



Municipal Stakeholder Meetings Summary

Meeting Dates: May 23, 2017 to July 20, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The City of Winnipeg (the City) is developing a Biosolids Land Application program. Biosolids are a nutrient-rich, solid by-product of wastewater treatment. When applied to agricultural land, biosolids bring much needed nutrients to the soil.

In April 2017, the project team facilitated a capital region workshop to solicit input from organizations with regional interests and knowledge of the biosolids sector, policy and regulatory requirements, constraints, and local community issues. The feedback provided by stakeholders who attended the workshop helped provide direction for the next phase of engagement: municipal meetings.

The project team reached out to municipal stakeholders, meeting with three municipal councils and three local groups from May to July 2017. The intent of these meetings was to present high-level program considerations, and to solicit information about opportunities and current environmental constraints to apply biosolids in the area west and southwest of Winnipeg. In addition, the project team asked municipal stakeholders for input on farm producer and public concerns, as well as approaches for odour management, leachate management, application rates, and monitoring and reporting.

MUNICIPAL STAKEHOLDERS

Lands in the Rural Municipality (RM) of Grey, RM of Macdonald, RM of Cartier, and RM of Rosser were identified for land application of biosolids. It was important that there were meaningful opportunities for municipal representatives to share the interests, priorities, and values of their municipality and constituents.

The project team requested to meet with the municipal councils of the RMs listed above to present project information and collect their input and potential concerns regarding biosolids land application within their municipality. The following table summarizes the meeting details:

	RM of Macdonald	RM of Cartier	RM of Rosser
Date:	May 23, 2017	May 23, 2017	June 13, 2017
Time:	2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	4 p.m. – 5 p.m.	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Location:	RM of Macdonald Municipal Office 161 Mandan Dr., Sanford, MB	RM of Cartier Municipal Office 28 PR 248 S, Elie, MB	RM of Rosser Municipal Office PR 221, Rosser, MB
Attendees:	Reeve, Councillors, CAO, and administration	Reeve, Councillors, and CAO	Councillors and CAO

Each meeting lasted approximately one hour, and included a twenty minute presentation followed by time for questions and discussion. A summary of our discussion and findings from each municipal council meeting is presented in this summary. The project team also offered to meet with the RM of Grey, however their council felt that they did not require additional information at this time.

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To help solicit additional feedback on the Biosolids Land Application program, the project team also met with local groups with municipal interests in the area west and southwest of Winnipeg. Feedback from the Capital Region Workshop suggested that the project team meet with the LaSalle Redboine Conservation District, the Portage la Prairie Community and Regional Planning Branch, the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region (PMCR), the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI) and the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) to discuss the program and seek their input. The following table summarizes the meeting details:

	RRBC Manitoba North Chapter	RRBC Manitoba South Chapter	PMCR	ARBI
Date:	May 18, 2017	May 19, 2017	May 25, 2017	July 20, 2017
Time:	7 p.m. – 8 p.m.	10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location:	Grosse Isle Community Hall PTH 6, Grosse Isle, MB	City of Winkler Municipal Office 185 Main St., Winkler, MB	PMCR Board Office 1749 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB	101-250 Marion St., Winnipeg, MB
Attendees:	Approx. 30 members	Approx. 60 members	13 members	1 member

The first three meetings consisted of a presentation followed by questions and discussion about the program. At the July meeting with the ARBI, the project team shared the open house materials with the ARBI followed by questions and discussion about the program. The project team contacted the LaSalle Redboine Conservation District and the Portage la Prairie Community and Regional Planning Branch to provide information on the project. A representative from the Portage la Prairie Community and Regional Planning Branch indicated that they will provide input when the Environmental Act Licence is circulated to provincial departments during the regulatory review process.

A summary of our discussion and findings from each special interest group meeting is presented in this memo.

WHAT WE HEARD

WORKING WITH LOCAL COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION

Municipal stakeholders shared that it is important that the local RM council and administration are aware of biosolids land application occurring within their areas. Council members commented that they expect to be contacted by residents if there are issues with the program and that having up-to-date information on the timing and location for biosolids land application will help council and administration address questions and concerns. Municipal stakeholders shared that once the Environment Act Licence is approved, RM councils are no longer directly contacted about the program by the Province; therefore, it was suggested that a program representative or farm producer inform the local RM council and administration about land application occurring within their RM by attending a council meeting. Comments from municipal stakeholders suggest that it is important that the program details are communicated to the RM prior to application.

Municipal stakeholders asked the project team whether the City will require municipal approval to spread biosolids in their RM. In addition, municipal stakeholders asked if allowing biosolids land application to occur will require an update to their zoning by-law. Comments from municipal stakeholders suggest that there are currently no municipal restrictions for spreading biosolids and that the decision to allow biosolids land application is ultimately up to the cooperating farm producer.

PROGRAM CONCERNS AND CONSTRAINTS

The following concerns and potential constraints to the biosolids land application program were identified by municipal stakeholders:

- Community members may be skeptical of the program because of their experience with the previous WinGRO program.



- Concerns about metal loading and metal concentration in the biosolids may be present.
- Concerns may exist regarding the presence of emerging substances of concern in biosolids, such as pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, etc.
- The program should avoid applying biosolids near built-up areas, especially residential, to mitigate potential impacts to community residents (i.e., odour, traffic, dust).
- Protection of water (surface and groundwater) is a concern. Specifically, whether nitrogen and phosphorus will be added to waterways.
- Sensitive and flood prone land near the Assiniboine River should be avoided. On a Canada Land Inventory (CLI) map, most Class 3 lands are flood prone.
- Manure from livestock operations are currently applied in areas west and southwest of Winnipeg. It is important that these sites are identified and avoided for land application of the City's biosolids.
- Weather may constrain when biosolids can be hauled to the storage site and/or application location. If it has been raining, local roads will be damaged by the equipment.
- Damage to road infrastructure from haulers is a concern. A commitment from the City to maintain and/or repair roads used to access storage sites and/or application sites is important.
- Participation from farm producers with Class 2 lands may be difficult. Farm producers with Class 3 or Class 4 may be more willing to accept biosolids.
- Concerns exist that farm producers may not incorporate biosolids right away. This will increase the odour and if it rains the material will spread. Direct injection may be preferred as it reduces odour and does not rely on the farm producer to incorporate.
- Farm producers may not be interested in committing to the program because it is a pilot project and may change in future years.

COMMUNITY AND FARM PRODUCER BENEFITS

Municipal stakeholders asked about the local benefits of biosolids land application. It was well understood that biosolids contain valuable nutrients, which have an economic value, and that individual farm producers who participate in the program will benefit financially in reduced fertilizer and soil amendment costs. However, municipal stakeholders asked about the benefit to the municipality or community as a whole. Municipal stakeholders also asked whether there is a fee for farm producers to participate in the program.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Municipal stakeholders were interested in learning specific details about the Biosolids Land Application program. This included:

- The number of trucks per day that will haul biosolids to the storage site;
- The quantity of biosolids that will be applied per acre;
- The estimated area that is required to spread 5,000 wet tonnes (WT) and 20,000 WT of biosolids;
- How the biosolids will be spread;
- How the hauler will load the material into the spreading equipment;
- If the City plans to monitor surface water;
- Whether the City will be testing biosolids for metal concentrations and emerging substances of concern;
- What Class the biosolids will be;
- Restrictions on applying biosolids close to populated areas and waterways; and,



- What type of in-field storage options the City is considering.

POTENTIAL AREAS FOR BIOSOLIDS LAND APPLICATION

Municipal stakeholders provided insight on areas within the RM of Cartier, RM of Macdonald, and RM of Rosser that may be suitable for biosolids land application as well as areas to avoid.

RM of Cartier

- Land in the southeast quadrant of the RM of Cartier is largely agriculture with limited residential, however access to these lands may be difficult.
- Land west of Marquette, north of PTH 26 within the vicinity of Two Mile Road may have potential.
- Land north of the Trans-Canada Highway is quite empty with only a few homesteads. The majority of this land is colony owned.
- There are two Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) highways east of Elie and the land is largely agriculture with limited residential.
- From Starbuck to Dacotah, PR 332 is a Class B road with 90 percent restrictions.
- PR 248 is RTAC rated.

RM of Macdonald

- The area between PTH 2 and PTH 3 may have potential, especially in the west of the RM of Macdonald.
- South of Sanford there are hog operations and it is suggested to stay away from this area.

RM of Rosser

- Suggested to find land that can be accessed from a RTAC highway. RTAC highways in the RM of Rosser are PTH 7 and PTH 6.
- There are hauling limitations on PR 221 but the City can apply to the RM of Rosser for special permitting.
- Suggested to avoid areas where biosolids are currently being applied. There is one direct injection site on the south edge of the RM of Rosser and three major dairy operations that inject in the east of the RM of Rosser.
- There may be good sites in the southwest quadrant of the RM of Rosser.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Municipal stakeholders suggested the following advertisement methods to reach community residents:

- Newspaper advertisements;
- Social media and postings on local Facebook groups;
- Advertise on the RM website; and
- Put up posters in communities.

NEXT STEPS

The information gathered from municipal stakeholders helped the project team deepen their understanding of the local issues, challenges, and opportunities related to biosolids land application for particular communities. This knowledge will help the project team further refine program details such as methods to communicate program details to the local RM



council and administration, buffer distances to built-up areas, in-field storage solutions, and the role of the City in maintaining road infrastructure damaged by hauling equipment.

To support a transparent process, this summary will be directly shared with municipal stakeholders who participated in the meetings and will be available to the public on the project website.