

# Springfield MRF Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## April 16th, 2025

### Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

#### **MAB Members Present:**

Jan Ameen, Ruby Chang, Susan Cooper, Amy Donovan, Tracy DeMaio, Liz Bone, Abbey Massaro, Laurie Simmons, Susan Waite, Mary Summers, Linda Cernik, Arlene Miller (Chair).

**Others present:** Mike Moores (Waste Management).

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Chair A. Miller., quorum.

#### **1. Public Comment**

None

#### **2. Review and approval of minutes -February 19th, 2025 meeting**

Minutes will be reviewed at our next meeting.

#### **3. MRF update, market, tours:**

Not much movement on the materials. Operations are running well. Steve had a tour this week. Natural is doing well, close to being a record high. They have not seen any issues with tariffs yet. We have been sending gable tops to Mexico recently and some steel to Canada. *A.Massaro asked- What is Mexico doing with it?* M.Moores believes they are making it into tissue paper, it's a new company.

*L.Bone asked about toys being considered bulky rigid plastics.* M.Moores will send the specs again to all on what is accepted. The bailers were having issues with certain items like toys because they usually have metal. S.Waite will also send around some information.

*A.Miller asked if the tariffs will affect the markets for the MRF?* M.Moores believes the markets will stay steady as we will export more materials out of the US. S.Waite shared a graphic on the prices for plastics and paper over the last 5 years.

A.Massaro mentioned that MassRecycle will be doing a tour of Erving Paper Mill. *S.Cooper asked if our MRF sends any loads there?* AMH (Tremont St) does, not our MRF.

*R.Chang asked if the MRF takes shredded paper?* M.Moores said not anymore because the machines blow it all over.

*S.Cooper asked if KellyGreen Board takes our gable tops?* No, they don't take anything after their fire.

#### **4. Treasurer Report-**

J.Ameen paid expenses for our social media outreach. She will pay for the smaller expenses out of the dual stream account. We will be having RRR ad expenses coming up so we should agree on where we should take it from? Maybe not the single stream account because they do not benefit from MRF advertising. S.Waite made a motion for RRR expenses to come from the dual stream WM funds. S.Cooper 2nd. All in favor.

## **5. MRF Contract Extension-**

East Longmeadow found a typo in the contract. B.Fosu (Waste Management) and J. Ameen are coming up with a solution- It wrongly says \$300 per ton, not load. B.Fosu will talk to his legal team, probably add an addendum.

## **6. MAB Vacancy- No update**

## **7. Proposed MAB education project 2025-**

Update to our education mailers/handouts. Pizza boxes have been causing confusion because of conflicting posted information. If the RDP grant team finds statements that pizza boxes are not recyclable the town will not receive their Outreach & Education point. On the paper graphic it is listed in the NO category when filled with food or liners.

Suggestions- add a pizza box photo. Also place the word "empty" on top of the graphic.

*A.Donovan made a motion to take pizza boxes out of the "no category" and to add a pizza box photo and add empty to the graphic.*

*S.Waite seconded. All in favor.*

*A. Donovan made a motion to strike all mention of pizza from No column on the Detailed Yes and No list. S.Cooper seconded, all in favor.*

A.Donovan will work with our graphic designer Stan Fede to change the graphics and on the website.

R.Chang asked if we can make a small poster for pizza restaurants for when Health inspectors visit? A.Donovan said the education handout subcommittee will work on a few changes. Gift wrap, egg cartons, canning jars, spiral notebooks that are listed in the RecycleSmartMa education that we differ from. T.DeMaio brought up the translated versions so we need to change those as well.

## **8. RRR guides-**

Guides are ready. RRR North coming out Thursday, April 17th and RRR South coming out on Friday, April 18th. The RRR North will only be in the paper, not the e-version. They will email it out to the subscribers afterwards.

A.Donovan will email the e-version to the MAB on April 17th.

S.Waite suggested that at a future meeting we can discuss how we can streamline guide production efforts.

## **9. MAC update-**

- The new EPR Commission's inaugural meeting was held on the same day as a recent MAC meeting in the Boston MassDEP offices. MassDEP Commissioner Heiple and many waste reduction leaders were in attendance.
- MassDEP released a recording of the Spring RDP Grant webinar with bookmarks for each section.

- If a public school does not separate recycling from trash the municipality is not eligible for SMRP grants as it is a violation of the state Waste Bans. Some schools were found that they weren't recycling so make sure they are so you are eligible for the grant.

- SMRP grant questions now need to be submitted in writing to MASSDEP by May 5th, or ask your MAC for further guidance.

- This year the drop off equipment grant offers equipment for compost collection, swap shop, and glass.

- The Reduce and Reuse microgrant opened yesterday and closes May 15th. Compost equipment is not included.

- S.Waite will be holding office hours on April 17th and 18th for grant questions.

- SMRP grants are due June 2nd this year (two weeks earlier than in the past).

A.Miller asked if the producing the RRR guide will be eligible for grant points? S.Waite will check.

#### **10. Other business-**

We sent our RRR guides to MassRecycle and they will promote and add to their social media.

Thank you to Waneta for her work on EPR.

S.Cooper thanked those who worked on the RRR.

S.Waite mentioned Newton got a small grant to help promote EPR to other communities and educate the public.

A.Miller made a motion to adjourn, L.Bone seconded, all in favor- 11:11am.

#### **11. Next meeting- May 21st, 10am**

#### Meeting Agenda

- 1) Public Comment Period
- 2) Review and approval of minutes -February 15, 2025 meeting
- 3) MRF Update: markets, tours (Mike and Steve)
- 4) Treasurer's Report: (Jan)
- 5) MRF contract extension: (the typo) Jan, Bernie and Steve
- 6) MAB vacancies: Franklin County
- 7) Proposed MAB education project 2025 (Amy)
- 8) RRR north and south: coming this week!
- 9) MAC update: RDP etc.
- 10) Other Business
- 11) Next meeting