



MINUTES OF THE JOINT BIOSOLIDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

PRESENT: VOTING

Kelowna Councillor Loyal Woodridge (via Zoom)
Kelowna Councillor Gord Lovegrove
Vernon Councillor Brian Guy (Chair)
Vernon Mayor Victor Cumming

ABSENT: Kelowna Councillor Mohini Singh

STAFF: Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager, Kelowna (via zoom)
Mac Logan, General Manager, Infrastructure, Kelowna (via zoom, 10:46)
Scott Hoekstra, Landfill and Compost Manager, Kelowna
Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor, Kelowna
Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works, Vernon
Serge Kozin, Manager, Water Reclamation Centre, Vernon
Jade Adams-Longworth, Secretary I – Corporate Services, Vernon

ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As the Chair of the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the Cities of Vernon and Kelowna are located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan nation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Moved by Mayor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Lovegrove:

THAT the agenda for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, October 25, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Lovegrove, seconded by Mayor Cumming:

THAT the minutes for the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

The Chair brought forward some questions from the previous minutes and the following was noted:

- Clarification was given on the 2022 Financial Summary, that refer to the updating of the City of Kelowna's bylaws so that Ogogrow could be sold outside of the original market.
 - The original market being the Central Okanagan region and City of Vernon.
 - Wanted the flexibility to be able to sell out of the Okanagan.
- Questions were asked about capital costs and budgetary items, odour management, go forward plans, disaster planning, and facility expansion, they were deferred to later in the meeting.

2023 UPDATE

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an update of the 2023 year and the following points were noted:

- Processed a total of 31,200 WMT (wet metric tonnes) of biosolids in 2022.
- 22, 547 WMT (wet metric tonnes) of biosolids has been processed in the first three quarters of 2023, which is comparable to 2022.
 - Kelowna is comparable to last year with 15,326 WMT
 - Vernon has had a reduction of -10% (6,214 WMT)
 - Lake Country has had a reduction of -37% (904 WMT)
 - Lake Country is sending half of their biosolids to the Ingerbelle Compost Facility.
 - Silver Star is comparable to last year with 104 WMT
- Price changes were adopted in Kelowna's Solid Waste Management Bylaw (in the spring of 2023).
 - A flat rate system has been brought in to help incentivize more individuals and organizations to buy the product.
 - The previous price structure was based on the total volume purchased per year, where as the new price structure is based on the volume purchased at an individual time.
 - The new price structure should help all businesses benefit, including the smaller local businesses and organizations.
 - Wanted to provide the incentive for locals to buy in bulk and sell in smaller portions.
 - New wholesale prices are:
 - Ogogrow sold at 551 Commonage Road

- 3-7 cubic yards: \$15.00/per yrd³
- 7+ cubic yards: \$4.00/per yrd³
- Ogogrow sold at the Glenmore Landfill
 - 3-7 cubic yards: \$20.00/per yrd³
 - 7+ cubic yards: \$7.50/per yrd³
- Glengrow sold at the Glenmore Landfill
 - 3-7 cubic yards: \$25.00/per yard
 - 7+ cubic yards: \$8.00/per yard
- New retail prices are:
 - Supplied bag of Ogogrow or Glengrow: \$4.29
 - Glengrow (0.5 - 3 yrd³): \$30.00/per yrd³
 - Ogogrow (0.5 - 3 yrd³): \$25.00/per yrd³
 - Mulch (1 yrd min): \$15.00/per yrd³

* Retail above sold at Glenmore Landfill
- There are premiums on certain products that come from moving the product (physically).
- Total Ogogrow compost sold in the first three (3) quarters (of 2023) amounts to 35,393 yrd³ (27,060 m³) with a projected total of 45,000 yrd³ (34,405 m³) by the end of the year.
- Revenue is lower than the past few years, but it is similar to pre-covid sales revenue, and we are expected to fall somewhere between the 2019 and 2020 sales figures.
- With the new rate structure, the Ogogrow Cumulative Revenue will be more predictable and linear pattern.

REGULATORY UPDATE Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided a Regulatory Update and the following points were noted:

Leachate Update

- Continuing to haul leachate via truck to Vernon's Water Reclamation Centre.
- There is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the leachate hauling contract.
 - Clarification was given on what kind of truck is able to haul leachate – A Vacuum/Hydrovac Truck is required.
 - D&L Environment is the current hauling provider, they have offices throughout the whole valley.
 - The RFP has created a fair bit of interest.
- In the process of developing a design for leachate re-circulation.
- Paving program is continuing and ongoing.

Odours Update

- Only one odour complaint currently in 2023; it was received in January.
- There were issues with the pond, while the water was being pumped out due to a break in the line.

- When the water turns over in the pond, sulfur is released.
 - The de-sludging process helps take the material out, this should help mitigate the odours given off as well.
- Currently optimizing odour monitoring system on site.
 - The new system works in current time with the concentration of gas percentages present.
 - Will allow for data to be collected and reviewed to create a baseline for what is standard and non-standard. This will also help to mitigate what gaseous material is going into the atmosphere.
- Clarification was given on if two separate odour monitoring systems and two sets of sensors would be running at the same time for data comparison.
 - The intent is just to monitor from the perimeter, and only run one system and sensor set, due to cost of purchasing a second set.
 - The question was raised if a second set of data values could be obtained by utilizing handhelds with little to no cost added.
 - The purpose for the new odour monitoring system is to meet a new permit requirement.
- Question was raised on the optimal time and frequency of the de-sludging of the pond.
 - Best time of year would be late summer, early fall, where the only foreseeable issue is that is an irrigation period.
 - Would want the moisture present, but potential for runoff will have to be monitored closely.
 - First desludging was a learning experience.
 - Looking at adding multiple trucks and creating additional frequencies of de-sludging.
- Prior to the de-sludging process, the neighbouring property owners were informed and communications throughout the process were managed well.

Organic Matter Recycling Regulation

- BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy targeting 2024 for amendments to the OMRR (Organic Matter Recycling Regulation), but no timeline has been made available (as of yet).
- The Ministry did release intention papers in both 2018 and 2021, and most of the changes will not have a significant impact on the facility.
 - There will be a 10-year grandfathering in period for facilities currently running.
 - There is one item that will require facilities (like the Regional Facility) to be covered in the future.

- Ministry of Environment is trying to combat odours, and leachate leaking.
- A response was sent to the Ministry outlining that this compliance item may be unnecessary for this facility due to the odour trend, minimal complaints and unreasonable costs.
- There will be a way for cases to be evaluated on a case by case basis on non-compliance issues.
- Keeping up to date records, in regard to odours and odour complaints is really important and will keep the facility operational.
- Biggest way to combat climate action is zero waste, and this is a waste management facility. Coming down hard on this type of facilities, strategically goes against the clean, climate action initiatives.

KELOWNA AND VERNON BIOSOLIDS UPDATE

Updates were provided on both Vernon and Kelowna's biosolids. The following points were noted:

City of Vernon – Update

- High-Rate Anaerobic Digester (HRAD) is now operational.
- Has been a reduction in biosolids sent to the facility.

City of Kelowna – Update

- Utility Planning has reached an anerobic digester design, however it is now being deferred for the time being.
 - City of Kelowna is currently looking at other facilities to renew and the new go forward plan is to divert the solids for the next few years.
 - It will be in future phases, and may happen in the next 10-15 years.
- Continue to divert solids to the Ingerbelle facility.
- Toured the Brenda Renewables facility.
 - Thoroughly impressed with the facilities.
 - Leader in odour control, with their odour control pit.
 - Clarification was given that Brenda Renewables has yet to accept any materials at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

STRATEGIC PLAN AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an overview of the current strategic approaches for the Regional Compost Facility and the following was noted:

- No Strategic Plan specifically for the Regional Compost Facility – to date it has been performed at Municipal Levels separately.
 - Each City worked on different strategic strategies individually.

- City of Vernon has the High-Rate Anerobic Digester.
- City of Kelowna has been diverting biosolids to other facilities, and has been capitalizing on bulk sales of the product.
- In 2016 there was a Biosolids Strategy Review to determine what the Facility could handle. The conclusion advised against expansion because the facility was already creating more product than the market could take.

Mac Logan, General Manager, Infrastructure entered the meeting via zoom at 10:46 a.m.

- With separate strategies it is advisable to create a guiding document that aligns with the current plans, future plans, action plans and fold it together with budget implications.
 - The question was posed whether or not key targets should be included
- Clarification was given if a plan for de-commission of the facility was needed in this document, it was deemed un-necessary due to that it is not currently needed for the (operating) permit for the Regional Compost Facility.
- The creation of this document should be broken down, with the next step of action being an projected outline with a summary of the plans and policies is currently in place.

Moved by Councillor Lovegrove, seconded by Mayor Cumming:

THAT the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee recommends to respective Councils of the City of Vernon and City of Kelowna, that staff be directed to return to the Committee with a compiled background, an action plan, budget outline, and a process of delivery that ultimately provides the facility with a Draft Strategic Plan.

CARRIED.

MARKETING STRATEGIES

The Committee discussed that the Marketing Strategies that were briefly touched on, and the conclusion was that the Marketing Strategies should be integrated into the Strategic and Long-term Planning sessions to come.

FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an overview of the current Fire Safety and Emergency Contingency Plan, and the following was noted:

- The current Fire Safety and contingency plan was revamped within the last year (January 2023), and is reviewed and updated annually.
 - In the review that took place in January 2023, wildfires were taken into consideration. Biosolid diversion

opportunities were looked if the facility was no longer accessible.

- City of Kelowna has enough alternate facilities in place to divert all of their Biosolids.
- City of Vernon is reassessing their capabilities, and would be able to go 2-3 days at most.
- Both facilities will be looking closer at the separate diversion plans for emergency situations as if both accesses to the facility were no longer or if the facility was no longer (due to a natural disaster i.e. wildfire)

Councillor Lovegrove left the meeting at 11:27 p.m.

- Clarification was given on whether the property is fire smart. The grass is kept low, and most fuel is on neighbouring properties.
- The question was raised on whether or not any gaps had been identified in the plan due to the 2022 Wildfire season. Clarification was given that any gaps found were addressed in the 2023 update.
- The facility is physically in the jurisdiction of the Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO), however, there is an agreement in place with Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS), to respond when necessary.
 - VFRS came up and reviewed the facility and identified what types of equipment and response plans would be necessary in an emergency situation.
 - The Facility has purchased equipment, such as hoses and sprinklers for fire protection.
 - Repaired necessary curb stops and sandpipes.

Councillor Lovegrove re-entered the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

- The Committee requested that the Fire Safety and the Emergency Contingency Plans both be integrated into the Strategic Plan for the Regional Compost Facility.
- Clarification was given for the need for external plans to be part of the wastewater treatment plans, coming from the perspective of the treatment facilities (both City of Kelowna and City of Vernon's Water Reclamation sites).

REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS FACILITY JOINT OPERATION AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Jose Garcia, Biosolids Supervisor provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Regional Biosolids Facility Joint Operation Agreement for the purposes of the renewal, and the following was noted:

- A number of areas within the agreement needed some updates, this included language changes, terms changes, and schedule changes.
 - Changes to section 1c, include the nature of agreement and schedules:

- Proposing to remove the current 'Schedule B' as it was intended to be a schedule to the bylaw, and replace it with the new 'Fire Services Terms of Reference'.
- Proposed to omit the current 'Schedule C' because of the regulations in have now been incorporated in the ENV permit.
- Changes to section 2, the proposal to the term being that the agreement will stay in place unless one of the parties (City of Kelowna or City of Vernon), terminates the agreement.
- Remove section 5d, as the charges are no longer on title.
- Changes to section 6g, to bring the agreement up to date with the current best practices, and amendments to the language.
- Changes to section 6h, to include the loaders in 'Schedule A'.
 - Clarification was given on the purpose of Schedule A, and that it is an asset list for the Regional Compost Facility and not focuses on dollar amounts.
- Changes to section 6k, to include a hyperlink to the bylaw (which may change over time).
- Changes to section 7, to increase the amount from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and making it more in line with current practices.
- Changes to section 8D, due to the ENV permit, and the changes in the outlines for material acceptance and processing.
- Changes to section 20a, keeping insurance coverage current and adding environment liability.
- Changes to section 23, revised to match the current practices and the proposed new 'Schedule B'.
 - Clarification was given that the Facility is currently in RDNO and that there are agreements in place for VFRS to attend the scene in an emergency.
- Changes to section 24, removing names and replacing them with titles and updating the titles, creating perpetuity in the agreement.
- Changes to Schedule A, replacing table SA-1 with SA-2, to include the 3 front-end loaders in the asset renewal program.
- Changes to Schedule B, replacing the current schedule completely with the Fire Protection Terms of Service

Moved by Councillor Lovegrove, seconded by Mayor Cumming:

THAT the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee recommends to call an additional meeting for final review of the amended Regional Compost Facility Renewal Agreement.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wooldridge left the meeting via zoom at 11:49 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be tentatively scheduled for April 2024.

Mac Logan, General Manager, Infrastructure left the meeting via zoom at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Biosolids Advisory Committee adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. G.', is written over a horizontal line that spans the width of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.