

**MAB Meeting Minutes**  
**November 21, 2019**  
**Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room**  
**10:00am – 11:30am**

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

**Others in attendance:** Mike Moores of Waste Management Recycles America (WMRA), Jim Crandall of the Town of Otis and Ethan Tupelo of Northampton's Pedal People.

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

**Public Comment Period** No members of the public wished to address the Board. Public attendees and MAB members introduced themselves to each other.

**Review and approve previous meeting minutes - October 24<sup>th</sup>** Jan moved to accept the minutes with amendments, Mike seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**Treasurers Report** There is little change from last month. Jan just invoiced those dual and single stream towns which did not have enough tonnage to cover the public education fee. She also paid Jessica Wozniak for her work on the MRF Facebook Page, Jack Golden for some of his presentation and Véronique for the meal at the information session in NoHo.

**MRF Update** Mike had a meeting with all the MRF employees and they are all happy about the contract extension. There may be some equipment upgrades on the horizon and Mike will sit down with Chris Lucarelle to discuss plans for upgrades and what that will mean for the accepted materials stream. The biggest item of equipment they might add is a TTEch optical sorter to help sort out specific plastics. They would like two and they're \$500,000 each. OCC is still at \$30 (has dropped \$5 month over month), ONP is at \$10, and prices have been flat for plastics. Numbers 1-7 are at -\$10 and therefore they would like to sort out PET to increase the market value. Natural is at \$0.25, and colored is at \$0.18 per pound. Mike Pattavina asked if taking out glass would greatly increase the quality of the recycling stream? Mike Moores said yes, glass damages equipment and is expensive to get marketed. The current glass market is in Pennsylvania and is used as Alternative Daily Cover at a landfill. Clear glass goes to a South Windsor, Connecticut facility for \$10/ton. Mike Moores described the split belt at the MRF and the way they sort clear glass from the rest. Mike Pattavina asked about taking glass back, and would municipalities pick it up directly from the MRF and then be credited for that glass tonnage? Mike Moores answered it would be picked up at Birnie Ave and meets DOT standards at -3/8". Glass makes up 50% of the bottles and cans stream (by weight), which is significant for dual stream communities. Paper is still going to the Kraft Group and is marketed in India or China. The issue of Bulky Rigid Plastics (BRP) was raised, and whether or not we can accept it in the new contract? Steve answered that a dozen municipalities still bring it in to the MRF and he is concerned about parity, since some municipalities are allowed to participate and others not. BRP will be treated as a non-designated community material, with a variable monthly price, and the BRP program would continue as long as markets are available. The cost should be cheaper than \$93.50 because it's already sorted and only needs to be baled at the MRF. This arrangement would give each municipality the same opportunity to participate in the BRP program. BRP still goes to K & W in upstate NY, and the market is very volatile. This would be a private transaction between the community and Waste Management Recycle America, and not part of the new contract.

**MRF Contract Municipal Outreach Updates**

**Informational Sessions** 76 attendees at all three sessions not including MAB reps, representing 46+ communities, the plus being districts. Tracy sent around a map which showed which communities have attended,

the ones which Steve has spoken with directly, and the ones Jan is working with in her district. The board went through the list of current members and who is responsible for contacting them, and then Steve will contact those municipalities which are not currently members.

**Round Table Discussions** There are 8 or 9 towns coming to the Single Stream roundtable discussions and 16 signed up so far for Dual Stream. Mike Pattavina suggested we should write down FAQs which come out of each of these sessions. Tracy asked if there is any specific information we need to make sure we're addressing at the table. Jan asked how can we collate and share this pricing information after our strategy sessions? Mike asked about having a meeting with NRRA to get help with markets. We will move our board meeting to December 12<sup>th</sup> so we can meet and share our pricing information. Jan will develop a spreadsheet with pricing and Tracy asked if Jan would be the recipient of all pricing information which she will share with the board on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Mike wondered if we could ask NRRA come to the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting? Jan suggested we set up a separate meeting with NRRA later that day and invite all municipalities to participate.

The question arose about penalties for withdrawing from the new contract. There's no penalty listed for terminating, but there is also no termination clause in the new contract. There was a discussion on the possibility of joining the contract at a later date; it is not possible to enter into the MRF contract at a later date, the municipality would have to set up a non-designated agreement with WMRA which could not be as low as the contract amount.

#### **Website Update**

Tracy asked for some website analytics of which communities are making use of the MRF website. We had 90 views to the contract page for half the month, so this is good news.

**Other business** Tracy asked about giving a gift to the Gazette in appreciation of their willingness to host the MAB, especially with all the recent meeting additions and changes. Mike moved that we spend between \$50-100 and Amy seconded and recommended the gift be locally sourced. The vote was unanimous in favor.

At one point do we reach out to our State and Local representatives? Are we missing an opportunity to say that this is a hardship for municipalities to pay so much more for recycling? Should we send a letter from the MAB, or from individual communities?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Next meeting date is December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 AM at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard  
Clerk