

MAB Meeting Minutes
SPECIAL MEETING
January 7, 2020
Daily Hampshire Gazette Conference Room
10:00 – 11:30 AM

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

Others present: Jim Crandall, Otis DPW; John Pepi, UMass Amherst

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

Public Comment Period No members of the public had comments.

There is no agenda as this is a special meeting called to discuss the new MRF contract terms and alternative vendor pricing. Westfield called a meeting with several local mayors to inform public officials about what's going on with increased recycling processing fees. Several State Representatives were in attendance. Tracy felt that it would be helpful to give the mayors some more background information on the issues. The conversation is now trickling up to our elected officials, and the more representatives we can get to the table the better to bring this issue forward.

Veronique, Amy and Susan will work on a press release and add in state-wide plus nationwide information. The main message is to be that our materials are still being recycled and also to give the correct background information on the reasons for the increase in processing fees.

Conversation then centered on the need to include language in the contract on town meeting funding appropriations. Jan's legal counsel said that the appropriations language 'dependent upon town funding' must be in the contract to make it legal. Steve said DEP would change the contract to include language about FY21 appropriations. The Chapter 44, Section 31 statute in municipal finance is what Jan is referencing, and she would like to ask DEP for a 30 day extension to sign the contract so that towns have a chance for legal review. Members discussed the options for including this language in the contract, the possibility of extending the deadline for signing, but the contract says that WMRA will be given 150 days ahead of July 1, 2020 to let all municipalities know that the contract is in effect or not, so this must be addressed. Véronique moved that we add in the language for an amendment to the contract including the language "contingent upon annual appropriations" and ask to extend the deadline to February 28th for legal review. Susan seconded. The board discussed the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The question was raised as to whether we should invite Chris Lucarelle to a MAB meeting as the City of Springfield will probably leave the MRF.

Single stream discussion:

Discussion then focused on single stream pricing options which have been quoted to local municipalities. Republic, USA and Casella all gave quotes, but the indexes are calculated differently so towns cannot easily compare apples to apples.

Dual stream discussion:

Dual stream quotes from vendors seem to indicate that the new Springfield MRF contract provides the lowest pricing. As there is no other dual stream MRF, one quote had paper sent to Hatfield and comingled materials sent to a single stream MRF; in another quote all the materials would be collected dual stream but later mixed in with a single stream MRF.

The board agreed that we will ask Chris Lucarelle to come to our next meeting.

Next MAB meeting date is January 16th, 2020 from 10-11:30 AM at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard, Clerk