

MAB Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2023  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MAB Members Present:** Abbey Massaro, Jan Ameen, Linda Cernik, Tracy DeMaio, Amy Donovan, Arlene Miller, Susan Cooper, Ethan Tupelo, Janine Greaves, Mary Stucklen, Susan Waite and Rene Wood.

**Others present:** Mike Moores (Waste Mgmt.), Chris Lucarelle (Waste Management).

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am 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 J. Greaves seconded, a motion to accept the 5-11-23 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.*

*J. Greaves made, and S. Cooper seconded, a motion to accept the 9-20-23 minutes as amended. The motion passed, with one abstention.*

**3. MRF Update.** M. Moore's report included an update on winter preparations and the uptick in several markets. Fiber markets continue to be strong with OCC up \$10 month to month and Paper up \$5 in the same time period. Plastic is stabilizing, led by the uptick in color and clear plastics. Plastics are overall still negative number but less negative. Mike and Amy went over the various plastic numbers, current usages, and influence in the market. The new plant in KY will provide another market. #5 plastic is the money generator with approximately 20% of 3-7 plastics. Margarine, yogurt, food containers that need to be kept cold, and clear plastic cups are examples of #5 plastics. Worst of all are the blended containers, such as juice pouches. Glass was reviewed but it currently costs more to transport the materials than their market value. They send as much glass as possible to Strategic Materials in CT but there is a trade-off in the cost of labor to sort the glass versus the cost for glass in the market.

**4. Treasurer's Report.** J. Ameen a slow month with only about \$100 spent, some of which had to do with making the SMF website a secured website.

**5. MassRecycle Awards.** Discussion on the MAB award, which is a framed certificate. A. Donovan is doing a press release on the award with photo(s).

**6. MRF Contract Extension.** Chair Miller reported the committee has formed, which is sorting out issues now and hopes to be negotiating with Chris Lucarelle soon.

**7. Video Committee Report: Translations.** T. DeMaio gave an update on the project to translate MAB materials into 4 languages. Tremendous progress has been made, as 3 of the 4 languages are completed. She recommended getting more storage for the Drop Box and will place the 3 completed

videos and completed postcards there for review. When everything is done, it will go up on the website. J. Ameen will take care of getting the requested storage increase.

**8. RRR 2023 Berkshire County.** The project is coming along with a publication date the week of 11/15/23. The advertising contact at the Berkshire Eagle has been unavailable, which has presented some issue. S. Waite discussed production options, including the choice of a rough or polished edition, the later featuring better paper with a stitched and trimmed finish. Estimated to be about 32 pages. The Board had previously authorized up to \$2500; the quote for the polished edition is \$2600.

**R. Wood made a motion, which was seconded by M. Stucklen to approve up to \$2600 for the publication of a RRR 2023 Berkshire County version and approved unanimously.**

**9. Radio Opportunity.** S. Waite had no update.

**10. MAC Update.** S. Waite provided the following information:

- DEP is hiring and she discussed several new hires and movements. They are looking for 2-3 new hires and only have to be in Boston 1 day per week.
- RDP awards were announced early. 73 out of 100 Western Mass communities received award, including 3 new communities.
- DEP is discussing possible changes to award criteria for 2025.
- MAC meeting via zoom coming up; webpages are the focus.
- Recycling Works group focused on reusables in food service and will be developing Best Practices within the existing rules and laws.

**11. Other Business.** None.

**12. Next meeting and adjournment.**

The next meeting was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am. There will be no meeting in December. A nine-month calendar detailing meeting dates will be sent out shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Wood, a Delegate from Berkshire County

Documents used in the meeting:

- 10-18-23 MAB meeting packet, including 5-11-23 and 9-20-23 draft minutes
- MAB FY23 budget, dated October 2023
- 9-23 Western MA Division Signature page
- 9-23 MRF Tonnage Report
- School Memo 2023; SW&R Education Tools