

**Biosolids Meeting Minutes from:  
MSU AG EXPO JULY 17, 2008**

1. **Attendance:** I need someone's help to come up with a more current list of ACTIVE members and help with a spread sheet and directions to mail out agenda's each month, I'm not that familiar with Outlook. Helpers: Kari and / or Ken agreed to help.

The idea of concept minutes was approved, we'll see if the secretary can get organized enough to do it.

2. **Attendance:** Scott, Kevin, Ken, Graham, Kim, Lee, Jim, Steve, Mike, Jeff, Kari, Ben, Bahram, Dianna, Fred and Greg.

3. Prior Meeting **Minutes** Approved for June 19, 2008. Thanks to Steve for such nice notes.

4. **MDEQ Update**

**Jim Johnson:** Jim attended the National Biosolids Conference in Washington, DC. Jim said that Michigan's Biosolids program is one of the leading states, if not the leader in the nation for our biosolids program. He believes we have much better support, and are one of the only states that have a good public education program. Pathogen control was discussed and has been for years. There was also a recent study on viruses and bacteria in soils. Jim also recommended the EPA look at some of our Aerobic WWTP's in a biosolids study. These plants don't know it yet, though. One of the contacts Jim talked to was Rick Stevens, and he was impressed by Michigan's Biosolids Program, we got good marks from him. Pharmaceutical drugs and personal care products were also a subject studied by the USDS. They talked about these products in the fields, water, everywhere and this was an inflammatory study. Another subject was the fecal coliform standard. One more area covered was the exclusion of sugar beets for land application rules, because it is a product that is sterilized in sugar production. The next meeting is in Cincinnati.

5. **DEQ Field Staff**

**Mike Persons:** Mike said they have been doing less lagoon cleaning, drying and land-filling, he also has had no complaints or emergencies.

**Bahram:** said he has had 5-6 citizen complaints from Lansing area and Genesee County. One citizen built a shed on a water run and all the contents got wet when it rained hard.

**Greg:** had a complaint from Lenawee County, citizen complained about a pond being ruined by biosolids, he documented the pond banks covered with goose doo doo.

6. **MDA Update**

**Steve Mahoney:** Ag Expo going well, newsletter coming up, the Michigan Biosolids Map needs updating. One proposed CAFO in St. Joseph County was the first to be denied a permit, he thought it was probably just social reasons. Steve also had two handouts that were about the upcoming conference which included such topics as

location, dates, theme, agenda, tours and entertainment. I believe we chose Lansing and also the Sheraton. He also had a handout of hotel prices and accommodations.

**7. MWEA Update**

At the Boyne Mountain Conference Kevin Chandler was inducted into the 5S'. The conference went well and was well attended; in fact they sold all the tickets. The committee checked out Mackinac Island for the next meeting but it was too expensive, around \$2000 per couple. It was decided that next year's conference will be held at Boyne again.

**8. Items from Chair / Officers**

Ken and I will try to update membership rolls. Jeff Pugh an engineer from Williams and Works joined us as a new member.

**9. Subcommittee Activities**

**Expo:** good turnout, enough people signed up and showed up to help. Thanks to everyone who helped! The plot for next year is a good idea and is on a one year contract with MSU. The location of tent worked nice for unloading and was close to the gate, also no hassles with helpers parking next to the site.

**Seminar:** Steve gave us all notes on the conference, Lansing planned as place.

**10. Government Affairs**

Kari to look at dollars and how they are spent. Many different people contacting senators, Alan Cropsey for example, with questions also for the DEQ. Don Stapula talking to the legislatures. At this time no one is willing to do anything.

**11. GLBMA is removed from the agenda, no longer in existence.**

**12. Other**

**Jim** said popcorn plot looks terrible, we need popcorn, Lee said it was sprayed with weed killer once and the spray did not take. We are getting biosolids from Genesee County. Plot should improve with another spray. At present we are almost out of popcorn, two buckets left, but no more events this year.

During Earth Day we go through a lot of popcorn, around 900 small bags. Also Jim said there will be a Biosolids Manager Course in Grand Rapids in November.

**Kari** said there is a golf benefit for Ryan Olmstead on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Riverwood Golf Course in Mt. Pleasant. Contact Kari if you are interested in playing.

**13. Next Meeting**

Cadillac WWTP September 18, 2008, meeting at the Johnson Wildlife / Fishing / Hunting Center.

Free Excellent Lunch Provided