

BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 21, 2009

The following people were in attendance at the Biosolids Committee Meeting on January 20, 2009.

Ron Lacina	Muscatine	Ken Goering,	Fairfield
Brian Bakke	HDR	Pam Akers	DMACC
Michael Thompson,	Iowa State University	Steve Troyer,	Fox Engineering, Inc.
Guest: Ron Covert	ABC		

The meeting started at 1:10 p.m. Discussion started by reviewing and approving the committee meeting minutes of January, 2009.

The first item of discussion was review of the 18th Annual Biosolids Conference. There were 93 attendees at the conference. Steve provided a summary of the evaluation forms completed by attendees. Of the 55 responding, almost 90% rated the conference very good or excellent. The biggest complaint was the fire alarms going off during the conference. Suggestions for next year's conference included: presentation from IDNR or EPA; polymer optimization; case studies; dewatering techniques. Overall, the conference was very successful.

The next item of discussion was goals for the upcoming year. Steve suggested three goals for the biosolids committee in the coming year(s): 1) Plan / hold the annual conference; 2) Set up program for voluntary biosolids land application certification; 3) Update biosolids field guide. Items 2 and 3 are fairly large undertakings, will require significant work from the committee members, and may take more than one year to complete.

The next item of discussion was setting up a program for voluntary biosolids land application certification in Iowa. Committee members present felt that this would be very valuable for appliers, that there is a lot of interest in this, and it is something that the committee should pursue. Ron Covert from Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) attended the meeting to offer suggestions. The IWPCA collection system has set up a similar program for voluntary collection system certification. Tests are administered twice each year. Renewal is required every 2 years. IWPCA runs the program, grants the certification, and does the administration and tracking. ABC provides the test and grades them. Glen Peterson administers this on behalf of IWPCA. He would be a good person to talk to.

For a biosolids program, ABC could also provide and grade the exam. IWPCA would need to administer it. One of the biggest issues would be providing training to potential applicants prior to the exam. Minnesota has a program set up, including a 3 or 4 day class with an exam at the end. One possibility would be to use MN as a training vehicle, but people would have to go to MN to take the course. Another option would be to tailor the MN course material to Iowa, and give the course here. It would take significant time to develop the program, and would need to find someone to teach it. Mike suggested that ISU extension may have some interest in getting involved, but would probably not teach the course.

After some discussion, committee members agreed to the following course of action:

- 1) Ken will contact Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to see if they would be willing to provide training to Iowa appliers, or if they would be willing to share their course material that could be used as a basis for an Iowa course.

- 2) Ken will also talk with Glen Peterson about the timeline and steps that the collection system committee undertook to get their program started.
- 3) Ken, and possibly Ron, will take the course in October.
- 4) Try to involve someone from DMWRA. Steve will contact Brad Tingley to see if he would be interested in joining the committee.

The next item of discussion was updating the Biosolids Field Guide. The field guide should dovetail with the training program that's developed for certification. John Sawyer with ISU extension would like to put out a document that would help farmers determine if/what the additional nutrient requirements are after biosolids are applied. This could be completed in conjunction with the field guide. They could also help with layout and printing, for a fee. There was also some discussion about a hand book vs. a field guide. A hand book could be developed as part of the training course. The field guide should be fairly short, concise, easy to read, and include several reference tables, sample calculations, etc.

Committee members reviewed the Iowa and MN field guides, and came up with a draft outline for the revised field guide, as follows:

1. Table of Contents
2. Check lists for before and after land application – similar to MN pages 2 & 14; the “after” check list should be geared more toward appliclers.
3. Table of Class I and II requirements – see MN page 5.
4. Handy formulas for calculations and conversions, such as vehicle speed, areas, etc. – similar to MN page 3.
5. Table of required separation distances – similar to MN page 10 & 11.
6. Table of land use restrictions – similar to MN page 9.
7. Emergency spill procedure
8. Calculations for nutrients and trace elements – similar to MN page 4 & 5.
9. Nitrogen requirements for various crops – similar to MN page 6, 7, & 8 – John Sawyer would be a good resource to help with this.
10. Contact information for IDNR central office and field office.

Things that should not be in the field guide, but should be in the handbook, include: 5 year planning; acquiring application sites; record keeping; public notices; field records. This draft outline will be reviewed at the next committee meeting, and individuals will be asked to volunteer to work on a specific section of the guide to develop a draft.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:10 p.m.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June at the IWPCA annual conference.

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!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Troyer,
Biosolids Committee Chair