

MAB Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Linda Cernik, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Laurie Simmons, Susan Cooper, Michael Pattavina, and Rene Wood.

Others present: Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.), Steve Ellis (DEP), Christina Ferrera (Springfield DPW), Chris Lucarelle (Waste Management), Susan Waite (MAC), Ethan Tupelo, Janine Greaves

The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chair A. Miller. The following items were taken up.

1. **Public Comment Period.** None

2. **Review and Approval of Draft Minutes.** *L. Simmons made, and S. Cooper seconded, a motion to accept 4-13-23 as presented. The motion passed, with two abstentions as they were not present at the meeting.*

The Executive Committee minutes of 2-27-23 were presented but required no approval.

3. **MRF Update.** Report included comments on a small uptick in fiber market but dealing with financial issues due to a huge increase in electrical rates and personal property tax assessments by City of Springfield on new sorting equipment. Planning to file a tax abatement request in the future. Materials moving well, but want more volume as operating 4 days a week. Solar panels credit goes to the state, so not crediting their account, as state funded the panels. Suggestions were made re: possible ways to reduce costs.

C. Lucarelle provided an update on his new job, Market Area General Manager for Waste Management, and his replacement, who starts 6/12/23.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** J. Ameen noted budget activity centered around the RRR 2023 publications and question of how to pay the \$4000 for advertising. It was determined the amount will be taken out of the outreach budget.

5. **MAB Dropbox.** Graphic and educational files, and other key files are hard to access and usually on a member's computer; there is no collective access to these important assets. Dropbox software would be a way to resolve this and put all such files in a single repository accessible under a permission system controlled by the placer of the document in the Dropbox. Concern over documents being changed by someone with access to Dropbox, but correctly setting privileges would prevent this. J. Ameen agreed to purchase a Dropbox account and set it up. *R. Wood made a motion to open a Dropbox account at an approximate cost of \$13/month. The motion was seconded by S. Cooper and passed unanimously.*

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5. MRF Contract Extension. R. Wood has withdrawn from the negotiating committee. A. Miller will coordinate a meeting date.

6. MAB Vacancies. Franklin and Hampshire County. Janine Greaves introduced herself as a candidate for Franklin County; has been on the Board before. In the recycling business since 1997, she is currently the Office Mgr. and Recycling Coordinator for Greenfield, a dual stream community, which does its own recycling and hauling. M. Pattavina gave her a strong endorsement.

R. Wood made, and S. Waite seconded, a motion to appoint Janine Greaves as the representative from Franklin County. The motion passed unanimously.

Ethan Tupelo told the Board about himself as a candidate to represent Hampshire County. He started at Pedal People in 2016, which has since expanded into many communities. He has a long history of recycling advocacy and received a Doctorate in this area and now holds University assistant professorship on this topic. He has attended MAB meetings for the past few years.

R. Wood made, and S. Cooper seconded, a motion to appoint Ethan Tupelo as the representative from Hampshire County. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Video Committee Report: Translations. T. DeMaio gave an update on the project to translate MAB materials into 4 languages. Most translations and the postcards are done. Will soon put the language translations into the MAB's videos, with the end of June as the expected completion date. Discussed possible kickoff campaign with schools in the Fall. The translated postcards will be added to the website, [Dropbox](#), and education distribution list. West Springfield and Agawam are cost sharing and the MAB will discuss a contribution as the bills come in.

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7. RRR 2023 Wrap Up. Compliments to all! A. Donovan discussed that the MRF's Yes/No recycling guidelines used to be included in the RRR and would like to revisit adding more information on this in next year's RRR. When the "What Do I Do With...?" disposal guide was first written, it was intended to provide options for recycling the items that are not accepted at the MRF, with the yes/no guide accompanying it. Since the Republican (RRR South) doesn't choose to include the Yes/No graphic ("Recycle in Western Mass"), that means that some recyclable items are not covered at all in the guide (glass, paper, and steel/tin cans). Proposed working on this now, including possibly adding the Recycle in Western MA yes/no guide in the Republican RRR as well as 3-5 entries in the "What Do I Do With...?" disposal guide. MAB Members who expressed interest in working on this "RRR Enhancements" project were S. Waite, L. Simmons, J. Greaves, as well as A. Donovan.

9. MAC Update. S. Waite provided an RDP update and the pending absence of two key people in this program. Feedback was provided on the RDP webinar. A new issue of Reduce Waste newsletter is available. Big push to get Paint Care bill passed in the state legislature with a key July 12 meeting/rally cited; more information will be forthcoming. Community Composting certification program reviewed.

10. Other Business. J. Ameen will create an electronic get well card for Kevin Quesnel and send a link for people to sign. She will also create an electronic card for M. Pattavina for his years of service on the Board.

L. Simmons shared the UMass Amherst came in first place in the national competition "Campus Race to Zero Waste 2022."

11. Next meeting and adjournment.

The next meeting was not scheduled due to several members being unable to attend on the third Thursday in June.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood, a Delegate from Berkshire County

Documents used in the meeting:

- 5-11-23 MAB meeting packet, including 4-13-23 draft minutes and 2-27-23 Executive Minutes
- MAB FY23 budget, dated 5/11/23