

MAB Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2019

Daily Hampshire Gazette Conference Room

10:00am – 11:30am

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

Others in attendance: Mike Moores of Waste Management Recycles America (WMRA), Jim Crandall of Otis, Ethan Tupelo.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Public Comment Period No public comment

Review and approve previous meeting minutes - October 31st. Mike moved and Jan seconded approving the October 31st minutes with corrections. The vote was unanimous in favor with Juliette abstaining. Mike moved and Jan seconded approving the November 21st minutes with corrections. The vote was unanimous in favor with Juliette abstaining.

MRF Update Mike reported there was no significant change in the markets over the last month. OCC is at \$30, residential paper is at \$10, so pricing is about the same. Jan asked about whether or not containers could be lightly compacted before delivery to the MRF. Mike responded that if material comes in light and fluffy it goes through the system easier, if it's flattened it tends to go into mixed plastic. While that is not a perfect situation, it is workable. Steve added that there is no limitation in the contract on compaction, including PSI used to compact. Jan had a second question about aluminum foil and the \$4 per ton cost in the AMV. If it costs the MRF a lot of money to pull foil and aluminum plates out of the stream would it benefit us to remove it from the accepted materials list? Should it go into scrap metal instead, would this financially benefit the communities? Mike explained that they used to separate out the foil and plates but currently they are going right into the aluminum cans mix, and then to the mills. The mills then deduct the cost of removing it from the revenue to the MRF. Mike said it's only about one load per year. Aluminum foil and plates are still worth something but they need to be separated out from aluminum cans.

As for other end markets, kraft paper goes to International Forest Paper, and some loads do go to Sunoco. Kathleen asked if Mike could update the list of where all materials go for market.

MRF List of Acceptable Materials

Jan is looking for ways to change the net cost to towns in the new MRF contract. Based on her spreadsheet, she wondered if the board might want to recommend that we renegotiate the contract to remove aluminum plates and foil. Steve mentioned that it's 100% recyclable but is not a waste ban item. If they were removed it would not affect the single stream AMV. It could have an effect on the dual stream AMV, but even if all of the foil was pulled out, the charge could conceivably only go down from 25 cents to 10 cents, and would also affect information presented on RecycleSmart. Can we speak with WMRA about this in future? Véronique asked about future equipment upgrades and how that might affect future AMV and materials lists. It was mentioned that materials can be sorted out but there would likely be an additional cost for that sorting. Steve said that December's AMV is up with dual stream at \$28.30 and single stream at \$6.37. Both AMV's have gone up and are driven by increasing plastics pricing.

MRF Contract Municipal Outreach Updates

Tracy said we have done well with all our outreach and communications with all municipalities about the new contract. Jan asked how many signed contracts have come in so far? Steve said 2 have come in and more are in his in-box, and quite a few have asked where to send the contract. Steve is checking in with Boston's web IT person about how to keep this information updated on the website. The board then had a general conversation about pricing quotes coming in to different municipalities and whether or not there should be a meeting with Waste Management in January. Mike Pattavina wanted to know what is a DEP accepted glass program? What will qualify? Steve suggested that we don't look at this as DEP approved because that implies a regulatory requirement, but look at this requirement as more a joint DEP and MAB approved program. The main concern is that communities submit some type of plan that they are diverting an equivalent amount of glass from the materials stream they produce, and that the plan effectively diverts the glass from the Birnie Avenue facility.

Round Table Discussions Cristina updated the board about the single stream meeting, and the issues which were raised were almost identical to those which came up at the dual stream meeting. We discussed the idea of connecting with state reps to help educate them about the issue of increased recycling processing fees.

MAB Letter - Early January Steve will send out a letter from DEP to be mailed on January 2nd, and the MAB will also send out another letter.

Public Education Community Support - materials tabled to January meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Next meeting dates are January 7th and January 16th from 10-11:30 AM at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard

Clerk