

BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2008

The following people were in attendance at the Biosolids Committee Meeting on January 15, 2008.

Billy Chen,	IDNR	Scott Wienands	Nutri-Ject
Jim Rasmussen,	Howard R. Green, Inc.	Dennis Hayworth,	DMACC
Steve Troyer,	Fox Engineering, Inc.		

Members that e-mailed/phoned in their absence included Mike Thompson, John Haase & Ron Lacina.

The meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

Discussion started by reviewing and approving the committee meeting minutes of January, 2008.

The next item of discussion was review of the 17th Annual Biosolids Conference, held on March 19, 2008. The conference was very well attended this year. There were 105 registrants for the conference, and 98 attendees. About 18 free registrations were give, for speakers and IDNR regional directors. The committee then reviewed the conference evaluation summary. Overall, the conference was very well received. Nearly 80% of those who completed the evaluation form rated the conference “very good” or “excellent”. Several positive comments were received, including “excellent conference” and “very well done”. Several suggestions were also received to improve the conference and for topics for next year. There were several people that suggested reducing the time of each presentation to 45 minutes. This would require two additional speakers for the conference. The committee would like to consider this for next year. Committee members should also be thinking of possible topics and presenters for next year. The conference for next year was scheduled for March 18, 2009.

Steve informed the committee that the IWPCA Board approved partial funding for Dr. Thompson’s research project looking at long-term impacts of biosolids application (particularly phosphorous and endocrine-disrupting chemicals). Dr. Thompson will be contacting people on the committee in the next few weeks to ask for their collaboration.

The committee then discussed possible public outreach ideas regarding biosolids. In light of some recent nationally published articles casting a negative light on biosolids land application, the committee members would like to make sure that all IWPCA members are informed on this issue. The committee will send the articles and WEF’s position statement to those on the list serve as well as have these posted on the IWPCA web site. The committee would also like to have more visibility in the agricultural community. Ideas discussed include contacting Farm Bureau to speak or display at one of their conferences, and setting up a booth at the Iowa State Fair (maybe in the IDNR building). Scott investigate the State Fair idea. Steve will check with Farm Bureau.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the Biosolids Field Guide. IWPCA does not have any more copies of the guide that was originally produced in 2000. Before making more copies, the committee should review the content and format. The contact information will need to be updated. We could also look at adding some useful tools or equations for specific calculations. Scott will try to get some copies of the Minnesota field guide that we could review as a reference. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The final item of discussion was the possibility of co-hosting a biosolids specialty conference with Nebraska. Brian Bakke was planning to talk with the Nebraska folks. Since Brian was not present at the meeting, this was tabled until next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:00 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 will be held in June at the IWPCA annual conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Troyer,
Biosolids Committee Chair