

Biosolids Meeting Minutes from:
Johnson Wildlife Center, Cadillac, September 18, 2008

1. **Attendance:** 13 members present: Scott, Jeff, Jeff, Ken, Kevin, Kari, Ben, Steve, Todd, Phil, Greg, Mike, Jim.
2. **Minutes:** Acceptance of July 17, 2008 meeting minutes, also we agreed that we would send out minutes to the members and ask for corrections, additions or subtractions, correct them and send them to the MWEA website.
3. **MDEQ Update:** Jim Johnson informed us that the DEQ has a new water bureau chief, Bill Creal. There have been no changes to the Water Bureau operations from how things operated under former chief, Rich Powers. The 2008 Annual Report Form is posted on the Biosolids internet page, and is available for use. The Dept. of Information Technology is switching to a new server, which is supposed to update quicker. Someone asked if biosolids could be used for cooking fuel, the answer was that they could supply heat, but were not recommended for grilling. Detroit had a spill by a major intersection, which engendered some complaints, but after cleanup the complaints ceased. An article on the spill was on m-live website. The Lansing District land applicers were requested to give DEQ a list of their active fields. This is totally voluntary and may repeat what was requested in the 2007 annual reports. Those who gave a list of active fields last year do not have to repeat that; just refer to that when questioned.
4. **Field Staff:** Mike Person said he has visited 40-50 plants and sites recently. There were one or two metals issues at plants that were corrected. One man in Cadillac complained at a City Council meeting about putting biosolids too close to his backyard, he was afraid of PCB's. Some other minor violations were set straight.
5. **MDA Update:** Steve Mahoney said the newsletter is in the works, deadline for Matters is September 19. Steve is also working on the land application map. There were some problems with Mike Persons calling the MDA office and contacting the person he was looking for. Steve said they have a new division director, his name is Jim Johnson. Steve Shine will replace his old position. More CAFO's popping up, these will affect the Benton Harbor area. Most of the CAFO's are put up in sparsely populated areas, and they are growing in Michigan. In the Missaukee area some CAFO's should be able to sell their manure. Most CAFO's are dairy or swine productions, and most buy their feed and do not grow it.
6. **MWEA Update:** Todd says the MWEA checked out Mackinac Island for the conference but it is too expensive, they will be going back to Boyne Mountain. Awards nominations are coming up soon. Talk to Bill Gramelack for details. Todd, Scott and Ken were at the Committee Chair Retreat in Mount Pleasant, it was a learning experience. WEFTECH is also coming up in Chicago and busses are available. MWEA has conference calling now and it is very cheap and easy to use. The Hot Topics Seminar is on October 30 at Eagle Eye, especially of interest is the Keynote address by Gene Schabath, longtime environmental reporter for the Detroit News, discussing "Talking with the Media." Also Kevin and Kari are going to be giving presentations. Ken mentioned that the MWEA website is new and improved and now has membership information, passwords, accounts, and usernames, with easy sign up for seminars. He encouraged that all of us send Karlyn any positive information or articles she can post about biosolids, our minutes will also be posted there. The new liaison for Biosolids in the MWEA is Tim Lynch from the Benton Harbor / St. Joseph area.
7. **Items from Chair or Officers:** Kari needs help with the calendar, and with all the dates, we should try to include as many pertinent dates as possible. Todd and Scott agreed to help with the calendar.

8. **Subcommittee Activities**
 - a. **Expos:** We need a fall crop; someone needs to contact Lee Jacobs. Jim said the popcorn looks a lot better. Maybe we could do wheat as an Expo crop.
 - b. **Seminars:** We are planning on two full days for the seminar. We are also planning on doing tours for the first day, then speakers. The speakers are set up and the place is the Holiday Inn South.
9. **Government Affairs:** Nothing on the fee issue yet. Graham is corresponding with Jessica Reynolds, who is tied to a state senator. He is looking into why and how the money is spent. Some people are questioning what's going on. It is clear they are using money in a way it was not intended. Jim said part 31 is vague on how monies are to be spent. We need to change the law to make it more clear. Mr. Cropsy has issues with the DEQ and that's why we started with him. On the national scene the biosolids case was cancelled because testimony would be used to leverage the settlement. The farmer's attorney messed things up, but this was good because biosolis could have gotten a black eye. Fred Cowles from MWEA said there will be no legislative luncheon this year.
10. **Other:** Scott asked for clarification on the 800ft rule for wells. There were names put up for award nominations; Ben Stuart, Kim Hackbardt, and Keith Sanders. Awards will be at a luncheon or something other than a suit and tie event.
Tentative Schedule for 2009:
Jan 15 @ Delta
March 3,4 Seminar @ Lansing
April 9 @ SCCMUA
June 18 @ Grandville Fire Barn
July 21-23 @ AG Expo @ MSU
Sept 17 @ Cadillac
Nov 19 @ South Huron Valley?
11. Next meeting at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, November 20, 10am, lunch provided.

Minutes prepared by secretary Scott Kunst