

MAB Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023
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, Michael Pattavina, Ethan Tupelo, Susan Cooper, Christina Ferrera (DEP), and Rene Wood

Others present: Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.), Steve Ellis (DEP)

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

1. Public Comment Period. None

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. *T. DeMaio made, and R. Wood seconded, a motion to accept the 1/26/23 minutes as presented. The motion passed, with R. Wood abstaining as she was not present at the meeting.*

3. MRF Update. The monthly tonnage report and MRF Operations report were received prior to the meeting. Mike Moores reported that the markets are flat with fiber being held for months. A fiber processing plant in Pittsburg will close for March while a new plant in the Carolinas comes on-line during this same time. Uptick in fiber exports, which may favorably impact domestic markets; expecting a bump up in March. Aluminum prices up slightly. Issue of residential papers having brown bags and small boxes is impacting purchases. He is holding onto gable tops as can't find a buyer.

A. Miller and T. DeMaio reported on visiting the most modern, single stream MRF in the country, located in Berlin, CT.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen noted budget activity centered around towns' responses to MAB's Public Education and Outreach program. Materials ordered by dual stream communities (under \$5000) will be paid out of Waste Management account while those ordered by single stream communities (about \$1400) will be paid out of the general fund.

5. Video Committee Report: translations. T. DeMaio and A. Donovan brought the board up to date on translation work for the four videos done by MAB. Discussion focused on what languages, if any, beyond Spanish and Russian, would be done, as well as the role of subtitles/closed caption, language being dubbed over the videos, translations and costs for all discussed services. Several quotes were reviewed, and discussion ensued. It was noted that YouTube has a setting to activate closed caption titles. *R. Wood made a motion, seconded by A. Massaro, to have A. Massaro, J. Ameen, A. Donovan, and T. DeMaio decide what pricing and approach to take regarding the four videos conversion into Spanish and Russian and to allocate up to \$3000 for this work to be done. The motion passed unanimously.*

J. Ameen said there was money in the budget for this work, possibly from the Waste Management account, but no decision was made as to which account it would be taken from. A. Donovan noted that the “Me and My Bin” video was not included.

6. MAB Public Education and outreach report: Orders and distribution. All materials ordered under this program should be in house by end of February. A. Miller and A. Donovan will determine pickup date for materials based upon receipt.

7. RRR 2023: Overruns, Berkshire Eagle. A. Donovan priced overruns for RRR North; these are for distribution to transfer stations and town halls. She reported cost increases since last year: 2,000 overruns for \$1,000, which is the number normally ordered; 3,000 for \$1,500; and 5,000 for \$2,500. **R. Wood made a motion, seconded by A. Donovan, to provide \$1500 for acquisition of 3,000 overruns for RRR North. The motion passed unanimously.** (See #9 for discussion of RRR Berkshires)

8. MAB Vacancy in Hampshire County. Several candidates have applied and this matter will be taken up at the 4/20/23 meeting.

9. MAC Update. S. Waite provided her MAC Update in written form, which was emailed to all members. A. Miller highlighted the items, one of which was RRR Berkshires, to be printed by the Berkshire Eagle. After discussing support for this project, **J. Ameen made a motion, seconded by R. Wood, to provide \$1000 to support the printing of RRR West. The motion passed unanimously.** Also discussed, but not voted on, was financial support for a full page ad. This will be taken up later as the project moves forward.

10. Other Business. Michael Pattavina, after 30+ years of service, will resign from the board once a replacement is named. It is expected that candidates will be forthcoming for his Franklin County seat. Candidates will be discussed and likely appointed at the 4/20/23 meeting.

11. Next meeting and adjournment.

With no meeting scheduled in March, the next meeting was set for 4/20/23 at 9:30am. Format and place to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 10.50am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood, a Delegate from Berkshire County

Documents used in the meeting:

- 2-16-23 MAB meeting packet, including 1/26/23 draft minutes
- MAB FY23 budget, dated 2/16/23
- 1/23 Tonnage report and Attest signature page
- MAC update report from Susan Waite