

MAB Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2016  
DPW Meeting Room  
Northampton, MA

Approved as corrected at the May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 meeting

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Veronique Blanchard, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina and Susan Waite.

Guest: Christina Ferrera, Project Director, City of Springfield DPW  
Mike Moores, Springfield MRF Plant Manager

Agenda:

Tracy DeMaio, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:10AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the January 18, 2016 meeting were approved (Jan/Mike) as presented.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. Treasurer's Report: Jan reported that the DEP check to the MAB for their portion of the public education fee has been received.
- D. MRF Related Issues: Mike Moores reported and his comments included:
  1. Operations are running incredibly smooth. Because of the mild weather, there have been no weather related issues or down time at the MRF this winter.
  2. All commodities are moving to market, both dual and single stream.
  3. The single stream contamination issues have been improving. No fines or rejected loads have occurred in quite some time.
  4. Jan reported that Steve had informed her that all of the dual stream revenue checks have been sent to municipalities.
  5. The revised "milk carton recycling policy" was reviewed. Amy pointed out that some schools are composting empty milk cartons. There was a general discussion about draft #4 of the policy. With a few additional edits, a motion was made (Mike/Jan) to adopt the revised version. Mike informed the Board that about 32 bales of the gable top containers (20 T) are produced each month at the MRF—Birnie Avenue. There were some questions about how the gable tops are being handled at the single stream MRF. No bags are wanted at these MRFs. Mike Moores said that he thinks the milk cartons at the single stream MRFs are baled with the 3-7 plastic. Mike will speak to Chris Lucarelle to clarify what actually happens to this material.
  6. Arlene reported that MRF tour requests are increasing now that the weather is nicer. She expressed her appreciation for the Board's financial support of Nancy Bobskill as a tour guide.
- E. Education and Outreach Committee reports: Tracy and Amy reported on final versions of the new items to be included in the packet for this project and they included:
  1. Milk carton flyer: A motion was made (Veronique/Jan) to accept the final draft. The motion passed.
  2. Bulky Rigid Plastics sign: It was agreed to hold off making a final decision on this until several questions about the materials to be collected were clarified by the MRF operator.
  3. Bottle and can flyer: A motion was made (Mike/Veronique) to accept the flyer as presented—with one minor edit.
  4. Trash flyer: A motion was made (Susan/Jan) to accept the draft. The motion passed
  5. Most unwanted flyer: A motion was made (Veronique/Mike) to accept the flyer. The motion passed.
  6. The bill stuffer had been accepted at the last meeting.

Amy and Tracy will continue to work on the final details related to the public education project and hope to have it ready for distribution in the near future. All agreed that this is a very worthwhile project.

- F. 2016 RRR discussion: Arlene and Tracy reviewed issues related to the RRR south publication with the Republican. The paper has offered, as a way of apologizing for their less than satisfactory effort in 2015 on this project, to double our ad space at no additional cost. A motion was made (Mike/Kathleen) to spend up to \$2500 of MAB money total for both RRR north and south. The motion passed. There was a brief discussion about elements that might be included in the "full page" Republican RRR ad.

- G. Website update: Tracy reiterated the request to all MAB members to contact all towns that they represent and verify the MRF web information about each town. Send any corrections to Arlene ASAP so a complete list can be generated and given to the web master for updating the site. It would be important to have this task completed before the RRRs are distributed around Earth Day.
- H. America Recycles Day event 2016: Arlene reported that we have reserved the same room used in the past at the Delaney House and the date is November 17, 2016. There was a discussion about possible topics and speakers. All agreed these details should be finalized sooner than later.
- I. Blue Box News: There was a brief discussion about how to improve and better use this newsletter. This will be continued at our next meeting
- J. Other:
  - 1. Arlene reported on the status of the MassDEP grant cycle. She spoke of the webinars and minimum requirements towns have to meet to qualify.
  - 2. Christine shared information about a “recycling performance” article she had seen on MassLive regarding the City of Holyoke being the top performer in recycling efforts for the past 6 months. There was a general discussion about this, what appeared to be, incomplete information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 10AM in Northampton. Please let Arlene know if you are not planning on attending.**

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller

Attachments:

- 1. A copy of revised milk carton recycling policy
- 2. MAB list indicating which towns each Board member represents