

MAB Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting
10:00-11:30 AM

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

Others Present: Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle, WMRA

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM

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

Review and approve previous meeting minutes: The minutes of April 9th and 23rd were sent via email and edited prior to the meeting. Jan moved and Kathleen seconded a motion to accept the minutes of April 9th as amended and the vote was unanimous. Arlene moved and Jan seconded a motion to accept the minutes of April 23rd as amended and the vote was unanimous.

MRF Update- Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle: MAB members have been requesting municipalities send in their community data sheets to the MRF and just a handful have yet to send it in.

Markets: Fiber; sorted #56 is up again, from \$15/ton previously to \$25/ton currently. OCC is up by \$35 and is currently \$120/ton. Plastics; #1,2 and 5 are still moving, but #3,4,6 & 7 are still an issue and the MRF has had to stockpile. Sims Material Management in New Jersey had been taking the 3-7's, but they ceased operations due to COVID. Chris has been told he can check back by June 2nd to see if they will again begin taking materials. WM requested a variance on storage to start, and is now storing 300 bales (150 tons) outside of the normal enclosure. They have now asked MassDEP for permission to dispose of 2 loads (40 tons) in the Fitchburg landfill. The typical output at the MRF is 2 loads per week or roughly 45 bales.

Amy asked if there were going to be any upgrades to the equipment for sorting? Chris responded that in the short term the fix is to separate the large from the smaller plastics. All plastics that are intact float over the line, and then they remove aluminum with the eddy current. The remaining materials would go into the cage. Items such as crushed yogurt cups and flattened water bottles are among the materials which would fall through; these are now run along the line again for a second sort. For the long term, WMRA is looking into putting in an optical sorter, and the TTech will create a product which is 98% pure.

Amy asked if we can still sort the cartons with the optical sorters? Chris explained that the equipment will sort color and natural PET, and #5's, and then they will pull out the cartons. Since cartons only make up .4% of the incoming materials, it doesn't make economic sense to sort them optically. Arlene appreciates the effort WMRA is doing to market the #3-7's, since it is so difficult. Chris said there used to be a global market for mixed plastics, but WMRA doesn't have confidence in what is done with these materials in the export market, so they decided to shift to domestic markets only. Their current market is in South Carolina, and one of the products created are toothbrushes. Mohawk, which takes the PET, should be opening a line back up soon so hopefully that will help the market price for PET.

Arlene asked if the price of oil is affecting the plastics market? Chris responded that it does for HDPE, but it's more dependent on the price of natural gas. He also mentioned that they are seeing a lot more wine bottles and aluminum cans in the mix, but residue is static.

Amy asked if the closing of the redemption centers has affected the incoming materials, and Chris said there is about a 5 tons/day increase since COVID.

Kathleen asked about the Bulky Rigid program. Chris has drafted a commercial contract which will be posted on the MRF website for communities to download and then sign. As long as there is a market for BRP they will continue the program. Chris said the market has been stable for years, but there is only one outlet. Any community which wishes to

can participate in the BRP, and the MRF has room to accommodate the materials. Arlene asked what the price will be for the BRP? Chris said the processing fee is lower than the \$93.50 (perhaps around \$65) and communities would also receive revenue. The index value has been roughly \$40/ton.

Amy asked if using the optical sorter would affect jobs at the MRF; Chris confirmed that this is the trade-off.

MAB By-laws: The board having discussed and read the new by-laws at the last meeting, Jan moved that we accept the amended by-laws, and Amy seconded. During discussion, Cristina asked if the by-laws would be attached to the current contract, and if they would be in effect immediately after the vote. The intention of the new by-laws was that they would take effect with the new contract, so Jan amended her motion to say that they will become effective on 7/1/20. The vote was all in favor with Cristina abstaining.

Treasurers Report / Draft FY 21 Budget: Jan had sent to the board three budgets for review; one showing our accounts as of today, the second showing where we will probably be at the end of the fiscal year, and the third a proposed budget for FY21. There is about \$3,500 in FY20 invoices from the RRR and other expenses still to be paid in this fiscal year. In the proposed budget the \$10,000 from WMRA is kept as a second line item in order to track these monies separately. After reviewing the proposed budget Arlene moved that we accept the budget as proposed, Susan seconded and the motion passed unanimously. It was mentioned that the dual stream towns under the new contract should be informed that they will not be assessed any public education fees in FY21.

City of Springfield Request – Tracy: Springfield has sent Tracy a letter stating their intention to no longer be a part of the MAB going forward, and requesting \$18,000 to be used in purchasing recycling carts for the City. Cristina explained the formula they used to arrive at that amount was by taking the \$7,653 they annually contribute to the public education fee, and divide it by \$35,421 which is the total of all public education fees.. This comes to .216% which was then multiplied by our current account balance of \$90,000 resulting in the \$18,000. Tracy asked if Springfield had deducted for the amount of materials they have received over those years in public education materials? Tracy offered the options as she sees it:

- Honor their request
- Grant back the \$7,653 that they were not able to make use of in FY20
- Deny the request and encourage them to stay on the MAB and make use of their share of the education materials

Mary pointed out that the by-laws were changed specifically so that non-designated communities can still participate. All communities which have put funds into the MAB account will still get the benefit of those funds until the current \$90,000 balance has been expended. It was also pointed out that if we gave these funds back to Springfield, we would have to do the same for every other community currently under the contract expiring 6/30/20.

Jan said she hopes that Cristina is still able to be a member of the MAB. As Treasurer she does not see any way to be able to tease out how much money has been expended by each community over the past 30 years and figure out which community has or has not made use of the funds they have contributed. Jan offered that we could at a minimum give back to Springfield \$6,000 in the form of public education materials (this is the amount of 'points' Springfield is allotted annually) or carts if they prefer. If they stayed on the MAB they could also receive this amount next year.

Arlene moved that the MAB deny Springfield's request but encourages Springfield to continue to participate with the MAB going forward, therefore having the benefit of the MAB programs until the \$90,000 has been expended. Veronique seconded, and the vote was 9 in favor with Cristina voting no.

Other Business: Mary asked about Dalton wishing to spend their MassDEP Small Scale Initiatives funds on educational materials, and asked if the materials would be available in time for Dalton to place an order and be invoiced before the June 30th deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

The next MAB meeting has been scheduled for June 18th at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard, Clerk