

**MAB Meeting Minutes**  
**October 31, 2019**  
**Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room**  
**1:00-3:00 PM**

**Present:** Tracy DeMaio, Mike Pattavina, Mary Stucklen, Véronique Blanchard, Jan Ameen, Steve Ellis, Susan Waite, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Kathleen Casey.

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM

**Public Comment Period** No members of the public were present.

**Question and Answers Review Session:**

There was discussion about providing lunch at the Northampton information session because the meeting is scheduled from 11-1. Mary moved to provide lunch, Jan seconded and the vote was unanimous. Véronique will coordinate food for the meeting. The board then reviewed questions provided by board members, and Steve provided answers to the contract questions.

**Q:** What happens if the dual stream contract tonnage limit of 17,000 tons is not met?

**A:** The tonnage limits are the minimal amount they need to operate, so if there is not enough throughput they would have to close the Birnie Avenue facility. 200 tons per month or roughly 3,000 tons annually comes from approximately 12 non-designated sources.

**Q:** Is there a possibility of discussions with Waste Management if the tonnage totals are not met by January 31<sup>st</sup>?

**A:** It depends on how tonnage commitments come in. Commitments made by member communities will be posted on the MassDEP website as they come in so all communities can see the progress.

**Q:** Are the contracts cancelled if the committed tonnages are not met?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** If the Birnie Avenue facility closes there is nothing to prevent Waste Management from contracting with dual stream towns to send their materials to a single stream facility, correct?

**A:** Correct.

**Q:** From 4.1 paragraph 3 of the contract, why not allow towns to send material directly to disposal and not send to the MRF for them to dispose of?

**A:** 4.1 paragraph 3 deals with how such tons are considered for purposes of calculating the average market value.

**Q:** Did we reach out to UMass Amherst?

**A:** Yes, John Pepi has been contacted.

**Q:** From 4.5.2 of the contract, why is the \$120 disposal fee the same for dual and single stream communities?

**A:** Because the cost of disposal and transportation is the same for both.

**Q:** What would prevent a single stream community from contaminating loads in order to pay the lower disposal fee of \$120 as compared to the processing fee of \$145?

**A:** If there are repeated violations in single stream there would be a discussion between MassDEP and the member community.

**Q:** Is eliminating glass worth it?

**A:** Glass makes up 17.5% of the waste stream, so a community would save processing fees on that percentage, and also receive a \$5/ton credit for removal of glass.

**Q:** Where did the \$5/ton credit amount originate? Is there room to negotiate that amount?

A: Costs are not reduced significantly unless ALL member towns remove glass because it's still in the processing stream. If a significant amount is taken out by all communities there could be room to negotiate a higher credit or a revised AMV.

Q: Can the change to removing glass be made at any time during the contract?

A: Yes.

Q: If glass comes out will it affect tonnage limits?

A: No, because the contract is based on the 2018 tonnages for member communities.

Q: How do we frame the benefits of recycling through the MRF given the increased processing fees?

A: There is a great benefit to having a large group join their tonnage together.

Q: If a municipality does not join by 1/31/20 can they rejoin at the same rates?

A: They cannot get back in until the contract expires. If a town gets terminated they cannot come back in as a non-designated community for a better (or equal) price.

Q: What would happen to Birnie Avenue if it is not used as a MRF?

A: It would be surplus state property and would be processed as such.

Q: Why the different contract terms of 3 years for single stream and 5 years for dual stream?

A: During negotiations members bargained for as short a term as possible given current market conditions.

Q: What is the procedure for rejecting a load?

A: It is the same process going forward as is now in place.

Q: Will rigid plastics still be accepted?

A: They are not in the current contract and that is a discussion for the future with Waste Management.

Q: Where does the trash from Birnie Avenue go for disposal?

A: Disposal of residue is the responsibility of WMX to transport.

Tracy reviewed the draft of her presentation, and the 21<sup>st</sup> was set as the meeting date for the dual stream community discussion from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Northampton City Hall Hearing Room.

Next MAB meeting date is 11/21 from 10-11:30 AM at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard  
Clerk