

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mid America Recycling responds to upcoming vote concerning highly controversial Metro Waste Authority MRF CONTACT: Mick Barry, President, Mid America Recycling

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Des Moines, IA – February 17, 2020 – As the holder of the processing contract for the MWA recyclables for 25 years, Mid America Recycling continues to strenuously object to the proposed Metro Waste Authority MRF (Material Recovery Facility).

At the upcoming Metro Waste Authority Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 5:45pm** in the board room at Central Office (300 East Locust Street, Ste. 100, Des Moines, Iowa), board members will vote on Resolution 02-20-06: Expressing Intent to Enter into Material Recovery Facility Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Loan Agreement and Issue a Note in an Amount Not to Exceed \$33,000,000 – Action Item.

“The economics behind this project simply do not make sense,” says Mick Barry, Mid America Recycling President and industry veteran of more than 40 years. “This proposed MRF is oversized, duplicates a successful private sector service, and needlessly waste millions of taxpayers’ dollars.”

Additional facts brought forward by Mid America Recycling include:

1. Initially, the cost of the facility was advertised as \$24 million, but now is being proposed not to exceed \$33 million. This is an example of lack of government project cost controls.
2. The current recycling program cost by MAR is less than the interest expense on the bond issuance.
3. Historically, MWA has had a no-cost program with payments being made for their recyclables.
4. Recently, it was uncovered that MWA had \$2 million embezzled by a former employee due to lack of fiscal oversight.
5. MWA’s best-case scenario for operating the new MRF is a net loss of \$3-4 million annually.
6. MWA’s anticipated operating costs per ton are more than double the current industry standards.
7. MWA staff has 6 months of recyclable marketing experience and no MRF management experience.
8. MWA’s proposal requires the elimination of glass as a recyclable in the program.
9. MWA expects their MRF to process between 40,119 and 53,385 tons of recyclables per year, when the entire state of Iowa only produces just over 70,000 tons annually.
10. MWA is expecting to receive 75% of all of Iowa’s recyclables even though nearly all these tons are under existing contracts and are being processed by other MRFs in the state.

“We realize this is complex issue, but we also feel that the press and public are not hearing the full story,” continues Barry. “Please utilize information from MAR, MWA and other sources to verify the facts before over \$30 million of taxpayers’ money is used to build an unnecessary MRF.”

The Metro Waste Authority Board of Directors’ meetings are open to the public.

About Mid America Recycling

The owners of Mid America Recycling have more than 200 years of combined expertise in recycling, waste management, and business management, with an unsurpassed history in developing environmental networks.

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