MAB Meeting
September 16, 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: Tracy DeMaio, Liz Bone, Susan Waite, Laurie Simmons, Amy Donovan, Linda Cernik, Ruby Chang, Jan Ameen, Arlene Miller (Chair).
Others present: Bernie Fosu (Waste Management), Jim Scheffler (DEP).

Public Comment: None

Review and approval of edited minutes: June 23, 2026. J.Ameen made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. R.Chang seconded. One abstain, motion passes.

MRF Update: **MRF contract issues and markets, tours:** B.Fosu said that there has been a significant decrease in volume in August. OCC has picked up in value, and everything has stayed the same. Some mills that decreased their production in Q1 have ramped up their production. The PET market has not moved so keeping the product quality clean is what we can control the costs. P.Aiello has been planning for winter and the wet weather. The MRF is tracking diesel prices.
Unfortunately there has been an issue with the materials coming from Granby. A few months ago Granby stopped sending their materials to the MRF. WM found out that Granby changed to single stream and now their materials are going to USARecycling. WM reached out to Granby and they have not responded and the WM legal team and DEP also reached out with no response. WM is very concerned because the contract has been breached and there are no clear consequences. S.Waite asked B.Fosu what WM is planning to do about Granby? Right now they are not pursuing legal action, only due to their small amount of volume and future options with them. B.Fosu discussed that there are a lot of loop holes in the contract and they are looking for ways to come up with deterrents to withdrawing from the contract in the future.. R.Chang asked why did they breach the contract? B.Fosu said he was not sure because dual stream and especially Springfield produces the cleanest product and the best value. Single stream is at least $20 more per ton. However, hauling costs might be a factor in their decision. S.Waite mentioned that there is a movement from haulers to go automated and perhaps they converted to an automated system so it was more cost effective to go with one recycling bin. J.Scheffler confirmed that USARecycling is providing them a recycling container showing that they did go single stream. USARecycling is buying out local haulers. J.Ameen added a back story about the old Town Administrator who supported the MRF and when the new one started he immediately switched over to USARecycling. The MAB board has been thinking about ways to put Granby on notice, such as requiring Granby to pay the processing fee or to have USARecycling bring the OCC to the MRF. J.Ameen is willing to meet

with the legal team to pursue these ideas and has asked the Franklin County Solid Waste District to pay for a lawyer consultation. J.Scheffer clarified that WM has not decided yet about pursuing legal action. L.Simmons asked if we can reach out to the other communities about what is happening, so we can put pressure on Granby. A.Miller is upset about the lack of response from Granby. Our partnership is the strength of the MRF and Granby withdrawing is causing harm to all the other communities. R.Chang recommended asking Granby to sit down to meet. B.Fosu said WM has already sent a very strongly worded legal letter to Granby a few months ago and there was no response. L.Cernik has been seeing some underhanded business practices and believes that this is occurring in Granby. S.Waite made a motion to create a subcommittee to address this issue. L.Simmons seconded the motion, all in favor. A.Miller, L.Cernik, J.Ameen and S.Waite said they would be on the committee along with R.Chang.

Treasurer's Report: We have around $27,000 in the bank and we received $10,000 from WM. J.Ameen is waiting for a check from West Springfield for the MRF materials.

Election of officers: S.Waite nominated A.Miller for Chair, L.Simmons for Vice Chair, L.Bone for Secretary, J.Ameen for Treasurer, and T.DeMaio for member at-large.. R.Chang seconded. All in favor.

MAB Vacancies: A.Massaro just took a job at CET and will continue on the MAB. There is a vacancy in Franklin County.

Updates: Proposed and outstanding projects (Berkshires, website): The education project has been completed and the materials were distributed in July and August. The Berkshire project is ongoing. Thank you to those who spearheaded the project. L.Simmons reminded us that the MassRecycle Social on October 22nd is coming up and UMASS' New2You is getting an award. Any town with universities or campus-based institutions is also invited to the next MassRecycle Campus Collaborative Workshop coming on Nov 18th at UMass-Darmouth.

MAC update: S.Waite said we are still waiting to hear about SMRP grants but Pedal People received a grant for $25,000 for a pilot project using Ebikes. The Boston DEP team is working on what the SMRP and RDP will look like in the next few years. S.Waite also announced she is stepping down as the Western Mass MAC, working full time until Oct 16th. S.Waite will be open to staying on the MAB. The MASSDEP is going to be more aggressive in asking towns to use their RDP funds instead of stockpiling the funds.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: –Oct 21st, at 10AM by Zoom.
J.Ameen made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by L.Bone 11:16 AM.
Respectfully submitted, Liz Bone

Meeting Agenda

1) Public Comments
2) Review and approval of minutes -June meeting
3) MRF Update: MRF issues and markets, tours: Peppino Aiello, Bernie Fosu, Jim Scheffler
4) Treasurer's Report
5) Election of officers
6) MAB vacancies
7) Updates: Proposed and outstanding projects (Berkshires. Website)
8) MAC update
9) Other Business
10) Next meeting