



MINUTES OF THE JOINT BIOSOLIDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

PRESENT: VOTING

Kelowna Councillor Ryan Donn
Kelowna Councillor Gail Given
Kelowna Councillor Brad Sieben
Vernon Councillor Catherine Lord
Vernon Councillor Dalvir Nahal

ABSENT: Vernon Mayor Mund
Vernon Councillor Anderson
Shirley Koenig, Director, Operation Services, Vernon

GUEST: Tim Phalen, P. Eng – Opus DaytonKnight Consultants Ltd.

STAFF: Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager, Kelowna
Gordon Light, Biosolids Supervisor, Kelowna
Andrew Reed, Utilities Planning Manager, Kelowna
Jason Angus, Design Technician, Kelowna
James Rice, Acting Director, Operation Services, Vernon
Serge Kozin, Manager, Vernon Water Reclamation Centre
Janice Nicol, Legislative Committee Clerk, Vernon

ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Sieben, seconded by Councillor Lord:

THAT the agenda for the Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, April 4, 2017 be adopted;

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Nahal, seconded by Councillor Sieben:

THAT the minutes for the Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Thursday, September 15, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

**BIOSOLIDS
MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIC REVIEW –
Update, Presentation
and Communications
Plan**

At the last meeting, the Committee learned that Opus DaytonKnight Consultants Ltd., in partnership with SYLVIS Environment, would be conducting a study on the Biosolids Management Strategy in an effort to address long term management options.

Andrew Reeder, Utilities Planning Manager for the City of Kelowna, provided background and an overview of the study including the importance of identifying potential risks and long term costs.

Tim Phalen, from Opus DaytonKnight Consultants Ltd., provided a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Strategic Biosolids Study and requested input from the Committee prior to the presentations to each Council. The following points were noted:

- Three technical memos (TM) have been prepared as follows:
 - **TM#1 – Technology Summary – Management Options Reviewed**
 - Consideration of four pre-treatment methods – Digestion, Thermal Drying, Lime Stabilization and Chemical;
 - Consideration of three final disposal methods – Land Application, Compost Sales and Thermal Destruction;
 - **TM#2 – Evaluate options – Wastewater Solids Management**
 - Digestion (at Kelowna WWTP only)
 - Thermal Drying
 - Chemical (BCR) Pre-Treatment
 - Land Application
 - Composting
 - **TM#3 – Market Review**
 - Land Application Opportunities
 - Compost Consumer Market
- There are two classes of organic matter (Class A & B) that dictate the treatment options;

- All proposals would involve new treatments as biosolids are currently just being dewatered;
- Compost consumer market looked at present and future compost and the land application option (TM#3);
- There is a significant opportunity for land application if approved;
- Necessary to involve public in order to determine best path with a website survey (Postal Code required) and phone-in line opening up next week at both City of Kelowna (CoK) and City of Vernon (CoV);
- Public engagement will also include face to face meetings with stakeholders (including Regional Districts, Ministry of Environment, Interior Health, First Nations groups and any other relevant stakeholders);
- It is the intent to receive input on a broad sense and set a direction for the future;
- Following stakeholder meetings, consultation with Okanagan Basin Water Board and Agricultural Advisory Committees will take place;
- Both CoK and CoV Councils will receive presentations on April 10, 2017.

Suggestions for Council Presentations and Public Engagement:

- Present a technical memo to each Council prior to presentation;
- Hold an educational campaign prior to the public engagement that includes background information and the stages of compost;
- Include a listing of the nutrients/benefits associated with using compost as opposed to chemicals;
- Present facts and a short video that outlines the composting process at the end of the Council presentation;
- Focus on the environmental impacts and ways of reducing energy consumption as benefits;
- Keep information technical at this point and continue a long-term public education plan;
- Communicate the capacity problem, possible solutions and the financial implication of each solution.

The *Pairwise Comparison Method* will be used for weighting criteria for results of public input. September is the target date to have completed input evaluation and return to this Committee with feedback.

Moved by Councillor Given, seconded by Councillor Lord:

THAT the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee receives the *Strategic Review of Wastewater Solids Management* presentation prepared by Opus DaytonKnight Consultants Ltd. for information and recommends that this presentation be brought forward to their respective councils.

CARRIED.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PERMIT

At the last meeting, the Committee was advised that the Ministry of Environment compost regulations had changed and now require facilities that produce more than 5,000 dry tonnes of product a year to have a permit.

The following update was provided:

- A draft permit was received from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in early March;
- Some of the information contained in the permit involved expensive additions to the facility along with some harsh requirements;
- It was felt that MoE would benefit from a meeting at the Biosolids Facility (scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, April 6, 2017) to tour the facility, outline the process and demonstrate the efforts that have been undertaken to mitigate impact on neighbours;
- It is hoped that the permit will be issued after Thursday's meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

ODOUR REPORTS

Gord Light, Biosolids Supervisor for the City of Kelowna, reviewed odour reports including odour complaints from residents (2016 received 47 less odour complaints than the previous year). Odour reports by month and reports from the OdoWatch monitor were also reviewed.

2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND 2017 BUDGET

The Odogrow Revenues and Expenses for 2016 were reviewed. It was suggested that the pricing difference between the Biosolids Facility and the Glenmore site be eliminated so that both rates are at the lower price.

**COMPOSTING SALES
AND MARKETING**

A Request for Proposal for a marketing assistant went out last year. As a suitable applicant was not found, a temporary employee was found to acquire contacts, examine the top 10 buyers and promote to them. Unfortunately the project did not receive a lot of success so a reorganization of the existing utility services department at the City of Kelowna was undertaken. There is now one individual responsible for promotion of Ogogrow as a product.

There's a possibility of having UBCO conduct a study to research tree growth treated with Ogogrow.

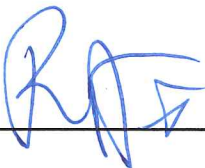
The Canadian Food and Drug Agency regulate the labeling of compost for sale and have changed their regulations to a much more stringent application rate. As such, all labelling on OgoGrow has been changed to reflect the reduced ratio but there is concern this may impact compost sales.

The next meeting is to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Biosolids Advisory Committee adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


_____ Chair