

MAB Meeting Minutes
December 3, 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, Cristina Ferrera.

Others Present: Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle, Waste Management Recycle America, Abbey Massaro, CET and Agawam.

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: Jan moved that we accept the minutes of October 15, 2020 as amended, Susan seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. Susan would rather we focus on topics and information and send typos to Veronique separately.

MRF Update- Mike Moores, Chris Lucarelle: Pricing hasn't come out for November yet, so numbers are the same, no other issues. Susan asked if there are any concerns about the health and safety of employees. Mike responded that they are doing well and following Covid guidelines. Kathleen asked when next batch of tonnage reports will come out, and Mike said they will be out by next week. Mike got back to us about the question on beer and soda cartons and said that they are not allowed in the stream as these do not get recycled at the mills. This means our education materials can remain the same. There have been minor issues with information on the monthly invoices. Arlene asked Chris about any invoice design update, to which Chris responded the next invoice that comes out will be the first one with the changes that were requested by the board.

The order has been placed for the optical sorting equipment, which is being manufactured in Holland. Arlene asked about communities which send glass to the MRF. We were told that they have two markets right now; Cap Glass in Allentown, PA (85% of the glass goes there), and one in Connecticut which takes clear glass. The charge for glass is just shy of \$30/ton. Jan asked if there were any other communities, other than Orange, who separates out glass to send to the MRF. Orange is still the only community which separates glass. Susan asked about a microwaveable tray and if it is recyclable. If it goes in the microwave it's not recyclable.

Treasurer's Report – Jan: Jan told us that all that has been spent since last month is about \$180 for Jessica Wozniak, our social media manager.

MAB new representative interview: Abbey Massaro Abbey works at the Center for Eco Technology (CET) and therefore serves all towns in Western MA. She also resides in Agawam. Through CET she offers free technical assistance to businesses on recycling and composting throughout the state. She would serve as a representative for Hampden County. Tracy moved to accept Abbey as a MAB member, Jan seconded, and the vote was unanimous! Welcome Abbey.

Website Updates: Amy The MRF website is in pretty good shape, with information on pizza boxes having been updated, and for the next round of educational materials the pizza box details will be updated on the signs and brochures. On the operations page there is still old contract information about single stream which needs to be removed. The list of MAB members also needs to be updated, and we can now add Abbey and Kevin. There's also the list of member towns which needs to be updated since the new contract, and Arlene will work on that. The website used to have a map that was interactive, but we lost the capability of the map when the software was updated. In order to post it again we would have to recreate it from scratch. Tracy says she will still use the term 'clean' pizza boxes on her educational material. She spoke with Jonathan Murray of USA about whether or not he was comfortable with this language and he is. Susan moved that we strike 'grease is ok' and just say empty pizza boxes, and Veronique seconded. Jan amended the motion to clarify

that all messaging around pizza boxes be unified about empty pizza boxes. Tracy seconded the motion, and the vote on the amendment was unanimous in favor.

Public Education Outreach Material: Part #1. Pizza boxes, distribution of mini education project

The distribution of the mini-grant education materials is completed, except for West Springfield.

Public Education and Outreach: Part #2: Subcommittee report

Amy asked Nancy Bobskill, the MRF's tour guide and a former teacher, for her input on the video subcommittee. Specifically, do teachers have time in class to make use of a MRF video? The subcommittee is planning two phases; phase one is to make use of the 'low hanging fruit' of already existing videos and post these on the MRF website and the second phase is to create topic specific videos. Susan mentioned that it is really important to get teacher/district buy-in before we create anything, teachers have very little time and we don't want to create something that will just sit on a shelf. Tracy mentioned that they are doing stormwater videos for 5th grade and she thinks that teachers like these tools. Short topic videos would be the most useful for single stream Communities.

Updates: Berkshire representatives, Holyoke glass processing grant request, MAC update (getting ready for 2021-reports and grants) Veronique mentioned the new criteria for applying for the MassDEP SMRP grants includes certifying that recycling is happening in the schools and the 'early bird special' for the Annual Notification of the Buy Recycled Policy.

Arlene reported that she had sent a letter to MassDEP on behalf of the MAB, supporting the City of Holyoke's grant request for money to develop a glass aggregate processing facility.

Other Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 27AM

The next MAB meeting has been scheduled for January 21st, 2021 at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard, Clerk