

**MAB Meeting Minutes**  
**June 18, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting**  
**10:00-11:30 AM**

**Members Present:** Véronique Blanchard, Arlene Miller, Jan Ameen, Susan Waite, Mike Pattavina, Amy Donovan, Cristina Ferrera, Steve Ellis, John Alphin.

**Others Present:** Ethan Tupelo, Northampton Pedal People

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM

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

**Review and approve previous meeting minutes:** The minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup> were sent via email and edited prior to the meeting. Jan moved and Michael seconded a motion to accept the minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup> as amended and the vote was unanimous.

**MRF Update- Steve reporting.** Steve spoke with Mike Moores, who said there are no operational issues or concerns, and reported that DEP has extended both storage and disposal capacity allowances for #3-7 plastic through the end of August. Chris Lucarelle is hopeful that there will be some mechanism in place soon to pull off #5 plastic. OCC has declined after the initial surge, and Steve sent out the AMV which declined in June. In general things are running very smoothly at Birnie Ave. Amy asked about the new materials added and wondered about the market for those materials. Arlene said that hopefully the market disruption for #3-7 is temporary. Amy also asked about shredded paper and is the MRF going to be flexible with us as we transition our residents? Steve mentioned that it's not really a big issue at the MRF but it is a mess, and since the percentage of incoming shredded paper is low it's not really a problem so there most likely will not be consequences. Susan said the issue was more that they have to open the paper bags to make sure they know what's in the bag before it gets baled. Arlene said the changes to the accepted materials are so minor that she doesn't think it will be an issue with the expanded/altered materials list.

**Treasurers Report** Jan reporting. Jan sent out the June budget to date which included RRR ads and bills from Jessica for the Facebook page and for Lou Bordeaux our webmaster. The carryover was \$86,720 (\$170 more than projected last month.). There will also be a little bit of interest coming in.

**City of Springfield** Arlene sent around the letter that was drafted after the last meeting. Cristina had no update on the reaction from Springfield to our letter. Jan suggested that we continue to reach out to Greg Superneau. 7/1/20 is the date we need to know if they are going to leave so we can adjust our MAB representatives list.

**RRR Updates:** Congratulations to Amy & Susan for the wonderful new RRR North guide! Susan and Arlene have extra copies of each on hand. Susan offered to have both on hand to distribute if folks need them. Amy mentioned that the latest RRR link was used online in the MAB Facebook posts and over 4000 people have seen it.

**Bulky Rigid Plastic Contract:** Jan reporting. Chris Lucarelle has sent the contract to the municipalities currently using the BRP program. The terms are a \$5 processing fee (current market is \$60/ton) Any community who wants can now join into this program. Steve recommends that any new community contact Chris prior to implementing anything. Arlene asked if we should notify communities about the program and Steve suggested we not post the contract online. Arlene will reach out to Chris Lucarelle to see what he thinks is the best way to proceed on notifying all western Mass. munis or just the MRF contract towns.

**MAB By-laws:** Jan realized that Article 7 of our new by-laws dealing with a quorum of more than 50%, which shall equal 8 members, is no longer valid. Since we changed the by-laws we only need 7 for a quorum but she suggests that we take out the language giving a specific number and just leave "more than 50% of the total number of representatives". Jan moved that we amend article 7 of the by-laws by deleting the phrase "which shall equal 8 representatives present."

Michael seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. The MAB has now approved and read the by-law change and will vote on accepting the change at the next meeting.

**MAB Representatives:** We do not have enough information yet about Springfield, UMass, and John Alphin's status to make changes to our representatives list so we will table this discussion until the next meeting.

We will have an election on the slate of officers soon once we know the full makeup of the board.

**Public Education Outreach Material:** Amy has been working with our new designer Stan Fede on the new public education materials. They added in the two new materials, clear egg cartons and clear cups, and took off aerosols and shredded paper. They also added in text explanations. After the website is updated towns which are interested in printing their own materials can pull these from the website. Arlene said June 25<sup>th</sup> should be our deadline for having all these materials finalized. Jan wondered if, since the magnets at the MRF can pull out metal objects, should we replace pots and pans with lithium batteries on our "Most Unwanted" flyer? Arlene and Steve said we should ask Waste Management which materials they would like listed. Véronique will ask Mike which materials are still "most unwanted" so we can fix the poster if need be. We will let towns know that the new materials are now available.

Menu for education materials: Arlene would like us to discuss whether there is a way we can alter the list with respect to the pandemic. Jack Golden now has a virtual presentation which is \$150 for the 16 minute video, which is a shorter version of his original in-person show. It was suggested the MAB revive the subcommittee and set a target date for sending out the menu to the towns. Jan suggested we get this done sooner rather than later. Subcommittee members are Véronique, Amy and Tracy. Jan suggested we produce two versions of the menu, one with the most necessary items to be developed as soon as possible and then another more comprehensive menu later. Amy said the top four menu items requested are corrugated plastic signs for paper and containers, then the brochure trifold and postcard. Jan proposed a mini menu to include the trifold, single stream cart stickers, paper and container corrugated signs, and the postcard. Has the mix changed for any of the single stream towns? Cristina says their mix has not changed so the cart stickers will still be good after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Jan suggested we reach out to the single stream towns and ask if their stream has changed and if they need cart stickers. Amy said the Spanish postcard was altered by removing the images and text which refer to the no longer accepted materials. Arlene said we need a point system and a financial limit. Jan said last year we spent \$35,400 on the educational materials grant program. \$11,000 of that was for Jack Golden so the print materials cost \$24,000. If we start at a \$10,000 budget then we can figure out the points. Jan moved that we offer a mini version of our education materials to include corrugated plastic signs for paper and containers, the brochure trifold, single stream cart stickers, postcard and bill inserts, and that we set an initial limit of \$10k and the subcommittee figure out the point system and get this out right away. Véronique seconded. Arlene suggested we take out the bill stuffers/inserts, and the motion was amended to take bill stuffers off the list. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Steve said the transition between the MRF contracts begins in two weeks, and from an operational perspective there should not be any issues. Waste Management Recycle America has substantially completed what they need to for the new contract, and the reporting of the first invoice/tonnage report will go out August 15 to the billing contact listed on the data reports. Steve would like us to comment on the format of these reports/invoices. There is also a separate Commonwealth report that goes to the state monthly which aggregates all that information.

**Other Business: None**

Meeting adjourned at 11: 31AM

The next MAB meetings have been scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Véronique Blanchard, Clerk