

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Public Comment Period No members of the public were present.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes Juliette moved to accept the minutes of October 3rd as edited; Kathleen seconded and the vote was unanimous with John and Arlene abstaining.

MAB Representatives List

As MAB representatives to member towns our task is to reach out to the member towns on our list. Véronique has been the defacto representative for some Berkshire and Hampshire County member towns, and Juliette offered to add to her list Alford, Monterey, Mount Washington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge. Mary will add Becket, Otis, Sandisfield and Washington to her list, which will effectively cover all of Berkshire County member towns. The MAB will keep a placeholder for the third Berkshire seat and redistribute member towns at such time as a new representative is appointed.

MRF Contract

Tracy reviewed tasks from the previous meeting:

- 1) How are other municipalities in the eastern portion of the state paying for the increased recycling processing fees? Véronique will get that information through the ReTRAC software and other MACs. Some examples of methods that are used are raising taxes, increasing fees, using an Enterprise Fund. The board would like to know how these methods have changed over the last few years.
- 2) Tracy asked Mike Moores about the current glass markets. Beneficial (BUD) glass is currently being sent to Connellsville, PA for alternative daily cover.
- 3) Jan provided a spreadsheet which lists all the 2018 tonnages for the MRF member towns and calculates the processing fee based on the new contract terms.

Tracy and Steve will collate Frequently Asked Questions from those posed to them by member towns. These questions and answers will inform the upcoming information sessions. They will continue to use the MRF website to direct inquiries to the MassDEP website.

Discussion then centered on which sites would be best to hold the informational sessions. It was decided that the MAB and MassDEP will hold three informational sessions and ask participants to preregister. Jan moved that the MAB hold a minimum of three sessions, with one in Northampton, one in Springfield and another in the Berkshires. John seconded and the vote was unanimous. Dates were then discussed, and the following were proposed, pending confirmation of schedules:

- 1) Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, November 6th (first choice) or 4th.
- 2) Northampton City Hall Hearing Room, November 7th

Juliette suggested Wednesday, November 13th as a date for the informational session in the Berkshires. Jan moved that we hold the Springfield session on November 6th, the Northampton one on November 7th and the Berkshire one on November 13th, depending upon the availability of Greg Cooper of MassDEP. Susan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion then centered on whether to have combined or separate discussions on dual stream and single stream. Arlene moved that the two be discussed together, Véronique seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Jan proposed that the initial meetings be informational only and that two weeks later we hold strategy meetings, one for dual stream and one for single stream.

Jan suggested that we consider offering the opportunity for strategy meetings during the informational sessions. Kathleen and Jan can lead the dual stream strategy meeting and Cristina can lead the single stream meeting. For the informational sessions, our topics are how Average Market Value (AMV) works, how processing fees work, tonnage limits and what happens if there are contaminated loads. Susan suggested a side by side comparison of the current contract and the new one. Tracy offered to create the dual stream and single stream comparisons.

It was mentioned that all towns should have a Plan B in case the tonnage limits for dual or single stream are not met.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Next meeting dates are 10/31 from 1:00-3:00 PM and 11/21 from 10-11:30 AM at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard
Clerk