

MAB Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2016  
DPW Meeting Room  
Northampton, MA

Accepted as presented at the October 27, 2016 meeting

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Veronique Blanchard, Jamie Cahillane, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Jacob Selden and Susan Waite

Guest: Brooke Nash and Greg Cooper, MassDEP  
Mike Moores, Springfield MRF Plant Manager  
Greg Superneau, Director of Finance for the Springfield DPW

Agenda:

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the May 19, 2016 meeting were approved (Mike/Jamie) as corrected.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. MRF Operations: Tracy DeMaio, Chairman, welcomed Brooke Nash and Greg Cooper to the meeting, expressed her appreciation to them for coming all the way out here and introduced the issue of the 2020 ending date of the current MRF operator's contract with Waste Management. She turned the meeting over to Greg who spoke at length about the Springfield MRF, the regional model and issues surrounding the future. He made many points and those included:
  1. It is hard/impossible to predict the future.
  2. The commodity market is volatile and it is hard to predict what type of service (single or dual stream) might be desirable in 4 years.
  3. It was clarified that the current contract cannot be "extended" but there was question whether it could be "re-negotiated".
  4. All agreed that the current regional model is fantastic and works very well. It brings in more tonnage and better pricing.
  5. The vendor chosen as the result of the new (2020) RFP to operate the Springfield MRF might have to invest 8-15 million dollars on equipment in order to open the doors.
  6. Greg said that MassDEP is committed to be a partner in the distribution and negotiation of a new MRF operator's contract. The members of the MAB offered to help in any way they could and showed their appreciation for DEP's commitment to the MRF.

Greg spoke further about some of the possible scenarios regarding a new MRF contract. For instance—maybe the successful bidder would own a suitable building and would not want to retrofit the Birnie Avenue structure. Those folks involved in drafting the new RFP would need to be creative and draft a document that would be flexible but at the same time serve the wishes of the towns, which are current signatures on the MRF contract.

Steve offered some information about the vacant position left by Justine. He did not think that position would be back filled. It was suggested that the new western MA MAC position, soon to be filled because of Arlene's retirement, could include some responsibilities and tasks related to the MRF.

Greg, Steve and Brooke asked the MAB to create a list of tasks that are not getting done in the absence of the "Justine position" being filled. What tasks did she perform?

A timeline was discussed for the new (2020) MRF contract related tasks. It was agreed that the new vendor/operator contract should be signed by July 2019. The municipalities need to sign by January 1, 2020 and the new contract would go into effect by July 1, 2020. Greg suggested that we might consider hiring an independent contractor to help draft the RFP. Once the RFP is ready for distribution (ideally around June 2018) it would take about 3 months for it to be circulated and another 3 months for response, review and negotiations. More or less time would be devoted to this stage—depending if the new vendor would be planning on using the current building. Brooke offered to serve as the point person for developing this timeline. Jan also offered to assist.

A few questions were floated: Should the MAB file to become a quasi political entity potentially positioning it to have more legal authority over the management of the MRF? Should the MAB and DEP spend some time in advance of creating the new RFP speaking to potential vendors to learn more about their vision for the future and what elements might be advantageous to include in the RFP?

- D. Treasurer's Report: Jan presented the Treasurers report. She requested and was given a motion (Mike/Veronique) to have the Chairmen sign the new contract for management of the MAB funds with the Hampshire County Council of Governments. The motion passed. Jan reviewed the newly adopted FY 2017 MAB budget. She pointed out that we have a large amount of dollars not spent that will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Greg Superneau asked if the single stream towns would be allowed to defer their education payment for few months to allow the incoming revenue to build so they do not need to cut a check for this amount. Jan explained that communities already have the ability to do that but that she, as the Treasurer, needs to be notified of the plan.

- E. Education and Outreach Committee reports: Tracy reported on the final details of the public education project. She said that all materials have arrived. She will notify each town about pick up locations, days and time. The Board thanked Amy and Tracy for all of their work on this project.

- F. America Recycles Day event 2016: Arlene reiterated that a majority of the Board had decided that we should take a break from the event this year. Therefore our reservation at the Delaney House has been cancelled with no penalty. Perhaps the event will be rejuvenated again in the near future.

G. Other:

1. Brooke announced the October 17-19 ReuseConex meeting to be held in Boston and encouraged everyone to attend. She also mentioned that RDP dollars could be used to pay for the convention registration.
2. Arlene agreed to serve as the point person for collecting the list of tasks performed by Justine. She will also secure a copy of that job description.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016 at 10AM in Northampton. Please let Tracy know if you are not planning on attending.**

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller