

MAB Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2016
DPW Meeting Room
Northampton, MA

Accepted as presented at the December 15, 2016 meeting

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

Guest: Mike Moores, Springfield MRF Plant Manager

Agenda:

Tracy DeMaio, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

- A. Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting were approved (Mike/Veronique) as presented.
- B. Public Comments: There were no public comments offered.
- C. Treasurer's Report: Jan reported that all MRF member communities have paid their public education fund obligation to the MAB. One exception is Springfield. The City has asked for a delay to allow recycling revenue to accumulate to be used for this payment. She also reported that the MAB's public education project cost about \$26,000 this year. Jan distributed a Treasurer's report and it reflected that we have quite a bit of money in our reserves.
- D. MRF Related Issues: Mike Moores reported and his comments included:
 1. There is not much new going on at the MRF. Operations are running smoothly.
 2. All commodities are moving but there has not been much change in the markets. Fiber currently is stronger than plastics. We are however in the revenue share mode, with dual stream towns receiving about \$14/ton.
 3. Mike reported that there are no contamination issues at Birnie Avenue. There is about a 2.5 % over-all residual at that facility. The single stream contamination issues have been improving. He did mention that "film" is the biggest contaminant. There was a general discussion about contamination.
 4. Mike reported that the system improvements, both to the paper and bottle sort, and have been paying off. Jan reported that Steve had informed her that all of the dual stream revenue checks for the past 6 months have been sent to municipalities.
- E. General Discussion about Justine's former position. Steve reiterated that it is not likely that the position will be filled now or in the future. A discussion followed about what aspects of Justine's position could be added to the new MAC position. MRF tours, MRF website updates, MAB special projects and general assistance to the MAB as needed were all mentioned. A motion was made (Mike/Susan) to ask DEP to include the above list of tasks into the job description for the new MAC. The motion passed.
- F. 2020 MRF Contract Discussion: There was a general discussion about what role the MAB could play to assist DEP with tasks related to the successful bidding and negotiations necessary to secure a new MRF contract for the Springfield MRF when this contract expires in 2020. A motion was made (Susan/Mike) for the MAB to form a contract sub-committee to work on a timeline for this task. The motion passed. Arlene, Cristina, Susan and Jan volunteered for the committee. They will report back to the MAB at the next meeting.
- G. DEP Updated: Arlene reported on several DEP related issues and they included:
 1. The Western MA Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC) job has been posted. It is hoped that a new MAC will be identified and begin to work around the first of the year.
 2. DEP has posted Round #2 of the TA grants. The deadline for these applications to be submitted via Re-Trac is in late November.
 3. DEP has made quite a few changes to the RDP program. Additional items will be offered toward points and the value of each point has increased. Arlene will send the details to all.

4. Arlene reminded all that signed contracts for RDP and small-scale money need to be returned to DEP ASAP.
5. The western MA December MRC meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 8th. Folks might be able to meet the new MAC at that time.
6. Arlene reminded all that a “contracts” workshop has been scheduled for November 29th. More details will follow.

H. Education and Outreach Committee reports: Several topics were discussed and they included:

1. MRF Website Management: Amy talked about the MRF website and what needs to be done on both a short term and long term basis to keep it current and useful. The current web master is doing a great job but basic elements of the site need to be upgraded. This is beyond the contract we have with the current web master. A motion was made (Arlene/Mike) to authorize Amy to work on a website upgrade proposal and come back to the Board for discussion and approval at the next meeting.
2. Public Education Project Materials. Tracy reported that all the public education materials have been delivered or picked up. The MAB spent about \$26,000 on the materials for this project.
3. Radio Advertisements: Susan reiterated some of the information she had shared at a previous MAB meeting about the benefit and costs associated with using radio as a vehicle to educate the public about recycling. There was a lot of discussion. All were interested in learning more and all agreed that our radio outreach should target the entire MRF region. Susan agreed to take our questions back to her radio contact person and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2016 at 10AM in Northampton. Please let Arlene know if you are not planning on attending.

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller