

MAB Meeting
November 19, 2025
ZOOM meeting
Final Minutes

Happy America Recycles Day!

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair A. Miller. A quorum was met.

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

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

1) Public Comment: None

2) Review and approval of minutes -October 15th 2025 meeting

made a motion to accept minutes as amended, S.Cooper seconded. The majority passed with 2 abstains.

3) MRF Update: MRF contract issues and markets, tours:

Mike Moores let us know that the prices of PET are up, HDPE natural is also up, however OCC and paper dropped. We had one less load of #5's that did not ship out so it skewed the numbers. The load went out in November, just due to trucking issues. A.Miller asks about Longmeadow's new automated system, has there been a contamination issue? No, no quality issues.

4) Bulky rigid plastic processing update:

Bernie Fosu had a couple updates. The MRF will be beginning to accept paper coffee cups and plastic cups with lids. WM has been working with other MRFs, manufacturers and partners about accepting hot and cold beverage cups. What is not acceptable? Styrofoam, and #6 cups, straws, lids, and stoppers. They would like the communities to empty liquids, food waste and remove straws and stoppers. Clear cups? Yes and also paper. A.Donovan asked about #6s. Red, yellow, blue solo cups are not accepted, any #6s. R.Chang asked what about lids? No, they come off and jam the machines. J.Ameen mentioned that the DEP said that we can recycle lids now so it's confusing. B.Fosu is in communication with the DEP about the lids. J.Ameen asks about paper cups? B.Fosu said the paper cups go through processes to melt the waxes and separate the layers at the processing plants so they are ok to recycle. J.Ameen said we need to discuss adding the paper cups to our stream. A.Donovan agreed with J.Ameen and because we have our educational materials with information saying it's not acceptable, we need to simplify and work on our messaging regarding it. B.Fosu agrees with taking time to add it to education but it will probably help to increase our tonnage.

A.Donovan asked if paper coffee cups have residue, are we asking people to rinse the cups?

B.Fosu said yes if it's significantly contaminated. A.Donovan also asked about a certain plastic

cup that is yellow with a green lid, and a large pepsi cup that she sees at fairs. B.Fosu said yes they are recyclable and will follow up with more guidelines. R.Chang asked about egg carton trays. B.Fosu asked for a photo to follow up. A.Donovan also asked about fiber molding packaging. B.Fosu said yes those are accepted but needs to see the products.

-B.Fosu let us know that the Tremont St MRF is closing down at the end of December and it will not affect our MRF on Birnie Ave. B.Fosu spoke about mixed rigids and that USA Recycling is interested in taking over the mixed rigids from us. Casella will be taking a lot of the materials from the Tremont St location and bringing them to their transfer station. Around 55 commercial tons from Tremont St will be coming over to our MRF. A.Miller asked about a list of communities that send mixed rigids to the MRF. A.Miller spoke about USA Recycling wanting mixed rigids and asked for \$96/ton and will need to be brought to Hartford. B.Fosu will give A.Miller Casella's contact, Paul Degnan, so perhaps we can find a way to consolidate locally. A.Miller asked if there is still a market for it. If USA Recycling wants as much as possible, it must mean it's valuable. B.Fosu said that its limited volume for the MRF, less than 1%. A.Donovan pointed out that a bulky rigid sign is in process of being made for our educational materials so we need to know if it will keep being collected. S.Cooper asked that as of January 1 her communities will need to find another MRF to send it to? B.Fosu said yes. Bulky rigids are not included in our tonnage reports.

5) Treasurer's Report- J.Ameen said there has not been much movement within the budget. The RRR West guide invoice will be coming soon.

6) RRR West (Mary) and her fabulous committee- Kudos to M.Summers and the team for their efforts in getting the RRR West guide out. M.Summers has 1600 copies to disseminate and will get some for the MRF. They had 4 advertisers which shows that print is not as popular as marketing choice. The Berkshire Eagle said that if we include the West version with North and South, they would be happier and would have more time to dedicate to it. A.Donovan mentioned that the newspapers might not want to use the same content as their competitors. We will discuss the details closer to the Spring. M.Summers said they had to scramble to add more content but added some great information. S.Cooper added that we should think about a better way to have the digital media version more accessible.

7) Update on MAB education project 2025: T.DeMaio spoke about the budget and how she broke down each community to see how much each community can receive and gave us a few options. J.Ameen asked if Springfield should be part of this as they left the MAB last year. A.Donovan mentioned that 3 communities recently left the MRF, but are still represented by the board. T.DeMaio asked for a vote to use the single stream funds for the single stream communities.

J.Ameen made a motion to appropriate up to \$5000 from the dual stream funds and \$1500 from the single stream funds for the MRF education project. S.Copper seconded. All in favor.

Next steps are working with Stan Fede on the design of the materials and the google document menu. The order form and menu will be combined into one document. A.Donovan mentioned there are now 5 discrepancies between the MRF's and Recyclesmart's yes/no lists. Our MRF

takes notebooks with metal spirals, however Recyclesmart says they are not recyclable. J.Ameen mentioned we should go with what our MRF takes even if it doesn't conform with Recyclesmart. S.Cooper asked if we should mention our accepted materials are for a dual stream MRF. R.Chang asked how often do we create these materials? A.Donovan said we usually offer an educational menu every 1.5 – 2 years.

8) MAC update: None

9) Other Business : Holiday reminders. T.DeMaio let us know she is translating some Recyclesmart materials into Turkish and Ukraine if we need either in our communities..

10) Next meeting- December 17th, 10 am.

L.Bone made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by T.DeMaio at 11:29 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Bone