

MAB Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019
Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room
10:00am – 11:30am

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

Guests: Mike Moores, Waste Management Recycle America

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

Public Comment Period No members of the public were present.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes

Mike Pattavina moved to accept the minutes of January 24, 2019 and John seconded the motion. During discussion several edits were made, and the motion was remade to accept the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous with Mary abstaining.

MRF & Automated Operations / Market Update Mike Moores reporting

Dual Stream: Prices are still flat, there are no changes up or down on either fiber or co-mingled. Operations are going fine. Brian Sullivan from channel 57 (PBS) was at the MRF for a tour for about 2 hours, and he shot a lot of footage. Susan wanted to confirm that all the materials at the MRF are still moving, to which Mike responded yes, everything is getting shipped out but the pricing is down. Numbers 3-7 plastics are going to New Jersey to a company called Simms. Markets are good and everything is moving in New England but pricing is an issue. Some of the OCC stays in the local area, and news can end up in South Korea or India.

Single Stream: Tracy commented that she frequently corresponds with Ron at Automated and that he says they're not seeing any issues with contamination and everything's good. Tracy mentioned white residue, which was found in some residents' recycling carts, so she reached out to Ron to see if there was a lot of C & D coming in but he hadn't seen any.

Arlene asked about current contamination levels. Mike replied that it's been dropping steadily for dual stream, which typically ranges from 3-6%, and single stream is typically 8-12%.

DEP Update Steve reporting.

Tracy had asked Steve for some distilled information about the Request For Responses (RFR) on what are the most important points of the RFR from a municipal viewpoint which could then be shared with municipal officials. Steve had prepared a bulleted list handout which was given out to members. Steve commented that some information may change as they go through the contract negotiation process. The contract will be open to the 101 communities in the four counties of Western Massachusetts, and will be a 'designated community' contract for 10 years with a 5 year extension. Steve went through the list of highlights in his handout with the board.

In the section on the financials, there is listed a processing fee (which includes transportation, marketing and sorting) as well as a revenue share. Steve also reviewed the sample Average Market Value of Dual Stream Recyclables. The primary difference between single stream and dual stream formulas is the percentage composition by weight, and the contamination limit is set at 10% for single stream and 5% for dual stream. The percent composition of materials making up the incoming recyclables will be updated at a minimum of every two years. Steve said his handout may be shared with municipalities with the provision that it is subject to change during negotiations.

Going forward, bids are due May 9th, and MassDEP and the review panel are putting together the evaluation criteria. MassDEP will send out a letter to CEOs in the next week or so which will parallel what was said in Tracy's last letter updating the municipalities, including the schedule, the importance of a regional contract, the current recycling processing

price ranges across the state (\$50-90/ton). The goal is to make sure all municipalities are aware of process and to inform them that they might need to plan ahead.

Jan mentioned the warrant article language authorizing a select board to sign a contract this fall, before annual town meeting and a concern which has come forth. What happens if a town votes to allow signature of the contract by the select board and the contract is signed but later the funds for the processing fee are not voted in? There is a penalty for termination in the contract language, so if a select board signs the contract in December and the town then does not appropriate the funds the following May, will there be a penalty? The answer was probably yes, there would be a penalty.

Jan also mentioned that she has come off the RFR review committee and Tracy is now on the committee in her place.

Treasurers Report - Jan Reporting

Jan said we spent about \$27,000 for the MAB education project this year. An additional \$7,000 was spent for Jack Golden's presentations, which were carried over from last fiscal year's awards. All single stream municipalities have now paid their education fees so all income is now accounted for. Jan now has the checks for the MAB in-house and does the MAB finances in place of FRCOG. Tracy asked about Nancy Bobskill's compensation, and Jan replied that the MAB pays her \$20/hour and she did 21 tours between August 13th – December 19th, 2018. Mike asked about us doing tours under new contract, and the hope was expressed that they will continue in some fashion if possible.

Public Education and Outreach – RRR guide updates. Arlene and Amy reporting

Arlene said the Republican version's text is due tomorrow and they will be adding a piece by Brooke Nash on the current state of recycling in Massachusetts. Arlene is happy with the articles the Republican has written, they spent \$2,000 for a full page ad for the MAB and will be getting extra copies. They are editing the 'What Do I Do With' for the Republican and April 19th is the publication date. Amy said the copy for the RRR for the Daily Hampshire Gazette is due on Monday, that the committee members write the main articles themselves, they are spending about \$1,500 on full page ad for the MAB, and the theme is Want not? Waste not!! What to do with your stuff when you're streamlining and clearing out. This is modeled after Mari Kondo's popular KonMari method of cleaning and organizing.

Tracy said Erin Victor at MassDEP is trying to add a link to RecycleSmart to enable residents to see if their community is part of the Springfield MRF. The MRF website has shaded the MRF municipalities on the map and it would be helpful if these can be darkened so that they show up better. The map also needs to list all communities in the four western mass counties as some are missing. DEP would like to be able to link directly to an alphabetized listing of MRF municipalities. Jan said the map may be so old that it can't be edited. Jan and Amy will work with Tracy on updating this on the website. The Public Ed Materials are now ready for distribution to member towns.

MAC Updates - none

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Next meeting dates are **Thursdays, 4/25, 5/23 and 6/27** from 10-11:30 at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard, Clerk