

MAB Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018
Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room

Members Present: Tracy DeMaio, Mike Moores, Arlene Miller, Veronique Blanchard, Steve Ellis, Susan Waite, Kathleen Casey, Amy Donovan

The meeting was called to order at 10:07.

Public Comment Period No members of the public were present.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes Arlene moved to accept the minutes as edited and Kathleen seconded the motion. Amy abstained, with the rest of the members approving.

Treasurers Report (Tracy reported for Jan) There is currently \$95,000 in the account. Incoming invoices include roughly \$9,000 for the radio ads, \$2,000+ for RRR ads and \$13,000 earmarked for Jack Golden as he gives his presentations. After these are paid, the balance will be down to around \$70-75,000. Public education fee discussion – Steve had previously suggested we consider not invoicing municipalities for the public education fee for a year, in order to bring down the large balance in the MAB account, and reduce administrative time connected with invoicing. In addition, because of the timing of the invoicing, single stream communities will not have accumulated a revenue balance out of which the education fee can be deducted, meaning they would have to pay an invoice rather than have their fee deducted from their balance. This idea will be put on the May agenda for discussion.

MRF / Automated (Mike)

a. Operations: everything is going well, especially as the weather has improved. Amy mentioned her ‘train the trainers’ tour of the MRF and reported back on how excellent the tour was because the line happened to be shut down and they got to see ‘behind the scenes’ as workers were cleaning bags, etc. from the conveyor belt. Mike mentioned improvements the MRF has made to keep materials from falling onto the floor. It was also mentioned that no new bulky rigid accounts will be accepted this year at the MRF, and therefore the MRF may not be listed as an outlet when applying for the State’s SMRP drop off equipment grant for bulky rigids. The 12 communities who are currently using the MRF for bulky rigids may continue. Kathleen said she is investigating Casella as an outlet, since she has towns who wish to apply for the grant. Steve mentioned that bulky rigids are not a part of the formal contract as an amendment, such as the milk cartons amendment. Susan asked if glass bottles larger than 2.5 gallons may be recycled at the MRF? She had an inquiry about 4-liter glass bottles, which had held a special clean water for chemo. Glass bottles that size are not best suited for the MRF line, and Mike mentioned that plastic contains larger than 2.5 gallons don’t work well in the sorting process as they don’t blow off the line.

b. Recycling Markets: ONP (56) is at \$35/ton, OCC is at \$85, which is a little drop, but plastic prices are coming up as fuel prices increase.

c. Contamination Levels/Procedures: The contamination rate is still at 3%, which is very low

DEP Updates (Steve)

a. Recycling Markets: Chris Lucarelle of Waste Management may come to speak with the MAB at one of the upcoming meetings.

b. MRF Contract: A contractor has been chosen but not yet formally announced. The scope was rewritten to be more defined and is already signed by both parties. The consultants will be given all the current contracts as well as the MAB’s questions, and from this they will develop a several page document which will outline the elements already decided upon

for the RFP. There will also be a list of questions developed for further deliberation along with possible scenarios of likely responses from bidders sent to the MAB to comment on, and then the consultant will come to the MAB to discuss this document, perhaps in June, with a potential for putting out the RFP in September.

The board then had a general discussion on the challenges and virtues of dual stream versus single stream, and the corresponding contamination issues versus financial issues.

Education & Outreach Committee Projects

a. Radio Ad update (Susan): Because the MAB has a large bank balance, there may be a potential for more sessions of radio ads. Susan would like to send out the ads as a PSA as well.

b. Reduce Reuse Recycle Guide (Arlene) (Susan/Amy): Links for both the RRRs and the newest radio ads are on the MRF website. Arlene suggested we could make use of the articles not used for the Republican RRR for the Western Mass monthly newsletter.

Amy mentioned that they added the word 'call' for those communities in the community listing which did not have permanent collections but do provide occasional ones. Véronique and Amy will review the community listing and bring suggested revisions to the board. Steve mentioned that for most of the inquiry calls he receives, if there is no option in their municipality he sends them to NEDT, or K & W, or Valley, and suggested those companies could advertise in the RRR to increase their presence.

MAC Update (Veronique)

The IQ Kit application deadline has been extended to May 15th, 2018 (from April 30th). There are two upcoming MRC meetings, one in June on the update to the State's Solid Waste Master Plan, and another planned for late September/early October on schools.

Other business

There was general consensus that the conference room at the Gazette works well for the MAB meetings. Susan mentioned that the Northampton DPW conference room may not be available in future for meetings, so the timing seems good to change the meeting venue.

The next meeting will be held at the Daily Hampshire Gazette offices on May 24th, 2018 from 10:00-11:30.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard

Clerk