

MAB Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

****Attendees: ****

1. Steve Ellis
2. Jan Ameen
3. Susan Waite
4. Janine Greaves
5. "Bernie" Bernard Fosu
6. Tracy DeMaio
7. Ethan Tupelo
8. Mike Moores
9. Susan Cooper
10. Mary Stucklen
11. Amy Donovan
12. Laurie Simmons
13. Arlene Miller
14. Abbey Massaro

Meeting began at 10:02 AM

1. Public Comment:
 - No public comments.
2. Approval of October Minutes:
 - Motion to approve minutes with updates made by Jan seconded by Susan W. (10:09AM)
 - Corrections include:
 - Change text in #3: "margin" after "approx. 20%".
 - Spelling correction in the last sentence for "strategic materials" (SM).
 - Spelling correction for MassRecycle in #5.
 - Numbering correction starting after #5.
 - Amy asked for clarification under #3... not sure if #5 plastic is a money generator with approx. 20% of total plastic market. Is that referring to 3-7's?
 - Mike clarified: #5's is not a huge money generator.
 - Jan agreed that #5 is 20% of the 3-7's category not total plastic market.
3. MRF Operational Update:
 - Winter preparation underway.
 - Material intake steady.
 - OCC value up \$5, mixed paper up \$5.
 - Positive trends in PET and HDPE.

- Mike said the demand is up for recycled materials! Fiber market is in search of feedstocks.
- WM's marketing team is confident in good financial performance through the rest of the year.
- Discussion started by Jan on contamination in bulky rigid plastics observed in a dumpster in South Hadley.
 - Mike said they can communicate contamination via pictures so the towns can learn what the issue is.
 - Susan Waite to send signage to address the issue there may also be some MRF info we can share with South Hadley.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:
 - Payment to Jess for social media/outreach services.
 - No bills received from Berkshire Eagle yet.
 - Budget discussion for upcoming RRR guides.
- 5. Contract Extension:
 - Ongoing negotiations with WM.
 - Goal to maintain high AMV and low operating costs.
 - Amy requested board involvement requested as written materials change.
- 6. Video Committee:
 - Video translation project completed!
 - Translated videos in Dropbox.
 - Amy working on website and YouTube upload.
 - Videos should be shared with member communities once the upload is complete .
 - Tracy still not fluent in Turkish or Russian (humorous note).
- 7. RRR Guide Berkshire Edition:
 - Proof received and back with Berkshire Eagle for print.
 - Distribution electronically once finalized.
 - Delay in advertisers' submissions.
 - Full-page advertisement for MRF in guide.
 - Mary S. noted that it may be wise to have Berkshire RRR guide go out next November (at a different pace than the other guides).
- 8. Public Education:
 - Tracy received an updated request for a bill stuffer in West Springfield.
 - Cost considerations for updating and printing.
 - Tracy is going to confirm West Springfield's timeline as well as if we can get them the digital copy that they can have printed.
 - Susan W. proposed we put a pause on the education grant program this year with all the effort and time we have done recently (with the videos).
 - There is lots of info currently available on our website that we can focus on sharing for now.

9. Radio Opportunity:

- No update, to be revisited when things calm down for Susan W.

10. MAC Update

- RRR Palooza is this week.
- Three MassDEP positions will be posted.
- Rachel Smith is the new grant manager for SMMRP and RDP and has an upcoming webinar scheduled for December 12th 2023 where she will be sharing some changes to the program. The current agreement for SMMRP ends in 2025.
- The MAC newsletter out last week
- The MACs met with Abbey Massaro from RecyclingWorks to review program updates and resources. RecyclingWorks has a lot of great sector specific resources especially for property managers. Abbey will distribute some of these resources after the meeting.

11. Other Business:

- MassRecycle Conference in March 2024.
 - Laurie S. request emergency preparedness stories for the conference. Ideas included:
 - FEMA money is only available to municipalities if they have a plan in place before a disaster.
 - Haulers or emergency restoration companies may have resources or ideas
 - Susan W. mentioned the fire captain in Hadley MA has been working on this.
 - Veronique in Conway could also be considered.
 - Jan can also provide information on this.
 - Susan C. confirmed that it would be helpful for smaller municipalities to have a case study to model a plan after.
 - Deadline for speakers: December 1.
- America Recycles Day and "Going Green" article released.
- Tabletop composters clarification.

12. Next Meeting:

- No meeting in December unless there is an emergency.
- January 17th - Further dates to be set in January.

Notes taken by Abbey Massaro