



Maine Resource Recovery Association

Scrap Paper

Jan 2016

Maine Resource Recovery Association, PO Box 1838, Bangor, ME 04402
www.MRRA.net shelby.wright@mrra.net 207-942-6772

Greetings from the President

Ross Nason, MRRA Board President

Happy 2016! As incoming President, I look forward to serving you, our trade association members, in these challenging and interesting times. This year will be an exciting and busy year for the Maine Resource Recovery Association and I am excited to announce big changes are coming to MRRA as we move Beyond Recycling!

Be sure not to miss our **23rd Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Conference & Trade Show** at the Samoset in Rockport on May 3-4. MRRA members, municipal managers, elected officials, and all those interested in materials management in Maine should plan to attend for national speakers and hot topic issues. MRRA will also be unveiling new programs and a new website!

In Augusta, The Maine Legislature has convened and we are watching a *comprehensive solid waste bill (LD 1578)* very closely.

Please see *From the President* on page 2

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MRRA hosts 23rd Annual Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference & Trade Show

Sponsors, Vendors and Advertisers are being sought for this year's 23rd Annual Conference & Trade Show on May 3-4, 2016.

"Beyond Recycling: Materials Management and a Circular Economy" will be held at the Samoset Resort in Rockport.

For over two decades employees, managers, volunteers and legislators come together to network and learn from each other with industry experts across a broad spectrum of topics.

Book your space and join us in the exhibit hall with industry, tech, and service companies from across the trade. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat, showcase new equipment, meet potential new clients and discuss trends and services.

WE WANT TO SEE YOU!
Photos Wanted!

MRRA is seeking pics of your business, MRF. Transfer station or curbside recycling operation and staff for use at the conference.

Submit any photos by Friday March 18th to Shelby.wright@mrra.net

Please see *Conference* on page 3

Maine DEP has New Commissioner

Paul Mercer was recently confirmed by the Maine Senate as DEP's new Commissioner.



Prior to his confirmation, Paul Mercer served as the assistant to Maine Maritime Academy's president, William Brennan, on sustainability and environmental initiatives.

A former associate professor and chairman of the engineering department, Mercer also worked in the private sector on renewable energy, biomass energy and power generation before joining the academy's staff in 2006.

He has experience with everything from waste-to-energy systems and biomass fuels to livestock manure, and he is approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission as an independent auditor of renewable energy credits.

Vic's Market Report 1.29.16

Victor Horton, MRRR Executive Director

The price for newspaper has remained steady since February 2015 at \$60/ton, however there are fewer buyers out there and export pricing is much less than the domestic price. Not long ago suppliers were reporting very high inventories.

Cardboard pricing has not changed much over the past year with the average price around \$85/ton. The average price from Jan 1994 factoring in all months up to Jan 2016 is surprisingly \$85/ton.

Several area mills have reported high inventories, but the grade continues to move.

Mixed Paper prices range from \$5-\$35/ton. There is some reported export activity, but with the harsh weather in the Mid Atlantic, shipping slowed for a time. Domestic mills are buying a few tons.

Steel cans, as well as, scrap metal prices have dropped quite bit since the beginning of 2015. Bales of steel cans were paying about \$160/ton Jan 2015, but Jan 2015 saw \$30/ton.

Light iron - scrap metal comparing the Boston export market for #2 bundles Jan 2015 = \$190/ton, this Jan 2016 was at \$45/ton. A difference of \$145/ton noted year over year. Reports stated that imports were flooding the US market with cheap scrap driving the price down.

PET used beverage container pricing has declined over the past several months with the current price of \$185/ton. This is less than one half of the Jan 2015 price of \$400/ton.

Please see *Market Report* on page 4

From the President from page 1

To determine MRRR support or opposition, our Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by MRRR past President Mark Draper, has been working diligently to apply our mission statement and vision as it relates to this legislation. **The public hearing on LD 1578 "An Act to Update Maine's Solid Waste Management Laws" will be held on Thursday, Feb 17th** and MRRR will be there to offer recommendations that will have a positive impact for our members and promote responsible recycling and solid waste management, while being realistic for our tight municipal budgets.

Finally, welcome Selectmen Irene Belanger from China to the MRRR Board of Directors and in the newly created role of Communications and Development Director, Shelby Wright. You can read more about each of them, as well as, the topics I mentioned above, in this issue of *Scrap Paper*.

Welcome: New MRRRA Board Member & Staff

Irene Belanger, joined MRRRA's Board of Directors in 2015, but she is hardly new to the Recycling and Solid Waste Industry. During WWII, at the tender age of four (4), Irene would jump on tin cans to flatten them so they could be recycled into airplanes for the war effort. Now, a Selectman for the Town of China, she has been instrumental in the town's efforts to improve and enhance their recycling and MSW services.

For the past 3 years, Irene has co-coordinated China's transfer station and is particularly proud of the improvements to the "Good Stuff" swap house and China's composting efforts. She frequently writes articles for *The Townline* in which she encourages her community to be better stewards of recycling and reuse. Welcome, Irene!



Irene Belanger,
Selectman, Town of China

Shelby Wright, of Hampden, has taken on the newly created role of MRRRA Communications and Development Director. She comes to Maine Resource Recovery Association with decades of political and non-profit advocacy experience specializing in public education and outreach.

Shelby is busy making the rounds and creating new programs and learning the business from the ground up. When you see her please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome her.

MRRRA's Annual Backyard Composting Bin Sale Feb 1 - April 28

Save Money! Lower your Disposal Fees! Help your Residents with their gardens!

FMI or a participation packet, contact Victor 942-6772 - victor.horton@mrra.net

Conference from page 1

This year's Conference & Trade Show will be better than ever with some amazing national level speakers, fabulous and timely sessions covering all the hot topics in our sector, as well as many pertinent and required trainings from the DEP and Safety Works!

We have shifted the days of the week to Tuesday and Wednesday in an attempt to get more attendees and to bolster vendors who will now be coming in on Monday.

Monday is an 'affiliates' day, a day for cross-training, vendor arrival and set up, as well as, some VIP meet and greets and other networking opportunities.

Please be sure to book your space early by downloading our Vendor Packet at www.mrra.net or call Shelby @ 592-6432.

Market Report from page 2

Municipally generated material is paying somewhere in the \$80/ton for small quantities and slightly more for full truck loads.

HDPE Natural and Colored have decreased lately with Natural around \$600 and Color at \$360/ton. Disclaimer to follow: Plastic is shipped to Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Freight is a factor in calculating the prices so the further and lighter the load is the less it brings for revenue. Some of the processing plants are reporting needles and sharps coming in with the colored plastic loads. This natural milk jugs grade peaked at \$1,120/ton in Aug of 2014.

Rigid plastics and 3-7 plastics both moving but pricing is on the lower end of the spectrum with \$20-30/ton the going prices on the grade.

Single stream like many other commodities is on the lower end at negative \$35-40/ton not including freight to the material recovery facilities MRF's.

It is true that several of the commodities are at the lower end of pricing, but many of the grades are not at their worst for example: January 2009 saw prices for steel cans at \$10, Cardboard at \$25, and Milk Jugs at \$260. We are getting 3 times those amounts right now.

Consideration of Solid Waste Management Issues Continues in the Maine Legislature

Mark Draper, MRRRA Board of Directors

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources ("ENR") met three (3) times during the session break this past summer and fall to continue discussions regarding potential changes to Maine's solid waste management policies.

The Committee carried over LD 313, "An Act to Create a Sustainable Solution to the Handling, Management and Disposal of Solid Waste in the State," but the discussions quickly led the Committee to draft a new bill, LD 1578 "An Act to Update Maine's Solid Waste Management Laws."

It was expected that LD 1578 would replace the held-over LD 313, but the Committee tabled any further action on L.D. 313 rather than killing it pending development of the new bill.

Key concepts of LD 1578 include: establishment of a product stewardship program for batteries; extending the State recycling goal of 50% to the year 2021; enacting a commercial food waste composting requirement; implementing a uniform \$1/ton surcharge on all municipal waste disposed in Maine, the revenue from which would be used to establish a composting and recycling grant program. The bill also seeks to expand the returnable beverage container program to include certain additional containers.

On behalf of the membership, the MRRRA Staff and the Governmental Affairs Committee will continue to follow the legislative action on these bills. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shelby Wright at Shelby.wright@mrta.net or 592-6432.

Maine Resource Recovery Association

142 Farm Rd #2
PO Box 1838
Bangor, ME 04402-1838

Phone:
207-942-6772

Fax:
207-942-4017

Web:
www.MRRRA.net

