

MAB Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2016  
DPW Meeting Room  
Northampton, MA

Accepted as presented at the January 19, 2017 meeting

Present: John Alphin, Jan Ameen, Veronique Blanchard, Jamie Cahillane, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis, Cristina Ferrera, Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Jacob Seldin 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 October 27, 2016 meeting were approved (Mike/Jamie) 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. Jan distributed a Treasurer's report and it reflected that we have quite a bit of money in our reserves. Jan suggested that the Board should make an effort to find worthwhile ways to spend some of the money.
- D. MRF Related Issues: Mike Moores reported and his comments included:
  1. Operations are running smoothly. There are some issues with moving materials to market, especially the 1-7 plastic mix.
  2. Regarding commodities, the fiber market remains strong. Rigid plastics are moving (over seas markets) but are not getting much revenue. All other commodities are sent to domestic markets.
  3. Mike was asked to speak about any contamination issues. He noted that there is not a significant problem with contamination at either Birnie Avenue or Automated. There is some plastic in the paper mix and the workers are pulling off both plastic bags and 5-gallon plastic jugs at the front of the line. The 5-gallon jugs are added to the bulky rigid mix. Waste Management has seen quality improvements at their Bellerica and Avon single stream plants. Mike reported that there are no significant contamination issues at Birnie Avenue. Mike said there is about a 2.5 % over-all residual at that Birnie Avenue facility.
  4. There was a discussion about shredded paper. In general, Mike said it is hard to deal with shredded paper with the conveyor belt sorting system. If placed in brown paper leaf or grocery bags, it is acceptable.
  5. Mike was asked about other items that could be added to the mix. Metal and small plastic items were mentioned. An optical scanner could sort small plastic items. The bottom line is—what ever has a market can be added to the mix.
- E. DEP Update: Arlene reported on several DEP related issues and they included:
  1. Progress is being made toward hiring the new western MA MAC. Stay tuned.
  2. Arlene reported that she had circulated the MRF Holiday reminder flyer for folks to distribute to their towns. It is a helpful flyer about what can and cannot be recycled during the holidays.
  3. Arlene reminded all that a textile recycling webinar will be offered on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Participating in the webinar can count toward earning the one bonus textile point for RDP.
  4. Folks were reminded that RDP annual reports and the Recycling and Solid Waste Surveys would be live on Re-trac after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Both these reports are mandatory for any town that has received RDP and/or small-scale dollars. She will be working with all towns to help them meet the February deadline.
- F. 2020 MRF Contract Discussion: Susan reported for the MRF contract sub committee. The committee had met and shared with the Board their draft timeline for the MRF contract renewal process. The timeline was discussed. Steve mentioned that Brooke has also prepared a timeline but—none of the Board members were aware of that. Steve thought the contract renewal was a two-year process, beginning to end. Members of the committee felt a bit longer might be necessary because of the unique issues of having both dual and single stream towns and so many communities involved. Steve thought it would be very advantageous if we received 4

proposals. Committee members included Jan, Susan, Cristina and Arlene. It was also noted that it might cost \$30-\$40,000 for a consultant to assist with the RFP/contract renewal process. Steve said that DEDP has the money to fund this consultant. The next step is to share the draft timeline with Greg and Brooke and offer our assistance.

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

1. RRR 2017: There was a general discussion about the Earth Day RRR projects—north and south. Arlene, Tracy, Veronique, Susan, John and Amy all agreed to help. Michael will also help with the What-to-do-With. It was suggested that we encourage The Republican to do a feature article on the MRF. Deadline dates will be determined once both groups speak to the respective papers.

2. MRF Website Management: Amy circulated the draft proposal submitted by our current web-master, Louis Bordeaux. Jan offered comments on the draft, noting his proposal spoken more of redesign rather than on content management. A motion was made (Michael/Veronique) that pending another review of the existing draft proposal by the Board, that we authorize Amy to spend up to \$3,000 (no more then) on a content management project with Mr. Bordeaux. The motion passed.

3. Radio Advertisements: Susan presented an update on continued conversations with her contacts about radio ads. She presented some detail but no decisions were made. It was agreed that the next steps are for the committee to meet with Susan's radio contact. It was also noted that we would need a jingle for the ad. The committee includes Jamie, Jan, Veronique, Amy and Susan. Michael and John will serve as the musical consultants.

H. Other:

1. Jamie inquired if anyone had extra "bulky rigid plastic" posters. None are available. Towns should be able to use the artwork that was created to order some as needed.

2. Meeting dates for the first half of 2017 were set. They included January 19, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>. These will be adjusted as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at 10AM in Northampton. Please let Arlene know if you are not planning on attending.**

Notes taken by Arlene C. Miller