would include adding a few more options to the list. The additional offerings include such things as a bulky rigids sign, school signage and a “most unwanted” sign. These options are being developed and the Board supported the concept. Towns would again work off of a menu to place an order and would be given “shopping” points based on population. It was agreed that this effort would be developed between now and the end of the year and be offered to towns after the New Year. All were very please with the effort. The committee also proposed that the MAB develop and manage a face book page. Susan, Veronique, Tracy and Amy agreed to administer the page.
- G. MAB Website: Amy reported on the website. She reminded Arlene to continue to send the approved minutes for posting.
- H. Other:
1. Arlene announced the Fall MRC meeting date, which is September 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will focus on food waste composting and will be held at Barstow’s Farm in Hadley.
  2. Newsletter: There was no update except that the goal is to send out an early Fall newsletter at the end of September.
  3. America Recycles Day event: Arlene reported that we have reserved our favorite room at the Delaney House for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for this year’s event. Mike and John offered their band for the music. Arlene, Jan, Veronique and Tracy will serve on the committee for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2015 at 10AM in Northampton.**

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller