

MAB Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2020
Hampshire Daily Gazette Conference Room
10:00-11:45 AM

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

Others Present: Jim Crandall, Otis DPW

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comment Period: No members of the public had comments.

Review and approve previous meeting minutes: Minutes of December 12, 2020; Jan moved and Mike seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended, the vote was unanimous. Minutes of January 7, 2020; Jan moved and Mike seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended, the vote was unanimous. Minutes of January 16, 2020; Mike moved and Jan seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended, the vote was unanimous.

Treasurers Report: The MAB is fairly flush and has roughly \$90,000 in the bank. Jan suggested that we plan to discuss at a future meeting, perhaps April or May, the fact that we collected education funds from towns which may not be involved under the new contract.

Tracy mentioned that there will not be any single stream municipalities as members of the MRF so we should think about the future makeup of the MAB.

Legal Fees: Jan informed the board that her office has spent \$787.50 on legal fees to create the suggested appropriations language for the contract. Véronique moved that the MAB cover the entire bill and John seconded. Discussion: single stream towns didn't sign the contract so Jan suggested that 50% was a more appropriate amount to be reimbursed. Susan wondered about this setting a precedent. Véronique amended the motion to have the MAB cover half of the invoice, John seconded and the vote was unanimous with Jan and Amy abstaining. Tracy will sign the check.

MRF Update: Tracy asked Mike Moores for an update prior to the meeting since he was unable to attend. Mike reported that there was no movement on commodity pricing. Amy requested we ask Mike for clarification on the Rumford ME mill and whether it will be an outlet for our paper or cardboard. Kathleen asked if clear plastic cups only mean the flexible ones or the sturdier ones that can be reused?

Contract Update - Steve: Steve reviewed the list of those who have not yet sent in their contracts and asked MAB members to reach out to those who have not yet signed to see where they're at.

Communities which have not yet signed:

Granville (has not sent in contract but plans to revert to dual stream)

Blandford

East Longmeadow

Hadley

Hampden (no call necessary)

Montgomery

Mt. Washington

Palmer (no call necessary)

Sandisfield

Southampton

We have over half the dual stream tonnage committed and UMass has signed the contract for single stream. Tracy updated the board on the single stream communities' negotiations and how difficult it has been to get consistent information.

Public Education and Outreach

RRR - Feature Articles: What should we focus on for feature articles in the RRR guide this year? Tracy said it should be a very positive message. Some suggestions included celebrating the 50th year of Earth Day, updates about end markets, the benefits of using recyclables over virgin materials, product stewardship and extended producer responsibility (EPR).

RRR – Advertisement and extra copy costs: \$3,500 was budgeted last year to cover our ads in both editions. Mike moved that we allocate \$4,000 to cover the cost to be able to put in one advertisement for each RRR guide. Susan seconded and the vote was unanimous. This amount will also cover the overrun of the copies for the Gazette issue; the Republican provides extra copies free of charge. Tracy will email Brooke to see if RecycleSmart would like to advertise in both issues.

Other Business: These questions were posed: “How do we continue the board without the single stream community members?” “Does the board want to still have single stream members on the board since the new MRF member communities will only be dual stream communities?” “Could we amend the by-laws to include non-designated communities?” “Would single stream community members be voting or non-voting members?” “If they pay in to the education fee can they vote?” Some discussion centered on renaming the MAB to be the Western MA Regional Recycling Association.

Tracy asked we think about the following questions for next time:

- 1) Do we really need the \$30,000 in education fees the first year (should we waive fees in the first year?)
- 2) Non-designated community membership – is it appropriate that we add them to the MAB? We want to have consistent messages on education.

Should we also ask USA and Casella to contribute to the education fees?

Jan offered to review the by-law language for FCSWMD and to draft MAB by-law language recommendations which would include non-designated communities as members of the MAB.

We will need to review the education materials to match the revised materials list in the new MRF contract.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Next MAB meeting date is March 19, 2020 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Daily Hampshire Gazette conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard
Clerk