

MAB Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
9:30am – 11:05am

Members and Others Present: Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis (DEP), Arlene Miller, Susan Waite, Rene Wood, Kevin Quesnel, Michael Pattavina, Christina Ferrera. Heather Polson, Ethan Tupelo, Kathleen Casey, Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.) and Chris Lucarelle (Waste Mgmt.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chair Miller. R. Wood volunteered to take the minutes but said she had to leave at 10:40am and Susan Waite had to leave by 11am.

Meeting Agenda

1. Public

Comment Period There were no comments from members of the public.

2. Review &

approval of

minutes (VOTE)

Kevin Quesnel made, and Tracy DeMaio seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. MRF Update

C. Lucarelle provided an update on the running of the SMRF noting it is running well and the list of about \$2.1M in improvements have been completed from a list developed from a building inspection report as well as needed equipment upgrades. He discussed a softening in the market especially for plastics, which are down from the \$1/pound range. Believes it is a correction to the high prices of late and pushback to same. However, an action in the Court of Boston could be significant as one of the two shipping container alliances that serve the Port of Boston, Ocean Alliances, has stated it will not be returning to the Boston port until February 2022. This has the potential to have impacts both on the cost of containers as well as the price of shipping. Could exacerbate the current shortage/price of containers and as a result negatively impact the cost of cardboard/mixed paper, which is shipped to many domestic markets.

Glass update on the two streams of glass sorted at SMRF. One of which is hand sorted bottles that goes to Strategic Glass in CT. The other is all other glass that goes to Tap Glass in PA. Waste Mgmt. is looking at what is required in their operations for all glass to go to CT; need to address issues such as rings, caps, and contaminated glass.

It was explained that RX pill containers cannot be currently accepted as they sort themselves into the broken bottle stream when on the conveyer belt. Would lead to additional required sorting and contamination to glass bottles.

MRF tours still on hold. S. Ellis indicated they are using the time when the State House becomes open for tours as when they will likely hold tours. The operational report was briefly reviewed; it was stated containers, cans, plastic gallon jugs, etc., should be left in their natural state and not crushed.

- 4. Treasurer's Report** J. Ameen reported the reimbursements to towns have almost been paid out and this may come in under budget by about \$2300; just beginning to receive bills for the municipal publications, stickers, and education materials. The FY22 Budget, as of 11/18/21, was included in the MAB meeting packet and there were no questions.
- 5. Milk Carton Recycling Policy** Extensive discussion; new policy included in packets. Comments were made on single stream communities having no issues to report.
- 6. EPR Legislation** Quick update on several bills pending before the state legislature. End Product producers will likely be required to pay into a fund but will not affect SMRF operations.
- 7. Public Education Committee** A. Donovan announced that the SMRF materials are almost ready to send out to communities; sorting has yet to be done and materials will be available at SMRF for pickup and distribution. R. Wood volunteered to help S. Waite in Berkshire County with distribution.
- 8. Video Subcommittee** S. Waite and A. Donovan update the committee on the subcommittee's work. The two videos "Me and My Bin," and "Where happens to my ketchup bottle?" were reviewed by MAB Committee prior to the meeting. Logos were reviewed and some comments made before discussion of whether the videos met the objectives and criteria as defined in the March 18, 2021 meeting; whether single stream was adequately addressed, particularly with the Carton Council endorsement; whether the videos are too SMRF specific versus generic recycling processing plants. A. Donovan noted both videos are not finalized, which the committee members had not been aware. After considerable discussion, it was decided members would 1) review the 3/15/21 minutes for objectives/criteria; 2) review the videos again with these in mind; and 3) provide comments to the video committee. (R. Wood left the meeting at 10:40am and A. Miller did the rest of the meeting's minutes.)
- 9. RRR Issues** There was a brief discussion about the 2022 annual Earth Day RRR project partnering with The Republican in Springfield and the Hampshire Gazette in a Northampton. All agreed that this was a very worthwhile and important project for the region and that we should do all that we can to help make it happen. However—everyone on the Board will need to help-even if just doing a signal task.
- 10. MAB Membership** The Chair gave an update on our membership, pointing out that we have several vacancies. Heather Polson, the new recycling coordinator for Northampton, showed some interest in a position. All encouraged her to consider applying and to let us know.

11. MAC Update S. Waite reminded members of several upcoming MRC meetings and encourage all to consider participating.

12. Other Business There was no other business.

Next MAB meeting: December 16 on Zoom to begin at 9:30am.

Jan made, and Kathleen seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05am. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Wood and _Arlene C .Miller

Documents used in the meeting:

- 10-18-21 MAB Meeting Packet, which included the Meeting Agenda, October MRF Tonage Report by Town, M. Moore's' monthly reports through October, 2021, and Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Policy, DRAFT 11-18-21
- MAB FY22 Budget through 11/18/21
- Draft meeting minutes: 9-16-21
- Me and My Bin and What happens to your ketchup bottle draft videos