

MAB Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2019
Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room
10:00am – 11:30am

Present: Tracy DeMaio, Cristina Ferrera, Jan Ameen, Arlene Miller, Véronique Blanchard, Susan Waite, Kathleen Casey, John Alphin, Steve Ellis, Amy Donovan, Mike Pattavina.

Guests: Mike Moores, Mary Stucklen, Juliette Haas

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes

Mike moved to accept the October 25, 2018 minutes as written, Jan seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. Mike then moved to accept the November 8, 2018 minutes as written and Arlene seconded. Tracy requested a word correction, and the vote to accept the minutes as amended was unanimous in favor with John and Susan abstaining.

MRF & Automated Operations / Market Update – Mike Moores reporting

ONP is at \$25, #11 is at \$75, nothing has changed much in last 9 months and the markets are very static. The plastics market is also static except for ‘natural’, which is the highest quality plastic (HDPE, i.e. milk jugs) which is up to \$.40/lb now. Materials from Automated are moving well at USA in Berlin. Jan asked about the wet paper issue and Mike says they are not screening as much on the wetness because it’s hard to judge how wet materials are. Kathleen asked about where single stream had gone before going to USA in Berlin. Single stream had been going to facilities in Avon and Billerica, MA and transportation costs were a big reason why the switch was made to Berlin, CT. Juliette asked about incidents of contamination and what the status is of rejecting loads. Mike said they haven’t rejected any since October and said there is not a huge problem at the Birnie Avenue facility. Arlene asked about current contamination percentages. Mike said they were getting up to 4% and are now back to 2.5% and that they are doing some audits at the facility. John wondered if USA had any contamination percentage numbers on single stream materials. Susan asked about sharing educational materials which Waste Management produces and working together with the haulers using those educational materials.

DEP / RFR Update - Steve Ellis reporting

Steve said the RFR was published on CommBUYS on the 18th of January. There is a pre-bid conference on Feb 7th, and bids are due May 9th. The RFR is composed of 4 documents totaling 90 pages. The language includes a request for a processing fee for dual stream, a processing fee for single stream, and revenues for each stream. There will still be the public/private partnership and three way contracts between the State, the municipalities and the vendor. Mike asked about the public education fee portion of the RFR, which is still a nickel per capita. In the materials accepted list, the RFR eliminates shredded paper and aerosols which the MRF currently accepts and added clear plastic cups and clear plastic egg cartons. Cartons will also stay on the list. Kathleen asked about the timeline for the rest of the process, which is: an award date in June, then negotiations with the selected vendor, followed by a signed contract by August. Municipalities will then have until Dec. 19th to sign on to the new contract.

Steve mentioned he has the municipal checks for the period January-July 2018. He emphasized that addressing contamination issues must continue to be a priority. Chris Lucarelle of Waste Management sent Steve the results of audits done with the five major single stream communities, and vast majority of audits were 7-10% for single stream, and 3-5% for dual stream.

Juliette asked about the threshold for contamination and residue. Steve said currently Waste Management can only dispose of 5% after processing but communities are limited to 10% incoming contamination. In the new contract the limit is 15% incoming contamination from communities.

Treasurers Report Jan reporting:

Jan said for this past six month period she had to invoice 15 towns for the public education fee and 7 have yet to pay. The MAB will be paying out about \$40,000 for the educational materials grants this fiscal year. Jan reminded members that the MAB has used the Hampshire COG for accounting services for decades. The COG is now going to a third party vendor in Maynard, MA for accounting services, and that vendor wants the MAB to open an account in Maynard. Jan talked to United Bank where the MAB keeps their funds, and they are willing to give us free checks. The MAB could also set up a money market account for the roughly \$40,000 which carries over annually. Mike moved to go with Jan's recommendation, removing the Hampshire COG as co-signer and adding Tracy instead. Arlene seconded. A question came up about the current contract, and Jan said we get an annual contract with Hampshire COG and pay about \$400. Jan can't find this year's contract and asked for a copy but hasn't heard back yet. The vote was unanimous in favor of Mike's motion.

Mike also moved that the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District get a stipend for doing this work and Arlene seconded the motion. Mike says the amount of time Jan puts in is significant, and Jan said she appreciates the thought but it wasn't necessary. John, Mike and Cristina voted in favor, Susan abstained, and the motion failed.

Public Education Material Update - Tracy reporting

Tracy said some vendors now require a half deposit up front and the orders are ready to go.

Arlene brought up the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle guide because it's the time of year to begin planning the April editions. Mike moved and Susan seconded to allow the MAB to spend up to \$6,000 for promotion and for extra copies of the RRR for all western MA counties. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Vice Chair Nomination

Jan nominated Arlene to be Vice Chair, John seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Berkshire County Representatives

Juliette Haas introduced herself to the board as there are a few MAB member who have joined in the three years since Juliette last served on the MAB. Juliette feels the timing is good for Egremont to be at the table because of the new contract process. Mary Stucklen then introduced herself. She has been a science teacher for 4 years, served on the conservation commission in Becket, lives in Hinsdale and works in Pittsfield. Jan moved that we appoint Juliette to be the representative from Egremont, Great Barrington, Sandisfield and Sheffield. Arlene seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. Jan then moved that we appoint Mary Stucklen to be the representative from Dalton & Pittsfield. Mike seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

MAC Update – none

Other business

Arlene made a motion that we allow for teleconferencing as a way to attend MAB meetings if circumstances require it, Mike seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Arlene brought up putting out a letter to municipalities to update them on the new MRF contract process. Jan mentioned that her legal counsel drafted a warrant article for this spring's town meetings which if passed authorizes Selectboards to sign with the approved vendor in December and that the final vote including budget amounts would then be done in April/May 2020 at annual town meetings. Véronique will put together a contact list for towns which are currently not MRF members to complete the mailing list for MRF update communications.

The next meeting date will be from 10-11:30 on February 28th at the Daily Hampshire Gazette. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Véronique Blanchard, clerk