

BIOSOLIDS MEETING MINUTES 1-15-09

1. **Attendance:** Graham Chapman, Kim Hackbardt, Ken Herman, Glenn Hummel, Jim Johnson, Scott Kunst, Steve Mahoney, Dianna Seifert, Don Popma, Wayne Whitman, Jerry Harte.
2. We watched Liquid Assets, highlights from a video of the same name, which Jerry Harte brought for us, very informative and well done, he has details on how to purchase the DVD.
3. **MDEQ Update: Jim Johnson-** Bills were sent out; the tonnage fee was around \$7.50 per dry ton. Lagoon cleaning and Detroit coming on board helped keep the fees low. All the financial information is on the website. Some recent information technology has changed the DEQ a lot. There was some good news, a man from Detroit, who was involved in the automotive field, has volunteered to help the DEQ with Biosolids in Detroit. There is no permanent staff yet in Detroit, so this is a great help. A PhD student from Illinois is doing a survey of Class A Plants, which Jim provided him the information he needed. We only have 5 plants to date producing Class A Biosolids. As a group we land applied 104,000 tons, and incinerated 137,000 tons, much less to landfills. DEQ is participating in an upgrade biosolids module with a new database. One of the improvements is a dollar equivalent calculator which calculates how much land application would cost for a field. DEQ is also working on a direct entry database with an email entry system with a spreadsheet attached. This would help the DEQ greatly with record keeping; they want to head towards a paperless system. Think Green!
4. **Field Staff:** Nothing from the field.
5. **MDA Update: Steve Mahoney** has finished the map for Biosolids Generators in Michigan completed in color. The newsletter is out and the brochures, someone should take an inventory of folders, 150 folders should be good for starters. There was an Ag. Conference for the Environment which included Biosolids and Food Safety, Mike Person attended for Steve, Alma cucumber data was available. It was a good time to put a plug in for our seminar. DenDulk Dairy has purchased the GM Plant and will make dried milk on that site. Presently there are 6-8 working digesters for dairy farms in Michigan. Nitrogen fertilizer has dropped in price from \$1000 a ton to \$300. An Ag. Environmental Committee has been set up in the MDA. They look at environmental issues. All complaints now will go to the Water Bureau. Reminder that MTA Conference will be held January 28-30 in Detroit at the Ren. Center.
6. **MWEA Update: Todd Wibright (Jerry Harte):** Kari finished the calendars and they look great! Check out the dates to make sure everything is ok. At the legislature luncheon they will eat lunch first followed by a short issue talk. The MWEA is emailing invitations and delivering some of them personally. They need to know us and our names and who to go to with water problems. They especially want to hear from people in their districts. One issue argued about is porta-johns on building sites, the Michigan Builder's Association is much better known than we are.

7. **Items from Chair or Officers:** Congratulations to Kim Hackbardt from Wyoming for winning the Biosolids Person of the Year. We need to send in nominations on time in the future. Karlan from the MWEA sent out an email to vote for the people nominated and this worked well. We will nominate at our meeting and then vote online. Thanks to Steve Mahoney for all his work on the Conference and the Seminar, and getting \$2500 sponsorship from the DLEG/
8. **Subcommittee Activities:**
- a. **Expos:**
- MTA:** the cost to bring popcorn is \$55 for the night; treasurer needs to cut a check for it.
- Joint Expo** is February 3, 4 can do popcorn for free.
- Jim also contacted Michigan Land Use Institute which opposes use of pet-coke, which is cheaper to use than coal.
- Jim contacted the Michigan Health Dept. for a booth; cost is \$250, not worth it. We voted against putting up a booth, not enough response and too expensive.
- b. **Seminars: Ag Expo** plots are approved for Indian corn, we will need about 500lbs of Biosolids, the tent is also rented; we would like to use liquid if possible.
- February the subcommittee meets in Bath at the MWEA Office @ 10am. Brochures were sent out to WEF and to several surrounding states. Good idea to bring brochures to MTA, Joint Expo, any other seminars.
9. **Government Affairs:** a letter was drafted to Tim Lynch the Biosolids liaison for the MWEA to give to the MWEA board to send to the director of the MDEQ. **Steve Mahoney** also drafted a letter to send to all the Michigan Treatment Facilities to agree on an audit request to the MDEQ director. **Graham Chapman** will talk to Senator Cropsy about the audit; he also met with the MWEA Board about the audit.

Minutes prepared by Biosolids Secretary Scott Kunst

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Thanks.