

MAB Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting
10:00am – 11:45am

Members Present: Véronique Blanchard, Arlene Miller, Mary Stucklen, Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Susan Waite, Amy Donovan.

Others Present: Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle, Waste Management Recycle America; Kevin Quesnel, Town of South Hadley. Cristina Ferrera, City of Springfield

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM

Meeting Agenda

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

Review and approve previous meeting minutes: The minutes of July 16, 2020 were sent out via email and edited prior to this meeting, and Amy added another edit. Jan moved to accept minutes as amended, Amy seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor with Tracy abstaining.

MRF Update- Mike Moores, Steve Ellis and Chris Lucarelle: Mike stated that operations are going well, markets are relatively flat and there has not been a lot of movement in pricing. On the fiber side, #56 is now at \$40/ton which is an increase of \$5/ton, and OCC is currently at \$60 so pricing remains flat. The plastics market also remains flat, and Mike mentioned that the marketplace has issues with PET not moving, but our MRF can still move their PET. Beginning in 2021 new equipment will be installed which can capture more material and they will start separating out PET, and tubs and lids. Volumes are also steady, but they are seeing a lot more glass and aluminum. Arlene asked about the 'Amazon effect' and asked if there is more OCC showing up in the incoming materials stream. Mike responded that in the past it was 2 to 1 of News compared to OCC in tons, but OCC is now 1 to 1 in tonnage with News. The AMV has been trending upward over the last few months. There was a \$5 increase in residential sorted office paper, so there is a little uptick. Amy mentioned she had heard that there was a worldwide aluminum shortage, so why aren't we getting more for our aluminum? Mike agreed that yes, there is an aluminum can shortage, but the can shortage is related more to manufacturing and covid related downtime. The marketplace was short on supply of sheets of aluminum to send to manufacturers. Amy asked about the status of #3-7 plastics? Mike responded that it is not good, and no one is buying that pack. WMRA had to move #3-7 to Avon to be reprocessed, which is why the MRF will move to optical sorting of #5's. They used to market to Syms, but they are no longer importing baled #3-7. The planned equipment improvements will cost roughly \$1.5 million, with the goal to get #5's out to sell as a separate stream. Arlene asked if WMRA would then change the accepted items in the materials stream to reduce plastics coming in? Chris will present to the board in the future, but the plan would be to give back the value on #5. The future payment configuration would be a blend of the negative value of #3-7, which are currently at -\$80, and the #5's, which are currently at \$140. The AMV would then go up \$3.50. Susan asked, is USA bringing in designated materials from towns? Their advertising says no pizza boxes. How many munis do they deliver for? Mike did not have that information on hand. Arlene brought up the issue of pizza boxes. MassDEP says grease is ok on pizza boxes for recycling with the cardboard, asked Mike to clarify the MRF's position. Mike responded that the only issues in the past were with the mills, but they say now that grease and cheese in box is allowable.

New Invoicing Update: Arlene mentioned that we have had one invoice round since the beginning of the new contract and there are 3 issues:

- 1) Some errors were discovered, especially in Franklin County. Jan said it came to her attention that the July invoice for 5 towns were incorrect. Amanda helped behind the scene to correct the issues and they tracked it back to the scale and tonnages having been entered under the wrong town. Jan was able to match tonnages from WM weight slips.

- 2) Longmeadow's invoice did not have tonnages or any reference to the Springfield MRF. She asked if anyone else had this issue as well? Jan mentioned they were trying to figure out a way to provide backup information to show how the number is calculated. Jan asked if the WMRA accountant could just enter the net amount due instead of one line with the \$93.50 charge and one line with the AMV? And is it possible to add the month to the invoice? Chris said it was unfortunately not possible yet. Can they add Springfield MRF to the invoice? Chris said that would require manual adjustment on each individual invoice, but they can just invoice with the net amount due.
- 3) Arlene spoke about the data reports coming to the towns and wondered how MAB members felt about them. Chris said that the report that goes to Steve contains more information, and can be sent to the MAB and can be sent to everybody. Jan asked if it was possible to receive an Excel pivot table as was done in the past? Mike was asked who produces that tonnage report (not the commonwealth report), and Mike replied that it's done internally and then they send it to Steve. Chris said that the information is all there but he sees that it's not in a useable format for the MAB. Mike will forward the internal report to the MAB. Arlene asked which report would be better to send to the towns?. Jan said that she thinks the town only really want to see tonnage report and AMV.

Mary wanted to know what percentage of the #3-7 plastics stream is made up of #5? Chris said it's about 25%.

Chris mentioned that going forward some towns might want to see on their invoices their loose container stream with glass removed and that their charge is more favorable by \$5. The MAB will meet internally to discuss what changes they would like to request of WMRA to make on the invoices.

Chris said there are two subscriptions to the secondary materials pricing (SMP) indexes which will be forwarded, one to Steve and one to someone on the MAB. Arlene nominated Jan to receive the SMP subscription.

Treasurer's Report - Bank resolution vote - Jan reporting: Amy has been working with vendors to get the educational materials ordered, and we just paid \$7,000 for the single stream stickers, trifold brochures and postcards.

Now that Arlene is the Chair, her name needs to be added as a cosigner on the checking account, so the board has to vote to remove Tracy and put on Arlene. Tracy moved to adopt the People's United Bank resolutions as presented in order to remove Tracy DeMaio from the MAB bank account and add Arlene Miller, keeping Jan Ameen as a signor on the account. Mary seconded, there was no further discussion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MAB representative interview - Arlene reporting: Kevin has been the Solid Waste Coordinator for the Town of South Hadley for the last three years, and has worked at the transfer station there for eight years altogether. Kevin mentioned that the transfer station has changed its policies due to covid, and they are not taking bulky or C & D at the moment, but are still taking mattresses and recycling. Arlene mentioned to Kevin that there is a time commitment involved with being a member of the MRF Advisory Board, and asked if Kevin was ok with that? Kevin said that Véronique filled him in on the time commitment. Jan has done the third party transfer station inspections in South Hadley for a number of years, has worked with Kevin, and she supports having Kevin as a new member. Susan asked Kevin what he hopes to get out of the board? Kevin replied that it's a learning experience. Véronique moved that Kevin be appointed as a new Hampshire County representative, Susan seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. Welcome Kevin!!

Public Education Outreach Material Update – Amy reporting: We had a pretty good response from the towns, the orders have been placed and the total was \$6,411. \$3,000 was for signs, \$2,000 for brochures and postcards, and \$655 for single stream cart stickers. These materials should be arriving next week and distribution will be soon after that.

Veronique, Arlene and Amy will take care of distributing materials once they arrive. Amy mentioned that as we notify MAB members to distribute keep your ears open about feedback from towns about what they would like to see from the MAB. Veronique will also help with this.

City of Springfield Update and John Alphin – Arlene reporting: There has been no formal reply to the letter the MAB sent to the City. Greg Superneau joined the meeting to give us an update. He said both letters have been forwarded to the law department for review. Greg's comments to consider are: The City is literally the poorest city in MA, over the years the board has sent invoices and every year the City has paid the money on time and in full. Greg had asked if the City can have the money back they have paid in in the form of recycling carts, and the MAB's response was no, it's not possible to honor that request. The financial situation is that Springfield deserves to be treated fairly – what they consider to be fair. Greg implored the board to reconsider the decision. Jan says she does not want the board to reconsider at this point since

we already spent so much time on this issue. Arlene appreciated Greg's plea, and situation, and there are probably a lot of communities which are also in the same type of trouble financially. Arlene was very much hoping that Springfield could remain on the board. Perhaps changing the menu would also help. Tracy commented that she would like her money back too and probably a lot of other communities would as well, and stands behind the decision that was made. It's too difficult to try to itemize by community what would be owed, but she's confident that the board will be able to give back to Springfield through the education materials grants.

John Alphin's job was eliminated and therefore he is no longer a board member from Springfield schools. We all wish John the best and he will be missed!!

MAB representatives (rearranging the Berkshire delegate towns) - Mary reporting: There are 14 munis and three seats and distribution seems a little off. Mary would like to make them more geographically close. Arlene suggested that she speak with Juliette and bring a proposal to the board on how the towns should be distributed.

RRR Update – distribution: 100 of each edition are now located at the MRF. Susan recommends that we look at popular mom 'n' pop stores to put in stores for pickup. Amy suggested would could also give RRR's to towns when we distribute the educational materials.

Other Business: Arlene asked Tracy if she had any single stream updates? Tracy said their invoice from Casella was very basic, including the date, stream, tonnage, current rate and total. Tracy would like more information about the AMV calculation. Agawam's processing fee is \$129/ton and their invoice was for \$101.37, so the AMV was \$27.63 for July. The Springfield MRF's AMV in July was \$23.76, in August was \$27.61, and in September was \$33.20. USA's charge for July was \$100.81 after the AMV was deducted, so Casella and USA are very close in pricing, despite using different indexes and charging different processing fees.

Jan mentioned that the Town of Orange got a glass roll off grant and will be pulling glass out and sending it separately to the MRF. There will be a \$25 processing fee plus cost to get rid of it, so if it costs \$60 to market it, then Orange would pay \$85/ton. They would get \$5 off the rest of comingled so instead of paying the current \$60 it would be \$55.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM

The next MAB meeting has been scheduled for October 15th at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard, Clerk