

MAB Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2022  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MAB Members Present:** Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Tracy DeMaio, Arlene Miller, Linda Cernik, Laurie Simmons, Amy Donovan, Susan Waite, and Steve Ellis (DEP)

Others: Ethan Tupelo, Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.), and Susan Cooper (Monterey)

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Chair A. Miller. The following agenda items were taken up.

**1. Public Comment Period.** None

During the public comment period, Susan Waite introduced Susan Cooper from Monterey. S. Cooper is participating in the meeting as an interested new Board member for Berkshire County. She is on the Selectboard and on the Transfer Station Committee. Each participant in the meeting introduced themselves.

**2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. S. Waite moved to accept the minutes as presented. L. Simmons seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

**3. MRF Update.** The monthly tonnage report and attest signature certification had been received prior to the meeting. M. Moores reported no operational or processing issues. The August AMV is negative for the first time in over a year. Municipalities will pay \$14.28 per ton in August. Markets are down: aluminum down \$300; steel down \$15; ONP down \$20; HDPE down \$60. There is a large amount of news waiting to be shipped to market. The lower prices seem to be related to the economy and consumers reducing purchases.

A. Miller asked if tours could resume. M. Moores and S. Ellis agreed that tours could resume with a maximum of 15 participants. Masks are optional. A. Miller would like to start tours in late September/early October. Amy will put a notice on the website that tours are available with limitations.

**4. Treasurer's Report.** J. Ameen reviewed the August budget vs. actual document sent prior to the meeting. There are now two rows for carryover which show the amount of funds for all member towns vs. dual stream member towns. There were only two small expenses paid out.

**5. Video Sub-Committee Update.** A. Massaro reported that the committee has met with Tom Adams at Reelife and specified the changes requested at the June MAB meeting. Tom is still working on the edits. The committee expects to have new videos to share in the coming weeks. The committee is working with Stan Fede, our graphics designer, on a logo.

**6. RRR Berkshire County edition.** S. Waite reported that she, L. Cernik, and R. Wood have discussed creating an RRR version for the Berkshire Eagle which serves all of Berkshire County. The hope is to use the material from the RRR North version as the template for the Berkshire version. There may not be enough advertisers so there is a possibility of the MAB funding some aspect of this project. The group will have more information at the next meeting.

**7. MAC Update.** S. Waite explained that MassDEP-Boston staff are currently contacting towns for verification of RDP points. DEP has released a bulky waste characterization report. Mass. MRF residue rates were reviewed. The SMRF is listed at a 4% residue rate. There will be a statewide MAC webinar on September 15<sup>th</sup> on RDP spending and creative ways to use RDP funds.

**8. Other Business.** S. Cooper asked about the role of the MAB. A. Miller, A. Donovan, and S. Waite gave details of the MAB's role and projects. **J. Ameen moved to appoint S. Cooper as a Berkshire representative. A. Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** The Berkshire reps will decide which towns S. Cooper will represent.

T. DeMaio talked about single-stream recycling (SSR) contracts which expire in June 2023. SSR municipalities received revenue for 3 months of the last year. Fees did not exceed \$45/ton which is far below the base fee of \$113/ton. SSR towns have not had issues with either Casella or USA. SSR towns will be seeking new pricing for July 1, 2023.

A. Donovan toured Strategic Materials in CT which processes some of the MRF glass. She discussed the waste bans and how to educate residents.

A. Miller asked if the MAB wants to offer an educational material grant program this year. Many towns used the equipment grant last year but didn't order public education materials. There was discussion about different options to add to the educational program, including a video on carton recycling, adding a QR code to publications, and creating an online sorting game.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 9:30 am.

**10. Adjournment J. Ameen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by A. Donovan and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Ameen

Documents used in the meeting:

- 8/16/22 MAB meeting packet; MAB FY23 August budget; June 23<sup>rd</sup> draft meeting minutes; July tonnage report; Monthly Tonnage report and Attest signature page for this report