

MAB Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2016
DPW Meeting Room
Northampton, MA

Accepted as amended at the August 25, 2016 meeting

Present: Jan Ameen, Veronique Blanchard, Jamie Cahillane, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, and Jacob Selden.

Guest: Juliette Haas, Egremont Sustainability Coordinator
Mike Moores, Springfield MRF Plant Manager

Agenda:

Tracy DeMaio, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the March 24, 2016 meeting were approved (Jan/Mike) as corrected.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. Treasurer's Report: Jan reported that only two expenditures have been recorded since the last meeting. One was for the graphics for the public education project and the other for Nancy Bobskill for MRF tours. We have \$94,000 in the bank but expect a good deal of that to be spent on the public education project in the next few months.

There was a discussion about the FY 2017 MAB budget. A motion was made (Mike/Jan) to adopt the current budget as is as our FY 2017 budget. There was a discussion and the motion passed.

- D. MRF Related Issues: Mike Moores reported and his comments included:
 - 1. Operations continue to run smoothly.
 - 2. Prices for the materials are slowly beginning to rise.
 - 3. Production is going well and the improvements in efficiencies that were made at Birnie Avenue are working.
 - 4. Waste Management, the MRF operator, is looking for more materials to process. The efficiencies made to the facility make it possible to process more material at the same cost.
 - 5. Single Stream material from the Automated facility is still being shipped to both of the Waste Management single stream MRFs located in Avon and Billerica.
 - 6. The bulky rigid markets are OK and they are not receiving much contamination in loads.
 - 7. Milk carton recycling is going well. Mike reported that they collect about 32 bales/month of milk cartons at Birnie Ave. he confirmed that the milk cartons being sent to Automated are being recycled properly.
 - 8. When asked what tip fee is charged for non contract loads, Mike said about \$40/T for containers and \$15/T for paper.
 - 9. Arlene reported on Steve's review of the 5-year MRF tonnage numbers. A few towns stood out as having program changes that impacted their tonnage. Steve has looked into these situations. The Board expressed an interest in reviewing long-term numbers as well if the information were to be made available.
- E. Education and Outreach Committee reports: Tracy reported on final versions of the new items to be included in the packet for this project. She said that, as far as the committee was concerned, everything is final and ready to go with the exception of the bulky rigid sign. A motion was made (Arlene/Mike) to take the approval of the bulky rigid sign off the table, include a tab for it in on the order form and proceed to move the package forward to the communities as soon as possible. After a brief discussion, the motion passed.

Tracy reported that the menu for the education materials was the same format as last year with 4 items being added. In addition, a few items are added to the MRF website as downloadable only. If all towns ordered the maximum allowed, it would cost us \$42,000.

A timeline for moving this project forward was discussed. It was agreed that communities would be offered the opportunity to order materials in June, orders would be processed and placed in July and materials distributed in August and/or September.

- F. 2016 RRR discussion: Copies of the RRR both from the Republican and the Hampshire Gazette were distributed to members. Both papers did a fabulous job this year with the publication and all members were pleased by the final product. All agreed that this is one of our very valuable services to the region.
- G. 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. Veronique, Arlene, Jan agreed to serve on the committee. Juliette and Susan were possible additions.
- H. 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.
- I. Grants: Arlene gave an update on the MassDEP grant process. Grants are due on June 15th.
- J. Other:
 - 1. The members agreed to meet in July and August on the 4th Thursday.
 - 2. There was a general discussion about the mission of the MAB. A lot of frustration was expressed about the workload being carried by a few. Members decided to hold a special meeting to brainstorm what our mission is-or what we think it is-- and to agree about how to carry out that mission.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 28 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 the approved FY 2017 budget

