

Springfield MRF Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Minutes prepared by Abbey Massaro.

Members present: Susan Cooper, Arlene Miller, Amy Donovan, Jan Ameen, Abbey Massaro, Mary Summers, Ruby Chang

Guests: Mike Moores, Bernie Fosu and Liz Bone

- Clerk Appointment

- A clerk is needed for the Advisory Board.

- Approval of Minutes

- October 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes:
 - Motion to approve by Jan.
 - Seconded by Susan.
 - All in favor. Approved at 10:07 AM.
 - June Meeting Minutes: Decision to review and approve at a future meeting.

- MRF Operations Update

- Operations are running smoothly with no issues.
- OCC prices dropped by \$5.
- Fiber dropped by \$10 last month.
- Mixed paper saw a decrease.
- Aluminum increased by \$100.
- HDPE natural saw an uptick.
- Price trends are expected to hold steady through the end of the year.
- Arlene inquired about the typical holiday increase in prices.
- WM Marketing Representative anticipates prices will remain stable.
- Currently, all materials are staying domestic.
- The recent port strike caused delays, but the MRF faced fewer challenges compared to other facilities due to proactive planning by WM.

- MRF Contract:
 - 20% of communities have signed contracts; progress continues with an end-of-year deadline approaching.
 - Efforts are underway to manage transportation costs in Southern Berkshires.
 - Identifying a new transporter for Southern Berkshires.
 - Linda is currently searching for cost-effective hauling options for Northern Berkshire towns.
- Treasurer's Report
 - We are stable.
 - Payments for the website and social media personnel are up to date.
 - Operating with low monthly expenses.
 - Please follow and share content from SMRF's social media pages!
- Board Vacancies
 - Liz Bone, Recycling Coordinator for East Longmeadow, introduced and expressed interest in filling a vacancy.
 - Motion to add Liz to the board made by Abbey; seconded by Susan.
 - Unanimously approved.
 - Liz was nominated and approved as clerk.
- Berkshire RRR Update
 - The Berkshire RRR publication received positive feedback:
 - Collaborative effort from an 8-person team, including five MAB members and additional local contributors.
 - Expanded to 30 pages with new advertisers.
 - Learning curve for the Berkshire Eagle team resulted in minor hiccups, but overall success.
 - Recommendation: Meet in January to review content and plan for future RRR's.
- Additional items
 - Towns with questions about AMV or contracts should contact Arlene or Jan.
 - Several towns need updated signage for transfer stations. Surplus signs may be available from Linda or Arlene.

- DEP has copies of all signed contracts if needed.
- Suggest reviewing the updated menu of resources after finalizing contracts.
- Adjournment
 - Motion to adjourn by Jan.
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:15
- Next Meeting
 - December 18, 2024
 - Ensure progress with contract signatures.