

MAB Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Linda Cernik, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Steve Ellis (DEP), Arlene Miller, Laurie Simmons, Mary Stucklen, S. Cooper, Susan Waite, Christina Ferrara (Springfield DPW), and Rene Wood

Others: Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:36am by Chair A. Miller. The following items were taken up.

1. Public Comment Period. None

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. *S. Waite made, and S. Cooper seconded, a motion to accept the 9/22/22 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

3. MRF Update. The monthly tonnage report and MRF Operations report were received prior to the meeting. Mike Moores reported that while operations were good and they are preparing for winter, it has been difficult to move the bales out due to a shortage of equipment, primarily trucks and shipping containers. He noted it is a carrier issue and they are stockpiling bales until they can be moved. Market prices are staying stable, and he does not expect a change either way until a hoped for uptick in next year.

S. Waite brought in a sample of a newer packaging material used for shipping food delivery service items and other e-commerce shipments. It is prominently marked as recyclable, but it is not accepted at the MRF or elsewhere. Some residents seem confused about this packaging.

S. Ellis, when asked about tours of the SMRF facility, noted a recent tour to graduate and college students went well but felt the Me and My Bin was more suited to younger ages. The website has been updated on tours and those wishing to take a tour must register through S. Ellis.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen reviewed the FY23 budget reporting little activity since the last meeting. No questions were asked.

5. Review which towns we each represent.

Chair Miller noted a full MAB membership. *R. Wood made a motion, seconded by A. Donovan, to accept the assignments of MAB board members to municipalities, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

6. Video Committee Update. A. Massaro led the discussion on the remaining videos. The Most Unwanted video generated discussion on whether the "only 4-5% goes into the trash" should be removed in its entirety, or "only" should be removed, or additional quantification of the "4-5%" should be added. Contamination rates for single stream communities were reviewed as well as postings from the recent inaccurate NPR story and rebuttal articles. Discussion ensued. *R. Wood made a motion, seconded by L. Simmons, to remove the phrase "only 4-5% goes into the trash" from the Most Unwanted video. The motion passed by majority with A. Donovan voting no and S. Ellis abstaining.*

Discussion continued on possible educational outreach to overcome the inaccurate information provided in the NPR story. After acceptance of amended motion, **A. Massaro's motion, seconded by J. Ameen, to approve all of the remaining videos and any expenses incurred in implementing the previous motion, was unanimously approved.**

A. Donovan volunteered to do a press release on the videos, with links, after Thanksgiving.

7. MAB Public Education and outreach report. The presentation and discussion were led by J. Ameen and A. Donovan. As members had been emailed the suggested plan, discussion focused on the particulars, including no equipment this year, Spanish signage to help communities earn 1 RDP point, containers with caps on, and material price increases. Timing discussed was release after Thanksgiving with return before the end of the year. S. Waite noted this was an excellent opportunity for members to reach out to their assigned municipalities.

J. Ameen made the recommendation to consider the following funding sources for these materials: For dual stream communities, use the Recycle America funds, currently \$22K and for the single stream communities, use the outreach budget, currently \$11K. Since no money was allocated in the budget process, these were the best/only sources. **J. Ameen made a motion, seconded by L. Simmons to fund the MAB Public Education and Outreach program as discussed above.** However, as discussed with the motion, it was felt materials from previous programs were not being used and thrown out. Discussion focused on reducing the amount of funding offered per community and after several amended and accepted motions to reduce the program's dollar/point allocations, the final motion was: **J. Ameen accepted an amended motion, also accepted by the second L. Simmons to fund the MAB Public Education and Outreach program at a 20% reduction in dollar/point allocation from the presented program, with all other aspects of the program accepted. The amended motion was unanimously approved.**

8. RRR 2023. Existing RRRs will be done in 2023 with S. Waite reporting progress on a forthcoming RRR Berkshire edition, with content like RRR North and all Berkshire MAB members working on it.

9. MAC Update. S. Waite provided the following updates:

- RDP award letters release; contact her if questions.
- Beyond the Bin: moved to a new platform/location allowing for crowd sourced information which may be tailored to each locality by added local sources for recycling items. If do a transfer station notation, important to add "for residents only" if that is the case.
- NPR report continues to be an issue; high level rebuttals released.
- 11/9 State-wide MAC newsletter; let her know if want copy and didn't get it.
- Big City Group being formed with large municipality focus.
- Upcoming events: 1/11/23: RDP diversity & inclusion webinar; 1/30/23: PAYT life support webinar for those with PAYT programs and how to maintain them.

10. Other Business. None

11. Next meeting and adjournment.

With no meeting in December, next meeting set for 1/19/23 at 9:30am. Format and place to be determined. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Ameen, seconded by S. Cooper, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10.40am.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood

Documents used in the meeting:

- 11/17/22 MAB meeting packet, including 9/22/22 draft minutes and agenda
- MAB FY23 budget, dated 11/17/22
- 10/22 Tonnage report and Attest signature page
- MAB member assigned municipalities
- Proposal re: MAB Recycling Educational program, 11/22; includes available materials and point allocation per member municipality