

Springfield MRF Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 15th, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Amended

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Chair A. Miller. A quorum was met.

MAB Members Present: Jan Ameen, Susan Cooper, Tracy DeMaio, Liz Bone, Abbey Massaro, Linda Cernik, Mary Summers, Amy Donovan, Ruby Chang Arlene Miller (Chair).

Others present: Bernie Fosu (Waste Management), Mike Moores (Waste Management)

Public Comment: None

Review and approval of edited minutes -September 17th, 2025 meeting.

J.Ameen made a motion to accept minutes as amended. S.Cooper seconded. All in favor.

MRF Update: MRF contract issues and markets, tours:

M.Moores said the MRF is preparing for the winter by checking downspouts and piling salt and sand. The MRF also received a letter from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission about construction that will be starting this month and going until June 2026 in front of the MRF building. One lane will be shut down with some delays but should not cause too many issues. They will let the haulers know about the construction.

Markets: The markets have been steady. OCC dropped \$5 and PET dropped \$15 this month. B.Fosu said the supply is still high so the towns need to keep our recycling clean. The MRF has the ability for more capacity. He thinks the OCC market will remain flat but the PET market will start to move because of tariff conversations going on.

A.Miller asked how Pittsfield's recycling is looking? The MRF picked up a few more loads, as two loads were rejected in recent months for being too contaminated. Pittsfield recycling is now in compliance.

Tours: M.Moores is putting together a tour for the employees of Westover Air Base. MassRecycle is planning a tour for January.

Treasurer's Report and FY 2026 budget discussion: (Jan)

There were no major expenses this month. Last fiscal year about \$7600 was spent on the guides and so with carryover and Waste Management's annual contribution of \$10,000, there is about \$14,200 in the account.

RRR Guide West (Mary)

A.Miller, A.Massaro and M.Summers met with the Berkshire Eagle editors. A.Miller summarized the meeting: The Eagle agreed on the price with or without the Tommy's Compost ad. They

agreed that we would give them names of vendors to contact and agreed if there are less vendors then the paper would be smaller. They had said this was a really busy time for them so wanted to see if we would move the production to another time of the year.

Advertisements: In the last few years the Eagle had not gotten many vendors to advertise even with haulers eager to advertise.

-L.Cernik mentioned that she reached out to Hoosac Valley High School and they use the same format guide as the Berkshire Eagle in case we want to use their help in self production of the RRR guide as an option. A.Miller said we had a form letter that we use to solicit advertisers that was given to the Eagle to use and that we as a board can send out to vendors we know.. A.Miller and A.Massaró felt like the Eagle staff were unaware of how the RRR guide production works. J.Ameen asked if it's bad timing, could we just shift publication until next year? Some of the work has already been done. M. Summers joined in to say that although they did not get the pricing down, they are on track for publication for America Recycles Day. R.Chang said she feels like the RRR guide is not really reaching the amount of people we want because it's expensive to subscribe. S.Cooper said a way to increase the visibility is to create a QR code to be placed at transfer stations that bring you to the guide. A.Donovan mentioned that local newspapers sometimes send out subscriber emails with just the headlines. Maybe the Eagle could do that. A.Massaró and A.Donovan will work together on these ideas.

Educational Materials Update:

A.Miller thanked the education committee on their work and asked for a summary of the progress. The updates are still being edited and the budget is still being discussed.

The options for the distribution of educational materials:

1. No changes: we give a menu to the communities to use their points and we pay for the materials they want. Even perhaps using a survey to get a sense of what materials they will truly use.
2. Ask the communities for a match so they are inclined not to ask for materials they won't use.
3. The communities pay for all their materials which can come from RDP funds. The MAB opined about the options. After A. Miller summarized the options, J.Ameen made a motion to set aside \$5000 for the educational materials and to ask for a 50% match from the communities. S.Cooper seconded. All in favor.

MAC Update: None

Other Business: At our next meeting we need to discuss bringing in more tonnage to the MRF.J.Ameen made a motion to adjourn. S.Waite seconded the motion. All in favor. 11:34 am

The next meeting will be on November 19th at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Bone

Meeting agenda

- 1) Public Comment Period
- 2) Review and approval of minutes -September 2025 meeting
- 3) MRF Update: MRF contract issues and markets, tours, Pittsfield
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) RRR West (Mary)
- 6) Update on MAB education project 2025: (Amy)
- 7) MAC update
- 8) Other Business
- 9) Next meeting