

MAB Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Members Present: Jan Ameen, Kathleen Casey, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis, Abbey Massaro, Arlene Miller, Mary Stucklen, Susan Waite, Rene Wood

Others Present: Chris Lucarelle and Mike Moores of Waste Management Recycle America (WMRA)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comment Period No members of the public had comments.

Review, approve previous meeting minutes (VOTE) Jan moved and Kathleen seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed with Rene abstaining.

MRF Update Mike noted that operations have recently been challenging due to electrical issues. The MRF lost power and a fuse blew in the transformer causing some material to back up for processing. The MRF is now up and running. Revenues are still strong with OCC at \$167.50 and ONP at \$107.50. Amy asked about collecting and processing wet paper from curbside on rainy days. Mike said it's a problem as the wet paper doesn't run through the system as easily as when it's dry but they know there is not much that can be done about it except to ask residents to put out paper just before their collection time.

Chris reported that the August AMV is \$141.98 with towns receiving a net \$32.30 per ton. He doesn't believe there will be a big increase in future months but this pricing should hold steady. Mixed paper mills, especially Pratt, are still growing. MRF paper currently goes to IP in Connecticut and Rand Whitney. Chris showed the MAB the revised "settlement report" which is what towns get each month to show how the revenue is calculated. Jan, Kathleen, Arlene, Chris, Mike, and other WMRA staff met to review the original report and agreed to reduce the number of columns (data) to simplify it for town officials. Chris pointed out that there are still 10 municipalities that have not confirmed their contact information for receiving these reports. He will send the spreadsheet to Arlene and she will follow up.

Chris mentioned that the MRF is creating three streams of glass. Cullet and fines are going to CAP Glass in PA and whole bottles (all colors) are going to Strategic Materials in CT. Chris has asked WMRA's national glass expert to visit the MRF and advise on how to improve the glass system to create material ready for the best priced market.

Arlene asked when MRF tours might start again. Steve said that he talked with the Boston office and the tours will continue to be on hold at least until the fall. Steve confirmed that State House tours are not happening, either.

Susan asked if the MAB should send out a press release explaining about the positive revenue trend and markets. There was some discussion. Arlene will follow up with a reporter from *The Republican*.

Treasurer's Report	Jan reported that there has been very little activity with only about \$3,000 having been spent since July. She has asked Arlene to contact all towns with an equipment reimbursement grant to encourage them to submit their invoices for payment. The deadline for submittal is October 15 th .
Milk Carton Recycling Policy	Amy wanted to know if we should keep milk cartons on the educational material for single-stream recycling (SSR) towns. Tracy confirmed that both SSR haulers accept milk cartons. Tracy confirmed that milk cartons should remain on all SSR educational material produced by the MAB.
Public Education Committee	Amy has been working with the committee and other MAB members to review and edit all of the materials/documents/signs. She is sending the final documents to be uploaded to our website and to vendors for production.
Video Committee	Abbey reported that the committee has been working with both video companies. In the last week of July the committee met with The Rendon Group to take footage at the MRF. The committee revised the script for the video and has been sending guidance to The Rendon Group. The committee was able to review some of the "talent" for the Rendon Group video. The committee has suggested that The Rendon Group consider using actors from a local youth theater group. The goal is to complete the video by October 1 st . The committee has also been working with Reelife and has offered some names of individuals to be interviewed for the material-specific videos. The timeline for completion of the videos is October 1 st .
Other Business	Rene Wood shared that Sheffield received \$19,000 from the Mass. Community Compact program for a number of solid waste and recycling programs in town, including electronics, batteries, bulky rigid plastic and food waste. She recommended that other towns look into the program. Amy would like to nominate the MAB for a MassRecycle award. The MAB agreed that it was okay for her to do so.
MAC Update	MassDEP has hired Susan Waite as the new western Mass. MAC. She will start in her new role on September 1 st . As the MAC, Susan will remain a MAB member for which everyone was pleased. The MAB will need to find a replacement for her seat as a Hampshire County rep.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM. The next MAB meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021. Future dates: October 21, November 18, December 16.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Ameen, Franklin County Representative