

MAB Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
10:00am – 11:30 am

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

Others Present: Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle of Waste Management Recycle America; Cristina Ferrera, City of Springfield; Jim Crandall, Otis; Ethan Tupelo, Pedal People

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM

Meeting Agenda

**Public Comment
Period**

No members of the public had comments

**Review and approve
previous meeting
minutes (VOTE)**

Kathleen moved to accept the minutes as previously edited; Amy seconded, Tracy and Mary abstained, and the vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

MRF Update

Markets continue to do well, almost every grade of plastic is moving up. The AMV is up \$30 from July. OCC went up \$10 and residential paper went up \$5. Polypropylene is becoming a hot commodity. Mixed plastic is also improving in the markets because it includes #5. The MRF is scheduled for a shutdown starting April 15th through the 23rd for installation of the new optical sorting equipment. During this time they may also look at improving the glass separation process. Kathleen asked what is driving the improved plastic markets? Chris mentioned that there is increased social pressure from customer demand for sustainable practices, and that along with increased corporate responsibility and fear of federal regulation is forcing investment in plastics recycling. Amy asked about end markets for polypropylene and the outlet for #3-7 plastics. Chris responded that they will only be selling the #3-7 for the next five weeks, once the project is complete they will begin sorting in-house. #4, 6 & 7 will be in residue which is where they end up now. #5's will be sorted out, along with some #1 and #2. The #5's will go to KW Plastics in Alabama. KW turns #5 into pellets and also has their own line of paint cans. The optical sorting equipment will pull off #1,2 & 5. They will do audits on the residue after the equipment is installed, which will help with education going forward. Doing these audits may increase the residue percentages from the current 3-5% to 5-6%, but this won't be adjusted on the AMV. The memo to the towns alerting them of the shutdown during the equipment installation will be sent out via email. It will inform members that the container stream will be diverted to Automated handling during this time, but the paper stream will still be accepted at Birnie Avenue.

Treasurer's Report

The MAB only spent a couple of hundred dollars last month on social media posts. The current balance is \$87,800, \$10,000 of which is from Waste Management, so the balance of the pooled funds is \$77,800.

RRR 2021
RRR South

The deadline is approaching fast; the due date for submissions is the 23rd of March, and the publication date is April 16th. There will be three feature articles, on Vanguard, take-out containers, and markets. Brooke Nash will provide a byline. Arlene will request 500 extra copies.

RRR North

(VOTE)

The RRR North edition will be published April 21st and will focus on recycling end markets and that recycling is happening in Massachusetts. The MAB ad will cost \$1,000, and Amy would like approval for including 2,000 copies at \$6 per 100 copies (less than \$250). Amy moved that the MAB approve this expense, Susan seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Video Committee

Abbey reported that the Carton Council has offered a \$5,000 grant to help with producing the new MRF video. The committee is close to finishing the scope document for proposals for the MRF video, and this should be sent out soon to the vendors. Then the committee will finalize the scope for the material specific videos. It was mentioned that USA and Casella do not want to receive cartons, but they don't count them as contamination in the incoming stream. Jan asked that the instructional videos be focused on both dual and single stream. Tracy agreed and said they should be universal. Jan also requested the videos make use of the Most Unwanted information.

Public Education & Outreach

(VOTE)

Arlene reported on the upcoming mini grants and asked how much should we spend? 2 points is equal to 1 dollar. There will be a new option on the menu for communities to ask for a reimbursement for items they purchase relating to recycling, which will give communities more options. The funds for this will come from the reserve and this year's contribution from Waste Management is not included. It was mentioned that communities should be alerted to the fact that they should take advantage of this opportunity before the funds are expended. Tracy asked what will happen when all the funds are gone, and said she would like to extend the opportunity to single stream communities to contribute and thus participate in the future. If the MAB keeps the current point structure, up to \$68,000 could be spent, and the parameters for the grant need to be defined. Jan moved that the MAB use the existing public education point system and menu with the addition of the new reimbursement grant. Kathleen seconded. There was a roll call vote which was unanimous in favor, with Susan abstaining.

Correspondence

(VOTE)

Arlene reported that the Executive Committee had met several times to discuss a letter sent by the Associate City Solicitor of Springfield to the MAB requesting reimbursement to the City of Springfield for funds the city provided to the MAB in prior years. There seems to be some misinformation in the letter, and it was thought that perhaps the City Solicitor had not seen the letter sent by former MAB Chair Tracy DeMaio last year on June 20th. Tracy moved that a response be sent to the City Solicitor that makes reference to her earlier response. Amy seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Website Update

The idea of creating a widget for communities to use directing residents to the MRF website was tabled. Amy also mentioned that the update to the town by town listing is on the 'back burner' for now.

None

MAC Update

None

Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

The next MAB meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard, Clerk