

MAB Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
10:00am – 11:45am

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

Others Present: Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle, Waste Management Recycle America.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

Meeting Agenda

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

Review and approve previous meeting minutes: Jan moved that we accept the minutes of September 17, 2020 as amended, Susan seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor with Kathleen abstaining.

MRF Update- Mike Moores, Steve Ellis: OCC is same as last month, residential is \$40, so there is no change on the fiber side of the markets. In the comingled stream, natural is up to \$64, and trending up. The MRF is making preparations to get ready for winter. Arlene asked about incoming volume, and Mike responded that it's steady. Arlene then asked if the mix of paper changed, is there more cardboard than mixed paper, to which Mike responded yes there is now more OCC in the mix. Veronique asked about whether beer & soda cartons are allowed in the mix. Chris will check in to see whether or not this is acceptable with the paper mills but has never had a load rejected because of these. Chris and Mike will have a discussion internally and let us know whether or not they are accepted.
Steve: No program updates, very pleased with how smooth the transition is going.

MRF upgrade presentation: Chris Lucarelle: The October invoice will reflect the changes we discussed at the last meeting. Markets are up \$13 since July, so that's great news. All but two communities have paid their July invoices. Chris had a PowerPoint presentation he shared with the MAB about mixed plastics and their equipment upgrades. The number #3-7 is a very 'ugly' stream and has historically gone to Sims in Connecticut for sorting. About 60% is good recyclables, 40% is 'wishful' recycling. Of the 60%, 30% is Polypropylene, 10% HD, 20% PET. The value for this stream was a negative \$25 in 2017, went to negative \$80 in 2020. Since then it has been sent to Avon but it is very expensive to reprocess, so WMR will bring the MRF up to date with new equipment, a TOMRA TTEch. This sorting equipment has a high speed belt that operates at very high speed so that materials 'present' and spread out for optical sorting. Bars of light on the top use spectrometry to identify the chemical nature of the plastics. When the stream 'sees' a PET bottle, it immediately sends a blast of air which sends it to a container holding just PET. The recovery rate 98%. If liquids are still in the containers they can't be optically sorted because the air stream can't blast the bottle off the line. WMRA will use a double valve unit, one will kick PET up and the other Polypropylene down. They will then hand pull gable tops, color HDPE and natural HDPE. The timeline to install will be March/April 2021, over two weekends and one week for a ten day installation period. During that time they will either outsource or ask folks to hang on to their recyclables.

Treasurer's Report – Jan: No report, nothing has changed except some incoming interest.

Public Education Outreach Material – Update: Amy All materials have come in and Amy's and Veronique's have been distributed, using the MRF as a distribution point. What can we do to make sure we help out the single stream communities? Remake the MRF video? Tracy thinks that something in the media/video form would be helpful. We discussed both collecting already made videos and producing our own, and the education subcommittee can discuss and formulate a plan to bring to the MAB, which will include both single and dual stream. Kevin, Susan, Amy & Veronique are on the subcommittee.. Tracy will reach out to the five single stream communities to see what they would like and what would be useful.

MAB representatives: Mary (rearranging the Berkshire delegate towns) Abbey Massaro has been invited to submit to be a representative from Hampden County.

Mary and Juliette spoke together and suggested the following:

Rep 1 – Alford Monterey, Mount Washington, Otis, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge

Rep 2 – Dalton, Pittsfield, Washington, Becket

Rep 3 – Egremont, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Sheffield

Jan moved that Mary be Rep 2, Juliette will be Rep 3, and Veronique will be Rep 1 temporarily. Kathleen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Other Business: There is old text on website about the old contract which needs to be rewritten. Arlene will work on that.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM

The next MAB meeting has been scheduled for December 3rd at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard, Clerk