

**BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2007**

The following people were in attendance at the Biosolids Committee Meeting on January 16, 2007.

Ron Lacina,	Muscatine WWTP	Billy Chen	IDNR
Jim Reynolds,	Howard R. Green, Inc.	Ken Goering	Fairfield WWTP
Dennis Hayworth,	DMACC	Steve Troyer,	Fox Engineering, Inc.

Members that e-mailed/phoned in their absence included Scott Weinands, Mike Thompson, David Clark, Jim Rasmussen & Hank Pangelina.

The meeting started at 1:15 p.m.

Discussion started by reviewing and approving the committee meeting minutes of January 16, 2006.

The first item of discussion was reviewing conference evaluation forms for the 16th annual conference. Overall the conference was very well received, with about 87% of those responding rating the conference “very good” or “excellent”. The panel discussions and case studies are received very high ratings, and seem to be popular with attendees.

Possible topics for next year were discussed, including the suggestions from attendees. One possible presentation topic could be on how much farmers actually save by applying biosolids. This could include some economic examples; comments from “satisfied customers”/reference list; and tables or graphs showing potential savings for biosolids application vs. chemical application rates. Ron volunteered to head this up.

Another possible topic suggested is the use of methane gas from anaerobic digesters, including problems/benefits associated with co-generation of electricity and heat. This could include case studies from various communities throughout the state that utilize methane gas from anaerobic digestion. It was suggested that four 15-minute presentations may be a good fit for this topic.

The committee also discussed the decrease in attendance over the last 5 years or so. This may be due to several factors, such as less interest in biosolids topics, budget issues for cities, and more education opportunities available to operator. Jim noted that WEF is also seeing declining attendance at the national biosolids conferences.

The next item for discussion was co-sponsoring a WEF biosolids specialty conference in our region with other member associations in Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. A letter was sent to WEF expressing our interest in hosting this conference in this region. WEF responded that the earliest available conference date is in 2014. We may have to keep re-submitting the letter for a few years. Committee members discussed this and felt that, while we should continue submitting the letter each year and expressing interest, it does not need to be a high priority for the committee.

The next item of discussion was the long term impacts of biosolids land application. At previous meetings, the committee had discussed sending out a survey form to gather available data from through

out the state. Although not present, Dr. Thompson emailed Steve expressing interest in developing a spreadsheet or survey form that could be used for this. Hank had also previously expressed interest in working on this. Billy indicated that the IDNR receives reports from 81 major facilities (population > 10,000 or flow >1 MGD) on their biosolids applications. Some include a great deal of information, and others only have the minimum required information. Billy has a copy of these reports that are available for public inspection. Billy also indicated that the IDNR collected data in 1997, 1998, & 1999 from sludge application programs throughout the state. This information is available in tabular form, and Billy will forward to Steve for review. At that time, the data showed that most of the biosolids was of “excellent” quality. Steve will contact Dr. Thompson to discuss how to best proceed with this.

The final item of discussion was the Biosolids Awards Program for IWPCA. The committee would like to revive this program, and discussed ways of generating interest. Ron indicated that he has almost completed the WEF biosolids award application, and would probably be interested in applying for the state award. The application did involve a lot of work. There were several questions about how the Iowa awards program was done in the past, since none of the committee members present were involved in this in the past. Questions include: When should applications be due? Who judges the applications? This should be coordinated with the Awards Committee. When would the award be given? Recognition could be given at both the Biosolids Conference and IWPCA Annual Conference. The committee discussed why it's been difficult getting communities to apply for the award, and what could be done to generate more interest. We could publish an article in the IWPCA Reporter and post it on the web site, ask for participants and drum up interest at the annual conference and regional meetings, and have applications available at these conferences. We should also look at simplifying the application process to reduce the time commitment and effort involved. Looking at some past applications would also help. Steve will pull up the application form used in the past, and try to update and simplify it for review at the next committee meeting. Steve will also try to arrange to give a brief “request for applicants” at the luncheon during the annual conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Thanks Again for all your hard work and dedication to the Biosolids committee, if it weren't for you the IWPCA would not be as GREAT as it is!!!

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2007, at the committee luncheon during the IWPCA Annual Conference in Cedar Rapids.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Troyer