

MAB Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Susan Waite, Kathleen Casey, Kevin Quesnell, Steve Ellis (DEP), and Rene Wood

Others: Ethan Tupelo; Mike Moores and Chris Lucarelle (Waste Mgmt.), Linda Cernik; Laurie Simmons; and Christina Ferrera.

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

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

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of 12/16/21 and 1/20/22.

J. Ameen made, and K. Casey seconded, a motion to accept the 12/16/21 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Ameen made, and K. Casey seconded, a motion to accept the 1/20/22 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. MRF Update. A second monthly report was sent out by M. Moores, as the 1st report contained formula, but not monetary, errors. Certain spacers have been retrofitted to allow small boxes to now go into cardboard sort rather than paper, as was previously the case. C. Lucarelle discussed market trends with mixed paper, OMP/newsprint, and aluminum up, the later up 25% in 3 weeks. A portion of these increases is due to oil price increases. Evergreen is targeted to return to Boston 4/1; Mediterranean Shipping has already returned. A new SE shipping line will soon start calling on Boston and other carriers have expressed interest, given the recent dredging of the harbor. Trucking and shipping prices continue to have an impact.

S. Ellis discussed the resumption of MRF tours and recommended the issue be discussed in April, when roof repairs will be completed. Nancy Bobskill has retired, and while he is willing to do a few tours a month, once they begin, someone will need to be hired and paid by MAB. Signs/art on the outside of the MRF is showing its age and should be replaced. He has found the company who did the original art and is getting an estimate. Price sharing will be discussed when the estimate is received.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen reviewed her Treasurer's Report, which had been emailed earlier to all members. All grants have been paid. Public education of 5 cents/capita was discussed, which hasn't been requested from member towns for the past 2 years. It was pointed out that it is too late for FY23 municipal budgets and such request should be made in January of each year. Waste Management donates \$10,000 to MAB/year. It was suggested that a letter of accomplishments be sent to municipalities with any request for annual funding; 2 letters – one tailored for single-stream communities, the other for dual stream. T. DeMaio asked how single stream and dual stream funds

are accounted for. J. Ameen indicated the funds were combined and \$30,000 is now in the joint account. This discussion will continue at a future meeting.

5. Video Sub-Committee Update. A. Massaro discussed the status of the Me and My Bin video, which had been sent out before the meeting with 2 voice overs. After discussions, the male voice over was preferred and four issues need additional work: 1) can the kid and the single stream container be taken out of the video? A bin substituted?; 2) remove “BAD” from neon & other signs and substitute “unwanted” or another word; 3) Re-do voice effort to remove “bad” and substitute another word; and 4) what is the cost for each of these issues? S. Waite is stepping back and R. Wood has stepped forward on the sub-committee. Depending on what comes from these items, it may go to the Executive Committee for finalization. J. Ameen volunteered to send the MRF Advisory Board By-Laws to new members. Everyone seemed ready to move forward on the video, with these issues addressed, and had many complements for the Video sub-committee. There are 4 mini-videos still in the works.

6. RRR. Both RRR South and North are on track for April. Notes and articles are in place for both; proofreading underway. RRR North is focusing on 15 years of RRN – What have we learned? One of the inserts will be in Spanish and may help qualify for one point on the RDP for those communities. RRR West is waiting for the other publications but has made initial contact with Berkshire Eagle.

7. MAB Membership Update. K. Casey, who will be leaving her position as of March 31, introduced Linda Cernik, incoming HRMC Administrator, and recommended she be appointed in her place on the MAB as the representative for Hampshire County. Kind words from members were directed to K. Casey and the invaluable contributions she has made to the MAB. K. Casey said she will finish her editing on the RRR. **R. Wood made a motion to appoint Linda Cernik to a Hampshire County’s representative and to the HRC seat on the MAB effective 4/1/2022, which was seconded by J. Ameen and passed unanimously.**

R. Wood made a motion to also appoint Laurie Simmons to fill another Hampshire County seat on the MAB effective 4/1/2022, which was seconded by J. Ameen and passed unanimously.

Laurie Simmons’s current position is Sustainability Coordinator, Residential Life, Facilities & Campus Services; UMass, Amherst.

8. MAC Update. S. Waite provided a quick update on RDP criteria now released; no more Small Scale Initiatives grants; and the RDP grant is now accessible to all communities. The grant program will be a topic at her next monthly roundtable.

9. Other Business. None

10. Next Meeting. Not scheduled. **J. Ameen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by R. Wood and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:57am.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood

Documents used in the meeting:

- 3/7/22 MAB meeting packet
- MAB FY22 March budget, 1/20/22
- 12/16/21 draft meeting minutes
- Monthly Tonnage report and Attest signature page for Monthly Tonnage Report
- 2 versions of Me and My Bin video