

MAB Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MAB Members Present: Jan Ameen, Steve Ellis (DEP), Tracy DeMaio, Arlene Miller, Laurie Simmons, Susan Cooper, Ethan Tupelo, Janine Greaves and Susan Waite (MAC).

Others present: Christina Ferrera (Springfield DPW), Mike Moores (Waste Management), Chris Lucarelle (Waste Management).

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

1. Public Comment Period. None

2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes. Approval of May 2023 meeting minutes was postponed to our next meeting.

3. MRF Update. M. Moores reported that things are going well operationally. No big changes to the AMV this month. C. Lucarelle explained that there will be a significant AMV change next month due to significant pricing drops in HDPE Natural (down 29¢--significant), HDPE Color, PET & PP. The primary driver is low virgin plastic pricing, manufacturer backstock buildup. This is a surprisingly rapid market drop and he has no sense of how long it will last but expects one or two of the drivers (stock buildup and manufacturing facility renovation) to disappear soon.

C. Lucarelle mentioned that legislation requiring manufacturers to use a minimum post-consumer plastic content would help move the pricing needle in a positive direction. E. Tupelo suggested that the Board advocate with legislators and volunteered to research and come up with proposed actions we can take for discussion at our next meeting. Board members interested in participating in early discussions over the summer please contact him.

C. Lucarelle will be working with us on the contract extension project and will introduce us to WMRA's new area recycling director at a future meeting.

S. Ellis has been giving 2-3 MRF tours/month but has no requests for the summer at this point.

4. Treasurer's Report. J. Ameen explained that all FY23 bills have been paid.

5. MAB Budget. With the recent FY23 expenditures, the combined dual/single stream fund balance will be \$8,200. With the WMRA contribution balance carried over plus the new annual contribution we will have almost \$25K to work with for the dual stream communities. A discussion of the per capita Public Education Fee ensued. Because of market conditions and a healthy bank account the MAB has elected not to collect the fee from member communities for

the last 3 years. The concept of single stream municipalities contributing in the future was floated, but it is not clear what incentive(s) exist for them.

S. Waite made a motion to initiate a formal Board vote each year as to whether or not to assess the Education Fee. The motion was seconded by L. Simmons and passed unanimously.

T. DeMaio made a motion to accept the proposed FY2024 budget without assessing Public Education Fees. The motion was seconded by J. Ameen and passed unanimously.

6. FY2024 Goals & Projects. The following potential goals/projects were proposed:

- Renegotiate contract extension
- K-12 recycling education outreach (promote new videos, etc.)
- Alternative language outreach (to other-than-English speaking communities & offer of educational materials to MRF dual & single stream communities)
- Continue translation of materials into additional languages
- Contact New England Public Media re: MRF feature on [Fab413 w/Monty Belmonte & Kaliis Smith](#)
- Informal Board member meeting/socializing opportunity

7. MRF Contract Extension. A. Miller explained that the subcommittee met with C. Lucarelle to work out a timetable. October 2023 is the target date for a proposal/package for review. The subcommittee will meet again with C. Lucarelle in September. If agreement can't be reached, the contract would need to go out to bid in January 2024. E. Tupelo suggested that the language describing educational fee collection be reviewed and updated in the municipal contract (i.e. "shall impose" vs "may impose").

8. Future MAB Meeting Schedule. Several Board members have scheduling conflicts with Thursday mornings, and we agreed to explore changing our regular meeting date. S. Waite will devise a short Board member survey and send it out to help identify alternate options.

9. Video Committee Report. T. DeMaio reported that the translated video voiceovers are completed and are now being inserted into the videos. She anticipates that they will be able to be posted on the website by early August. E. Tupelo said that while the SMRF website includes the option to change the language (upper RH corner), not all the four languages we've translated the videos/materials into (Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Russian) are listed as options. He will check in with A. Donovan about getting that corrected.

10. MAC Update. S. Waite provided an RDP update. Mass DEP Municipal Waste Reduction Branch Manager Brooke Nash will be retiring as of 7/1/2023 and Kathi Mirza has been appointed her successor. In addition, Rachel Smith will succeed Janine Bishop as Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grant Manager. With Will Mbah's departure there will be at least three Boston team positions posted soon. 74 Western Mass municipalities submitted RDP applications before the 6/14/2023 grant deadline, three for the first time. A PaintCare/EPR

forum will take place on 7/12/23 in Pittsfield's Berkshire Innovation Center. Similar meetings are being planned for other parts of the state. The Pioneer Valley meeting will be held on August 23 at Hampshire College (Amherst).

11. Next meeting and adjournment.

We will not meet in July. Additional meeting dates are pending the results of the survey mentioned in item #8.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02am

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Waite

Documents used in the meeting:

- 6-22-23 MAB meeting packet, including 5-11-23 draft minutes.
- MAB FY23 budget (as of 6/22/23) and FY2024 draft budget.