

MAB Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Jan Ameen, Linda Cernik, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis (DEP), Arlene Miller, Michael Pattavina, Laurie Simmons, Kevin Quesnell, and Rene Wood

Others: Ethan Tupelo, and Chris Lucarelle (Waste Mgmt.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Chair A. Miller. The following items were taken up.

1. Public Comment Period. None

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. *J. Ameen made, and T. DeMaio seconded, a motion to accept the 8/18/22 minutes. The motion passed with R. Wood abstaining.*

3. MRF Update. The monthly tonnage report and MRF Operations report were received prior to the meeting. C. Lucarelle reported operations were good with the parking lot to be paved before the end of the month. Markets in plastics and metals have normalized from previous high prices, while the fiber market is bad and now having to pay to get rid of paper. These markets reflect the international and national economic downturns, especially in China; increasing interest rates resulting in consumers buying less products requiring boxes; and in turn manufacturers cutting back on manufacturing boxes. All means less need for fiber raw materials. Normally at this time being the start of the holiday season, it would be the reverse. Economic slowdowns impacting the markets have been discussed for several months; mills are taking breaks with at least one having shut down. He felt the markets will have to work through inventory on hand before demand will pick up.

S. Ellis was asked about tours of the SMRF facility. He and Chair Miller will review logistics before tours begin, including coordinating with Waste Management and having tour guides available. Discussed a future MAB meeting at the SMRF, which would be combined with a facility tour.

T. DeMaio brought the Board up to date on happenings in the single stream markets and upcoming contract negotiations.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen reviewed the FY23 budget reporting little activity during the past month. \$1500 in outreach expenses previously discussed were paid to Reelife and payment was made to Jessica for Facebook and social media outreach.

Chair Miller added a membership discussion of Mary Stucklen, who wishes to come back on the MAB to fill an empty Berkshire County board seat. *L. Simmons made, and R. Wood seconded, a motion to appoint Mary Stucklen as a member of the MAB for Berkshire County. The motion passed unanimously.* The matter of whether M. Stucklen qualifies by residency or workplace to represent Berkshire County was reviewed. R. Wood volunteered to find out where she works / lives.

Once this is determined, R. Wood will work with S. Waite to assign Berkshire County MAB representatives to Berkshire County municipalities and email that information to all on the MAB.

5. Video Committee Update. Due to timing of the emails on the last round of videos, not all had a chance to review them prior to the meeting. A deadline of 9/30 was set for all feedback on the 4 videos. A. Donovan led the update and discussion. L. Simmons suggested changes to the Most Unwanted dealing with the video time spend showing the most unwanted sign while B. Nash is discussing wish-cycling and contamination. After discussion, the committee was encouraged to make the changes L. Simmons brought up, using font and font size as they see fit. Other changes suggested by B. Nash will also be made.

Most of the time focused on a logo, with it becoming clear that two logos are needed: SMRF and MAB. J. Ameen discussed the difference between the two with the video committee accepting the job of creating a logo for each with the likelihood of additional costs. While this is underway, it was the consensus the videos with the SMRF scenes at the beginning and the acknowledgement of the video being created by the MAB at the end were sufficient; additional logo development should not hold up the release of the videos.

6. MAB spending 2022-2023 discussion. Chair Miller led this discussion, which included what could be done this year, possibly modeling on last year's dividend program minus the equipment. R. Wood requested a focus on 2-3 signs in Spanish for everyone to earn an RDA point and the acceptable container recycling sign to show caps/lids on recyclable containers. Single stream communities need to be remembered in the discussion. There was no clear consensus. **A motion made by R. Wood, seconded by M. Pattavina, to have A. Donovan, A. Miller, and J. Ameen review signage/materials and return with an outreach grant idea passed unanimously.**

7. RRR update: Berkshire County. R. Wood reported that communications have begun with the Berkshire Eagle, but it will not be ready this year, more likely in the Spring.

8. MAC Update. S. Waite was not present so no update.

9. Other Business. L. Simmons shared a video on New 2 U program of collecting items as students leave campus each year, culling, cleaning, and getting items ready for a Tag Sale on the Saturday of student move-in weekend. Students, especially foreign students, can buy what they need from beds to refrigerators at reasonable prices. The program started in 2014 and contributes \$10,000 - \$13,000/year to the sustainability and engagement fund used to fund campus programs. What does not sell is donated where possible with a small amount going into the trash.

L. Simmons asked if anyone knew of information on the amount of usable goods in the waste stream. Suggestions were made but no clear answer was known.

10. Next Meeting. October 20, 2022 at 9:30am is the next scheduled meeting. The following meeting, Nov. 17th, may be at the SMRF. People spoke of meeting in person again and a hybrid approach was discussed given travel distances for some members.

11. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood

Documents used in the meeting:

- 9/22/22 MAB meeting packet, including draft minutes and agenda
- MAB FY23 budget, dated 9/22/22
- Monthly Tonnage report and Attest signature page for this report