

**MAB Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Members and Others Present: Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis (DEP), Arlene Miller, Susan Waite, Rene Wood, Michael Pattavina, Kathleen Casey.

Guests: Christina Ferrera, City of Springfield
Ethan Tupelo, citizen
Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:31am by Chair Miller.

Meeting Agenda

1. Public

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

2. Review &

**approval of
minutes (VOTE)**

S. Waite made, and R. Wood seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2021 as amended. The motion passed unanimously. R. Wood was asked to send the amended minutes to committee members.

3. MRF Update

M. Moores provided a SMRF update noting prices are softening in the markets with natural plastic and colored plastics taking the biggest price hits. Domestic markets are soft with the issues involving moving the goods out of the MRF and to their ultimate destinations due to trucking, container availability and shipping issues. It was noted that K&W Plastics had a COVID outbreak and a shutdown resulted. Basic issue is lack of available trucks to carry goods from one destination to next. OCC is moving but also subject to above issues. Some drop in prices, \$152.50/ton currently but still strong and the local end market picks up regularly. OCC= domestic but newspaper going to India as it has been for some time. MRF now sending trucks to ship materials out of NJ ports rather than Boston. No update on Boston shipping issues discussed at November meeting. M. Moores forecasts further decreases in prices, with comments from Board members that the communities are still receiving money rather than paying, and transportation issues will need to solve themselves as no government agency appears to be in charge of resolving these issues. SMRF will continue to focus on moving their materials out from their plant. There was discussion of new recycling plants coming on-line in the last few years and the Northeast Index price. (A. Miller sent out Nov. 20 MRF Tonnage Report and Revenue/Operations Report after the meeting.)

M. Moores also reported a \$.02/ton revenue underpayment in the November Settlement Letters due to an accounting error; this amounted to a total of \$29 across all communities. After discussion, ***J. Ameen made, and R. Wood seconded, a motion not to require the SMRF to pay out the \$29.00 shortage that occurred in November 2021 payments. The motion passed unanimously, with Tracy DeMaio abstaining.***

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was sent out with the minutes. J. Ameen reported a \$4,124 payment to Millennium Press for printed materials provided to communities and that equipment reimbursements to towns have been paid out with the exceptions of Blandford (\$600) and Westfield (\$3000). There is some uncertainty regarding at least one of these, which should be finalized shortly. She also reviewed carry-overs amounts and funding for single and dual stream programs. There were no questions on the budget update.

5. Video Subcommittee Update

The majority of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the Me and My Bin video, which was a carry over from the Nov. meeting. The discussion was led by A. Massaro, chair of this subcommittee. She reviewed the work done before and after the 12/1/21 video subcommittee meeting; feedback collected from a Google survey filled out by MAB members and the subcommittee's meeting with the production team. All Board members have had an opportunity to comment and be part of the review process.

She shared her overall comments of not able to make all people happy; disheartening to hear the comments provided in the review/feedback process; focus of this video was to entertain and engage kids and concerns about potentially losing them if some changes made; some called for changes would be major surgery and likely entail extra costs; and voice overs and some animated text were possible. Re: the other four videos, the feedback will be applied and further discussion to follow.

Chair Miller asked the subcommittee members to share their thoughts, which were as follows, working off the Me and My Bin Commentary document, and numbers for sections as authored by S. Waite:

1. They felt the video was funny and humorous – the crickets in the section where the boy walks to the recycling bin. A. Donovan noted the “green box” items will cost more to do than the container as is currently presented and most of MA does single stream. Felt the boy and the jar were fine as is.
2. Felt the video tells the real story of the MRF; provides a real life perspective. Contamination is part of the process and if an X is put on the 5-gallon container, does this X apply to everything that shouldn't be there? This will confuse people. Felt most people won't see this detail. Question of real life versus staged images. Five gallon bucket in waste stream discussed and A. Donovan wants to find a creative way to address this. A. Massaro said could add or replace with a message on recycling.
3. Issue of flag and pie did not rub the subcommittee the wrong way as point is recycling is American. Can be removed.
4. Peanut butter jar was discussed; maybe need explanation of why this is dreaded. Ways to address – remove it and/or do a voice over of why dreaded. Need to explain the Why? Numerous and lighthearted examples were noted but if can be cut out easily, can do so.
5. More discussion of some of the humor in video. Discussion of green sections and lighthearted nature of video.
6. Subcommittee did not see an issue. Parents will watch with their children and enjoy it. Not overly childlike. Major focus is on children, establishing a base of knowledge to then be open to details in website and accompanying videos.
- 7 & 8. Felt already accomplished. Can highlight more non-recyclables and can be more educational in detail. Needs to be shorter while continuing to set up the big

picture for more details to be presented later.

9-16. Didn't see these as dealbreakers. Comments on peanut butter jars and tin cans were confusing about having to separate them at the home when they are separated at the SMRF. Need to clarify. Felt others were a difference of opinion and in some cases with 1 person objecting.

- 6. RRR Issues** Short update; seeking new members.
- 7. MAB Membership Update** The Chair gave an update on our membership, pointing out three existing vacancies and that J. Haas of Egremont has submitted her resignation. A. Miller will work on an appropriate way to thank her for her contributions during her many years on the board. Heather Polson, the new recycling coordinator for Northampton, showed some interest in a position. Currently 1 open position in Hampshire County and 2 in Berkshire County. S. Waite suggest considering what skills are needed on the Board as well as providing her thoughts on diversity and inclusion, younger members, and more men. Persons with financial backgrounds at CET in Pittsfield were mentioned and Abbey will follow up on this possibility.
- 8. MAC Update** S. Waite gave a short update with emphasis on the new Feb. 15, 2022 reporting submission requirement by MassDEP, with the deduction of 1 point if not submitted at that time. She has plans to provide a review of the new/2022 RDP program in an update to members in January.
- 9. Other Business** R. Wood mentioned the new RDP point for information in languages other than English. Members pointed out SMRF materials in Spanish and A. Miller will check on availability of these materials at the MRF in stock supplies. (These are on the website at: <http://springfieldmrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Spanish-Postcard-Recycle-in-W-Mass-07-21.pdf>)
- 10. Next Meeting** Jan. 20, 2022 at 9:30am on Zoom

R. Wood made, and J. Ameen seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood

Documents used in the meeting: 12-16-21 MAB Meeting Packet, which included MAB FY22 Budget through 12/16/21 and draft meeting minutes for 11/18/21; Me and My Bin Commentary