

**MAB Meeting
May 20, 2026
ZOOM meeting
10:00-11:30**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Chair A. Miller. A quorum was met.

MAB Members Present: Susan Cooper, Tracy DeMaio, Susan Waite, Ruby Chang, Laurie Simmons, Amy Donovan, Jan Ameen, Arlene Miller (Chair).

Others present: Bernie Fosu (Waste Management), Jim Scheffler (DEP).

Public Comment: None

Review and approval of edited minutes: April 15, 2026. S.Cooper made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. S.Waite seconded. All in favor.

MRF Update: MRF contract issues and markets, tours:

Bernie Fosu- The volume of materials is higher than usual. The AMV is the highest all year. OCC is also the highest price all year. He expects the markets to keep going up. The situation with PET is that 40% is staying in the US and not moving to China. US mills have closed because China is making cheaper non-recycled PET resin. WM can help make graphics for paper cup recycling.

Jim Scheffler-There have been some tour requests.

Treasurer's Report: No real change. The invoices for the RRR ads will post in June.

Tonnage Related Issues: There is not much to report. The tonnage numbers are slightly higher but might not end the year above 13,500 tons.

South Berkshire County Consolidation update: S. Waite gave an update. A small group of MAB members met with Casella Pittsfield and Roger Trucking. There was hope of finding a location in South County for a recycling facility to consolidate loads into trailers. The group had hoped to apply for SMRP funds from DEP but was told the project didn't meet the requirements. Casella is willing to take loads from all towns at their Pittsfield facility and consolidate into 100-yard tractor trailers. Then they would haul the trailer to the MRF. They would start by taking mixed containers. Casella and Roger Trucking both offered somewhat lower hauling rates but Casella's cost per ton for consolidation and transportation are high and don't create an overall cost savings for some towns. J. Ameen will put together a spreadsheet to see if the numbers work for any of the towns.

Update on MAB education project 2026: A. Donovan reported that there were 25 orders, including solid waste districts. The materials are being paid for and shipped to the MRF. They

should be ready for pick-up by mid-June. A. Donovan thought it would be helpful for the MAB to fund signs for paper cup recycling. She moved to spend up to \$500 on creating and making a new cup recycling sign. S. Waite seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

MAC update: S. Waite has been focused on helping towns meet the 6/1 SMRP grant deadline. She mentioned that NEDT was bought by Veolia but nothing has changed in Westfield. Staples is now charging \$2.99 for battery recycling.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: – June 17th by Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted, Jan Ameen

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Public Comment Period
- 2) Review and approval of minutes - April meeting
- 3) MRF Update: MRF issues and markets, tours: Bernie Fosu, Jim Scheffler
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Jan Ameen
- 5) Tonnage related issues:
- 6) South Berkshire County consolidation update: Susan Waite
- 7) Update on MAB education project 2026: Amy Donovan
- 8) MAC update: Susan Waite
- 9) Other Business
- 10) Next meeting