



MINUTES OF THE JOINT BIOSOLIDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

PRESENT: VOTING – all attended via zoom

Kelowna Councillor Ryan Donn, Chair
Kelowna Councillor Gail Given
Kelowna Councillor Loyal Woodridge
Vernon Mayor Victor Cumming
Vernon Councillor Scott Anderson

ABSENT: Rod McLean, Utility Planning Manager, Kelowna
James Rice, Director, Operation Services, Vernon

STAFF: Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager, Kelowna
Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor, Kelowna
Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager, Kelowna
Scott Hoekstra, Landfill and Compost Manager, Kelowna
Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works, Vernon
Serge Kozin, Manager, Water Reclamation Centre, Vernon
Natasha Kositsin, Legislative Secretary, Vernon

ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Given, seconded by Councillor Woodridge:

THAT the agenda for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, April 21, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Given, seconded by Councillor Woodridge:

THAT the minutes for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 7, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**2020 SUMMARY**

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided a summary of 2020 and the following points were noted:

Ogogrow

- The Regional Compost Facility received 33,205 MT biosolids – 91% of permitted capacity
- 32,423 m3 of Ogogrow compost sold
- \$281,550 in sales revenue

2020 compared to 2019

- Received 5% more biosolids from all sources
- Individually, Kelowna had a 3.1% increase, Vernon had a 6.9% increase and Lake Country had a 13% increase in material sent to the facility
- Sold 22% less in volume
- Made 26% more in revenue
- Bulk purchase opportunity opened later and for a shorter time than in previous years
- Made it through the winter without too many issues with space
- Steady increase in volume over the last 5 years and inching closer toward our capacity at 36,400 MT biosolids

Other achievements in 2020

- Replaced biofilters
- Large scale paving repairs
- Installed new misting system as required by permit – will be operational by May 1st as required from May to October
- Procured new odour monitoring system (EnviroSuite) – to be installed in May
- Developed management and disposal plan for left-over sludge from 2019 pond-lining project
- Installed pond aerator to reduce odours
- Obtained new Volvo 110H loader
- Replaced scale hardware

2020 Financials – Operating

- Payroll \$894,684 actual (budget \$976,764 – Environmental Technician II retired mid-year 2020 – position was only replaced in March 2021)
- Expenses \$1,565,000 (budget \$1,794,695 – Feedstocks, equipment, fuel, materials and supplies, repair parts)

2020 Financials – Capital

- Composting Facility, Biosolids Leachate (Pond Lining and Sludge Disposal project) multi-year project (2018-2023) is in sludge disposal stage
- Roll off Front End Loader – Composting Facility, Light Duty Truck (Biosolids) and Secondary Odour Control Misting System purchases are all complete
- Pavement Repairs is in progress as a multi-year project (2020-2022)
- Exterior Biosolids Tipping Bay and Pond Pump Kiosk are carry-over projects from 2020 and are in progress
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ODOUR/LEACHATE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an update on the Odour and Leachate Management and the following points were noted:

Odour Management

- OdoWatch system are unsupported & obsolete – will be replaced with EnviroSuite system and can add more monitors in the future
- Misting system installed in late summer 2020 will be operational by May 2021 as required by permit
- Installed pond aerator in fall 2020 and is in use

Leachate

- Switched to summer water from MacKay reservoir
- Run off and leachate collection systems are working well
- Pond aerator helping reduce odours
- Sludge from pond-lining project was collected in cells and left to dry

Management and Disposal

- Required more budget
- Sampled and explored re-use and disposal options
- Offsite disposal was preferred option
- Hauling dry portion to the Vernon Landfill this week
- Moist material will be spread, turned and allowed to dry over the summer
- Anticipate we will haul more material in the fall and spring in 2022

KELOWNA AND VERNON BIOSOLIDS UPDATE

Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works provided an update on Vernon biosolids and Kevin Van Viet, Utility Services Manager provided an update on Kelowna biosolids. The following points were noted:

Vernon

- Digester for Okanagan Spring Brewery project is moving ahead
- Design will be sent to procurement next month
- Hoping to break ground in the fall with completion in 2022

Kelowna

- Have a preliminary design for the Digester
- Dealing with ALR is a work in progress
- Four to five years before the digester will be built looking at moving at diverting of biosolids from Kelowna to a Brenda Mines or to Princeton facility
- Long term goal is to accept enough biosolids so that all the compost produced can be sold
- Ensure sufficient capacity as region grows

REGULATORY UPDATE Jose Garcia Biosolids Supervisor City of Kelowna provided a regulatory update and the following points were noted:

- There is no update at this time for revisions to the current Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR)
- The Ministry of Environment are continuing to review the feedback to the Intentions Paper and assessing ramifications of any proposed changes

STAFFING UPDATE Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor for the City of Kelowna provided an update on staffing and the following points were noted:

- Hired a Compost Coordinator in March 2021 who replaced the Environmental Technician II
- Key position for this facility and onsite full time
- Coordinate day to day activities
- Ensure regulatory compliance
- Oversee asset repairs and maintenance
- Promoting product
- Gives capacity to be more proactive
- Environmental Tech II came back on a casual basis during the hiring process and to help train replacement

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATION ITEMS:

ODOUR REPORTS Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor for the City of Kelowna reviewed odour reports and the following points were noted:

- 18 odour reports in 2020

- Open communication - Informing and communicating with neighbours of changes to the process or projects that may cause odours, and of control measures, has played a part in the dwindling of complaints

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021 from 10 – 11 a.m. via zoom, providing the PHO is still in effect.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Biosolids Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

_____ Chair