

**MAB Meeting**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**ZOOM meeting**  
**10:00-11:30**

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

**MAB Members Present:** Susan Cooper, Tracy DeMaio, Liz Bone, Susan Waite, Abbey Massaro, Laurie Simmons, Amy Donovan, Jan Ameen, Ruby Chang, Arlene Miller (Chair).  
**Others present:** Bernie Fosu (Waste Management), Peppino Aiello (Waste Management), Andre Hardaway (Waste Management), Janice Pare (DEP), Leah Kelleher (DEP), Kathy Doonauth (DEP), Jim Scheffler (DEP).

**Public Comment:** None

**Review and approval of edited minutes:** December 17th, 2025 meeting.  
S.Waite made a motion to accept minutes as amended. L.Simmons seconded. Two abstentions, the motion passes.

**MRF Update: MRF contract issues and markets, tours:** B.Fosu said that the MRF on Tremont St is now closed and the property is awaiting to be sold. M.Moores is no longer with the company and he was acknowledged as an exceptional colleague. P.Aiello has taken on his role. The tonnage has been consistent. WM remains confident that the values will go up, but in the meantime they will focus on quality. A.Miller asked for P.Aiello contact information and if J.Scheffler will be conducting tours.

**New cup recycling program. Bernie and RecycleSmart Team:** WM is proud to be the leader in recycling these new items with their partner outlets to sell them. The products going out have been good quality so far. B.Fosu gave a summary of what is accepted and what is not. J.Pare with DEP supports what WM is doing. The DEP supports paper cups going into recycling now and still wants the lids to go in the trash because differentiating between polypropylene(PP), and polystyrene(PS) is difficult for the public. *Clear cups with lids are recyclable. Empty paper cups without the lids are recyclable, with paper for dual stream and in single stream.* The RecyclesmartMA group has made changes to their website but it will take some time to change graphics. There is a question about paper plates and Recyclesmart does not want to include them because of contamination. They will not change their messaging about it, but if someone asks, will tell them if it has no food on it it's ok.  
A.Donovan asked which graphic should the MRF use on its website? The RecyclesmartMA graphic is pretty clear but WM also has a graphic which has more information on it. A.Miller suggested having the education committee discuss which graphic to use for the MRF website. A.Donovan suggested adding messaging about cleanliness of the cups. Also mentioned that the acceptability of the lids discussion from last month is now not accurate, and are no longer desired at the MRF. B.Fosu said they would like paper cups to go in the paper and plastic cups and lids go in the bottles and cans. S.Cooper asked about the cleanliness of the cups? The

cups are covered with dairy and it's hard to clarify to the public. B. Fosu asked to clarify to the public to recycle empty cups.

**Treasurer's Report:** J. Ameen sent out the report with very little to report on this month. We had an invoice from our social media manager and from our web designer.

**Membership adjustment Berkshire County:** M. Sumemrs asked if R. Chang can take over M. Summers towns because of some personal conflicts. R. Change will take over Pittsfield and M. Summers will take over one of R. Chang's towns. T. DeMaio asked to take Springfield off her community as they are not a part of the MRF anymore. T. Demaio and A. Miller will switch Southwick and Ludlow as Southwick is not a single stream community. There is still a vacant spot in Franklin County.

**Bulky rigid plastic processing update:** The communities affected have made decisions and all will continue to process it with different vendors.

**Update on MAB education project 2025: (Amy):** A. Donovan sent out the letter with a link to the board to edit. The MAB thanks the education committee for all their work.

**RRRs—all 3: Begin discussions for Spring 2026:** The committees started working on the guides. The Springfield paper will come out on April 17th, and the Gazette will come out on April 16th. S. Waite moved to set the maximum amount for the RRR guides at \$7100. S. Cooper seconded the motion. All in favor.

The overall theme is reuse and the members are working on article ideas and sending out thank you letters to the sponsors. A. Donovan has not sent out the "what to do with" list but will do so soon and hopefully not too many edits this year. A. Donovan had some concerns about the West RRR guide and in a previous meeting decided that the RRR North guide will share the articles with the West guide with some changes in relation to the Berkshires.

**Contract issues: tonnage: None**

**MAC update:** S. Waite did a great job presenting at our regional MRC in person meeting in Southampton with a focus on getting more points for the RDP grant program on February 10th. Some themes to focus on for future grant cycles, bulky rigid plastics and food waste. The deadline for the grant survey and report is February 15th. Updated purchasing policies are due by June 1. The City of Newton's Director of Sustainable Materials Management (Waneta Trabert) received a MassDEP grant to educate municipal leaders about Expanded Producer Responsibility in Massachusetts, how it can lower municipal waste management costs, and what they can do to help make it happen. Three meetings will be held throughout the state including one on March 17 in Northampton. S. Cooper mentioned the high cost the Town of Monterey was paying to haul material to the MRF. J. Ameen suggested putting together a group to identify ways to address hauling expenses for Berkshire towns.

**Other Business:** A. Miller would like to have an Earth Day celebration at the MRF and will invite all the MRF towns, politicians, teachers, custodians, etc to bring back focus and show how recycling is worthwhile.

A. Massaro asked us to sign up for the MassRecycle event.

**Next Meeting:** March 11th–10AM– by Zoom.

S.Cooper made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by T.DeMaio at 11:42 AM.  
Respectfully submitted, Liz Bone

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Public Comment Period
- 2) Review and approval of minutes -December meeting
- 3) MRF Update: MRF issues and markets, tours: Bernie Fusa, Jim Scheffler
- 4) \*\*New cup recycling program. Bernie and RecycleSmartMA Team .
- 5) Treasurer's Report
- 6) \*Membership adjustment Berkshire County: Mary
- 7) Bulky rigid plastic processing update:
- 8) \*\*Update on MAB education project 2025: ( Amy)
- 9) \*\*RRRs—all 3: Begin discussions for Spring 2026
- 10) Contract issues: tonnage
- 11) MAC update:
- 12) Other Business : Holiday reminders
- 13) Next meeting