

**MAB Meeting
April 15, 2026
ZOOM meeting
10:00-11:30**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Chair A. Miller. A quorum was met.

MAB Members Present: Susan Cooper, Tracy DeMaio, Liz Bone, Susan Waite, Ruby Chang, Mary Summers, Laurie Simmons, Amy Donovan, Linda Cernik, Arlene Miller (Chair).

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

Public Comment: None

Review and approval of edited minutes: March 11, 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:

Peppino Aiello-Materials have been moving; around 56 tons per day. The quality has been good and there have been audits with Pittsfield which have been under the threshold. Prices have been pretty steady. PET is moving regularly now. An Earth Day event at the MRF is tentatively planned for the 22nd.

Bernie Fosu- The MRF took out a half page about the paper cups in the RRR South guide. "Sip Sip Hurray!" Q1 was wet so it was quite challenging for the materials.

Jim Scheffler-There have been no more tours or requests for tours.

S.Waite inquired about the markets. The industry leaders have said that the market will perhaps reset from the war but it will take time.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Earth Day 2026: A few MRF towns are doing cleanup and festivals for Earth Day.

E.Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Great Barrington, UMass, Cheshire, Adams and N.Adams. There are some earth day tips such as nips go in the trash and educate the volunteers before they start cleaning up. S.Waite mentioned that if you hold a volunteer meeting and give the volunteers educational materials on what's recyclable, you can get a point for the RDP education and outreach. S.Waite discussed a letter created last year for educators for Earth Day. It was agreed that we would send it out.

RRRs Updates: All the guides are completed and they go to print in the next few days. There will be extra copies dropped off at the MRF to distribute to individual towns for RRR South.

Tonnage letter and follow up: A.Donovan will be giving a presentation to the Montague Housing Authority and at the Montague library to educate the residents there . A.Donovan will

be working with the ARC community services center to have them send their recyclables to the town transfer station. A.Donovan is also creating social media posts to increase recycling. S.Waite thought to focus on sporting events to increase tonnage and to reach out to towns more frequently about increasing tonnage.

South Berkshire County Consolidation update and next steps- S.Cooper and R.Chang gave an update. They met with Casella and Roger Trucking to discuss decreasing transportation costs by adding a central location in the Berkshires to accumulate materials. Casella is working up a plan for their location at Pittsfield; however, it's still not very close to the Berkshires. S.Cooper is hoping for a privately owned location in Lee. S.Cooper is applying for a technical assistance grant to keep working with S.Waite and also a SMRP grant, and working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). R.Chang also spoke of an old transfer station owned by Lee that is on the other side of this property but it does not have a scale. S.Cooper said even if the Pittsfield site doesn't work for the Southern Berkshire towns, perhaps it would work for the Northern Berkshire towns but it will depend on the costs. To receive any grants there needs to be a municipal entity to write it so they are hoping that the BRPC will get involved. M.Summers mentioned a transfer station in Lenox and train tracks nearby. There are logistical issues with that location as it only takes construction debris.

Update on MAB education project 2025: There were 23 orders for education materials. Our graphic designer has been out sick but he is going to help as much as possible to get out to our printer. The deadline was Thursday April 2. We will also be ordering some new signs for the MRF. The materials hopefully will be delivered in June.

MAC update: April 2nd was the SMRP webinar with an overview of the points. S.Waite will be sending out a newsletter detailing an upcoming webinar about best practices and challenges for swap shops on April 29th at 10 AM. S.Waite also reminded the board to please send in your EPP policy to Rebecca Ferguson at the DEP if you have not already and copy S.Waite. There are templates to copy on the DEP website.

Other Business: Please share the RRR Guide social media posts this upcoming weekend.

Next Meeting: – May 20th by Zoom.

S.Waite made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by S.Cooper at 10:58AM.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Bone

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Public Comment Period
- 2) Review and approval of minutes -March meeting
- 3) MRF Update: MRF issues and markets, tours: Peppino Aiello, Bernie Fosu, Jim Scheffler
- 4) Treasurer's Report : No report
- 5) EARTH DAY 2026
- 6) RRRs: Updates

- 7) Tonnage letter and follow up: Susan and Arlene
- 8) South Berkshire County consolidation update and next steps: Susan C
- 9) Update on MAB education project 2025: (Amy)
- 10) MAC update:
- 11) Other Business
- 12) Next meeting