

MAB Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Susan Waite, Michael Pattavina, Kathleen Casey, Kevin Quesnell, and Rene Wood

Others: Steve Ellis (DEP); Ethan Tupelo, citizen; Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle (Waste Mgmt.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chair A. Miller. The following agenda items were taken up.

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

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. After discussion of how revisions to draft minutes should be handled, it was decided R. Wood would send them out to all members for review. Corrections/amendments would be sent back to R. Wood for finalization. Finalized draft minutes will be sent to A. Miller to include in the upcoming meeting packet. The minutes of December 16, 2021 were deferred to the February '22 meeting.

3. MRF Update. The monthly report was sent out by A. Miller. M. Moores in his update noted operations were moving smoothly and are up to date on moving materials out for processing. Shipping and trucking delays have been resolved and now are dealing with the cold. AMV at \$6.18/ton, with the holiday season putting more product into the marketplace. All members pleased to be receiving money. Export issues have continued to impact markets, especially in Boston during the time Boston was dredging and doing harbor work. Ocean Alliance did not use the port for several months. He also reviewed the backlog in West Coast ports. Chris Lucarelle reviewed the plastic market noting the new normal (\$.50/lb) with color softer due to their use in black construction pipe, the demand for which picks up in the summer construction season. S. Waite brought up the issue of whether toothpaste cartons, and other packaging with metallic print are acceptable for recycling. Answer: YES.

The issue of milk cartons was raised; the draft Milk Carton Policy was reviewed with T. DeMaio suggesting the 1st highlighted bullet be removed, as it calls out single stream communities and how they do their recycling and suggested specific language to be used in the 2nd bullet. After discussion, **R. Wood made, and J. Ameen seconded, a motion to allow A. Miller and T. DeMaio to work out the final language for the Milk Carton Policy. The motion passed unanimously.** The discussion ended with mesh bags, which J. Ameen will follow up on as to whether needed or not.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen reviewed her Treasurer's Report, which had been emailed earlier to all members. Highlights included grant reimbursement request received from Westfield, but not anticipated from Blandford; paid out about \$30,000 in equipment grants and went over the Special Projects payment to Millennium Press.

5. Video Sub-Committee Update. A. Massaro reviewed their meeting with Rendon Group, which focused on the previously raised 5 top issues. She and others felt the meeting went well with brainstorming, proposed changes, and replacements reviewed. Rendon felt they could do the work without additional costs. She felt the new drafts/proposal may be available for the February meeting. T. DeMaio has joined the sub-committee and her contributions were acknowledged. Future edits will be handled on a case by case basis and as was discussed before, it may continue to be, just like movies, that not every viewer is as pleased as other viewers.

6. RRR. A. Miller brought up the timeframe for RRR and discussed the Hampshire Gazette (RRR North) and The Republican (RRR South). Deadlines of 4/22 with things being in by 4/1 were reviewed. The Republican provides free-lance writers to write the articles from provided ideas, while the Hampshire Gazette has the stories provided to them. A. Donovan spoke of their 15th anniversary for RRR North and the concept of “What have we learned in 15 years?” with possibility of compost, recycling, reuse, etc. put into graphics and pictures more than text. Will be in 4 newspapers on 4/20, 2 days before Earth Day. S. Waite and R. Wood will look at the possibility of starting a RRR West through the Berkshire Eagle. **M. Pattavina made a motion to spend up to a combined total of \$4,000 for full page ads in both The Republican and The Hampshire Gazette, which was seconded by J. Ameen and passed unanimously.**

A. Donovan discussed the need to get the “What do I do with?” document checked and validated; and she needs 5-6 volunteers. She will send out a list of what to check for those who volunteered. K. Casey and A. Miller are the final editors. A. Donovan will email what needs to be reviewed and she suggested adding food/product mailers to the list. A deadline will come with the email.

7. MAB Membership Update. S. Waite and A. Miller discussed their recruitment efforts with several possible leads discussed, but so far no one to invite to a meeting. Discussion of possibilities included Matt Kerwood, City of Pittsfield. All were encouraged to send names forward.

8. MAC Update. S. Waite provided an update on recent DEP grants both in terms of contracts signed, percentage of Western MA participation in the RDP & Small Scale Initiative grants and total percentage of funds allocated. February 15 reminder for early paperwork submittal. She will email a copy of the just released state’s Reduce and Reuse Plan to members.

9. Other Business. The gift for J. Haas will be a gift card to Ward’s Nursery in Great Barrington. All those who wish to contribute may send their contributions to T. DeMaio, who will send out an email later today.

10. Next Meeting. Scheduled for February 17th. **J. Ameen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by S. Waite and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood

Documents used in the meeting: 1/20/22 MAB meeting packet; MAB FY22 budget, 1/20/22; 12/16/21 draft meeting minutes; 2021-22 Tonnage Report through December 21; and Attest signature page for Monthly Tonnage Report