



MINUTES OF THE JOINT BIOSOLIDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022

PRESENT: VOTING – all attended via zoom

Kelowna Councillor Gail Given
Kelowna Councillor Loyal Woodridge
Vernon Councillor Scott Anderson, Acting Chair (Vice)
Vernon Mayor Victor Cumming

NON-VOTING

Vernon Councillor Teresa Durning

ABSENT: Kelowna Councillor Ryan Donn, Chair

STAFF: Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager, Kelowna (10:16 am)
Scott Hoekstra, Landfill and Compost Manager, Kelowna
Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor, Kelowna (10:01 am)
Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works, Vernon (10:02 am)
Serge Kozin, Manager, Water Reclamation Centre, Vernon (10:04 am)
Jade Adams-Longworth, Secretary I – Corporate Services, Vernon

ORDER

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

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Durning, seconded by Mayor Cumming:

THAT the agenda for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, May 3, 2022 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Moved by Mayor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Durning:

THAT the minutes for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 6, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor entered the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

2021 SUMMARY

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided a summary of 2021 and the following points were noted:

Ogogrow 2021

- The Regional Compost Facility received 32,120 MT biosolids – 88% of the permitted capacity
- 3% total reduction in biosolids received – believed to be related to the dip in Tourism due to COVID

Serge Kozin, Manager, Water Reclamation Centre entered the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

- 48,030 MT of Ogogrow sold – 48% more compost sold \$547,700.00 in sales revenue

Ogogrow 2021 vs 2020

- 48% increase in compost (volume) sold – saw a healthier demand for the product growing
- 62% increase in sales revenue – there has been a significant jump in regular rate sales

2021 Financials – Operating

- Payroll (\$977,744) is within budget (\$1,006,906)
- Staffing hasn't changed much – there is 5 Operators, 1 Coordinator, and 1 Environmental Tech. – there is one vacancy for Site & Equipment Maintenance
- Expenses (\$1,398,526) are within budget (\$1,621,640)

2021 Financials – Capital*Multi Year/Carried Over Projects*

- The Exterior Biosolids Tipping Bay, at the Compost Facility was completed (in the last week) which allows for biosolids to be received outside.
- Pavement Repairs are continuing and are in-progress and ongoing, it will continue to be a multi-year project.
- Pond Pump Kiosk at the Compost Facility is a carry-over project. It is an aging building that needs replacement.
- Pond Lining Project has finally been completed this year, with the final addition of a safety fence.

**LEACHATE
MANAGEMENT
UPDATE**

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

- Pond lining and related tasks have been completed
 - Sludge was removed and the slope was regraded and seeded.

- Safety fencing was installed around perimeter.
- The Aeration system was enhanced, getting oxygen in the system will help reduce the sludge build up, reduce odours, increase evaporation and improve overall water quality.
- The Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO) assisted with the removal of the sludge, they demonstrated great inter-governmental cooperation.
- Water quality is getting clearer and improving overall.

ODOUR MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

- Odour monitoring system (Envirosuite) is functional and operational.
- Considering modifying or updating the system to extend lifetime of components and provide more accurate and cost-effective monitoring for compliance purposes.
- Modifications to the location are being considered.
- The Odour control misting system will start next week and will run until October.
- Continued focus on best practices, regular inspections, and maintenance (whether it be repairs or replacements).
- Improvement has been noted in overall system performance and reduction of odours.
- A record low of complaints last year – 2021 had 9 complaints total.
- There have been no complaints in 2022 as of yet.

KELOWNA AND VERNON BIOSOLIDS UPDATE

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an update on both Vernon and Kelowna's biosolids. The following points were noted:

City of Vernon – Update

- Vernon's HRAD (High Rate Anaerobic Digester) is under construction and expected to be operational by early December barring any unforeseen circumstances.
- Vernon is exploring biosolid diversion options.

City of Kelowna – Update

- Kelowna is undergoing an Interim business plan is nearing completion. Pre-design and greenhouse gas assessments will be completed based on selected technology. The results of that and market conditions will guide the next steps in a 2-3-year window.

Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager entered the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

- Kelowna is diverting biosolids one day per week consistently, aiming to divert 2,800 MT this year.
- Due to the 2021 wildfire emergencies, access was almost lost to the site. The City of Kelowna is looking at redundant back up

options for the diversion of biosolids in cases of emergencies, and are planning for emergency tie ins (for sprinklers) when upgrading some of the pre-existing stand-pipes.

Regional Compost Facility – Long Term Goals

- Get input down to a sustainable rate that doesn't exceed market demand, and ensures we have a sufficient "buffering" capacity to accommodate population growth.
- Increasing demand and continuing to promote the product and explore new markets, and opportunities we can capitalize on.
- Clarification was given on amount of product sold verses the amount of product building up – confirmation is that there is a surplus. It was noted that accumulating inventory and projected reduction solution graphs would be useful.

Regulatory Update

- The Environmental Management Office released a statement that there will be a communication update for the '*Organic Matter Recycling Regulation*' shortly with updated project timelines.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an information on the newly proposed Okanagan Gondola. The following points were noted:

- The Proposed project would include a gondola, amphitheater, farmers market, food & beverages, and retail outlets.
- The project would be located 2 km SE from the Regional Compost Facility.
- Most of the odour reports have historically come from a 1.5-2 km radius from the facility.
- Negative reports from the proposed project could impact the facility.
- Feedback was submitted to the RDNO Planning Department on March 29, 2022 stating:
 - The Regional Compost Facility is a critical large-scale wastewater management facility in the Okanagan Valley
 - Wastewater biosolids are transported 7-days a week along Bailey Road and Commonage Road from Kelowna, Lake Country and Vernon.
 - Trucks also haul feedstock and compost in and out of the facility daily.
 - Area historically used for agriculture. Neighbours understand that even with an odour management program a certain level of odours is to be expected from a composting facility of this size.
 - The view that the location selected for the project is incompatible with the surrounding land-use and could

PROPOSED OKANAGAN GONDOLA DISCUSSION

result in additional odour complaints, which would put the operation and its continued existence at risk.

- Clarification was given that this information has been given to the Staff at RDNO in response to RDNO seeking input for the project, there has been no action to contact the applicant as of yet.

IN-PERSON MEETINGS DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed returning to In-Person meetings post the PHO restrictions lifting. The following was noted:

- The meeting room at the Biosolids Facility is on the smaller side, everyone would have to be comfortable attending.
- That members of the Joint Biosolids Committee would be happy to meet in person again.

Moved by Councillor Given, seconded by Mayor Cumming:

THAT the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee resume In-Person meetings for their next meeting.

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be scheduled for November 2022 after the municipal elections.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Biosolids Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

