

MAB Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2019
Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room
10:00am – 11:30am

Present: Tracy DeMaio, Arlene Miller, Kathleen Casey, Véronique Blanchard, Jan Ameen, Juliette Haas, Cristina Ferrera, Mary Stucklen, Amy Donovan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

Public Comment Period No members of the public were present.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes

Jan moved to accept the minutes and Arlene seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor, with Mary abstaining.

Treasurer's Report Jan reporting

Jan presented and reviewed the FY19 actual budget expenditures with the board. She then presented a draft FY20 budget which the board then discussed line by line. In discussions about the website budget, Arlene suggested we leave it at \$2,500 instead of the proposed \$1,500. There may be website updates needed depending upon the outcome of the vendor selection process. Jan mentioned that the outreach budget includes the MAB's Facebook page, the MRF tours, and the ads for the RRR guides. Consensus was to level fund FY20 and then adjust later if necessary.

The third item Jan presented was on the treasurer's bond and the recommendation to increase the bond to cover up to a \$100k loss as opposed to the current bond which only covers a \$25k loss. Mary made a motion to approve the increase, Kathleen seconded and the vote was unanimous to increase the bond to cover \$100k. Arlene made a motion to accept the budget as proposed during discussions, Juliette seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

MRF & Automated Operations / Market Update No updates

DEP Update / MRF Operator Contract Status No updates

Project Planning; countdown to new contract

Next MAB Letter

Arlene was interested in setting up a schedule or timeline for educating the municipalities on the outcome of the new contract, once it is finalized. Eventually there will be two signed contracts, one between the vendor and MassDEP, and then one between each municipality, MassDEP and the vendor. It was suggested that if there is an informational MRC meeting that there should be multiple meetings which are convenient for each region of Western Mass, and perhaps we could hold them through the planning commissions. Small town administrators and mayoral meetings were also recommended by Jan, which would be another two meetings for a potential total of five informational meetings. Arlene suggested that our next steps are to:

1. Produce / design the message
2. Plan how to get the message out; i.e. this is the offer and these are the contract details.

Juliette recommended that each board member be responsible for making sure that someone from each of their towns attend our informational meetings. At the August meeting our agenda will be to plan the 3-5 meetings. Veronique will reach out to the planning commissions to see if we can host a meeting at each of their offices; MAB members will contact the Mayors organization and STAM for their regular meeting dates and to inquire as to whether we can join their meetings for a presentation.

Public Ed and Outreach Tracy and Amy are planning to put a link on the MRF website of success stories showcasing how municipalities are making use of the MAB's educational materials. They will email those who ordered materials to see if they can send in photos for the website. Véronique will highlight these in the monthly newsletter as well.

MAC Update

Véronique asked for suggestions for newsletter articles, and two suggestions are to include a link to a recent article by Juliette and an article on how many communities are composting.

Arlene asked about a previous request for information on the use of fees to cover processing costs of recycling. Véronique will ask the MACs again how communities are handling this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Next meeting dates are 8/22, 9/26 and 10/24 is 10-11:30 at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room. (Véronique will not be able to attend the September 26th meeting.)

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard
Clerk