



Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee

Meeting #73

Thursday August 17, 2006

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

1774 Queen Street East – Mennonite New Life Centre

ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Karen Buck | Citizens for a Safe Environment, Co-Chair |
| Karey Shinn | Safe Sewage, Co-chair |
| Connie Demb | Beach Resident |
| David Done | Safe Sewage |
| John Hopkins | ICMC |
| David Hanna | Resident |
| Jim Neff | Resident |
| Michael Rosenberg | Economics of Technology Working Group |
| William Sheehan | Citizen |
| Aless Terpstra | International Institute of Concern for Public Health |

STAFF

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mark Rupke | Senior Engineer, Toronto Water |
| David Evans | Public Consultation Unit, Facilitator |

MINUTES

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1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Introductions

Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and the following items were added:

- The election of a representative and two alternates to the 100% biosolids beneficial uses program meeting.
- Progress on Biosolids was moved to the beginning of mini-updates.

The agenda was approved as amended.

1.3 Facilitator's Report

David Evans said that City Council has passed a policy that, during an election year, there will be a blackout period for public consultation activities during the months leading up to the election. This year it will be between September 29 and November 13, 2006. Therefore, the NLC and the ICMC will not be able to meet during this time. However, there are two exceptions to this rule. Public consultation is permitted if there is an emergency, or if the group is working on a project that needs to meet a tight deadline. If an emergency situation happens at the ABTP and NLC members feel there should be a meeting during that time, they can speak to David Evans about having a meeting to address the issue.

2.0 Review of Action Items

Meeting #72 Action item #1: David Evans to provide the NLC with the report on downspout disconnection.

- The report is supposed to be going to Works Committee in September. It will be provided when available.
- **In progress.**

Meeting #72 Action item #2: David Evans to request beach monitoring data going back ten years.

- David Evans received data going back six years. He forwarded this data to Karen Buck and Karey Shinn.
- **Karen Buck** asked what they should do with this information. She believes it is important for other NLC members to have access to it. **David Evans** said he would attach the data to the minutes.

Action Item #1: David Evans to attach the beach monitoring to the minutes.

Meeting #72 Action item #3: Karen Buck to pursue data on the Western Beaches Tunnel from the Wet Weather Flow group.

- The next WWFMP IAC is September 7th.
- **In progress.**

Meeting #72 Action Item #4: Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to contact Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin to determine what happened to the letter of support for the beneficial use program and get the letter included on the Works Committee agenda if it has not already been discussed.

- **Karen Buck** said the meeting has been established and therefore this item is no longer applicable.
- **Michael Rosenberg** suggested sending the biosolids group a copy of the letter.
- **David Evans** suggested that the elected representative could bring the letter to the group.

Action Item #2: The elected representative from the NLC to bring the letter of support to the next 100% biosolids beneficial use meeting.

Meeting #72 Action Item #5: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming for economic assessment looking at the possibility of using methane from biosolids to run various processes within the plant.

- **Mark Rupke** said Nancy Fleming has not yet responded.

- **David Evans** said he believes Nancy Fleming addressed this at the ICMC meeting.
- **Karen Buck** said the Works Department would be looking into how methane can be used with the pelletizer. She added that she would like to see the progress of the use methane at the ABTP added to the agenda as a standard mini-update.
- **Completed.**

Meeting #72 Action Item #6: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming whether Republic Landfill in Michigan would be willing to take pellets.

- **Awaiting response.**

Meeting #72 Action Item #7: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming the reason for the delay in the rebuilding of the pelletizer.

- **Michael Rosenberg** said that, at the biosolids beneficial use meeting earlier today, they were told that the pelletizer would be tested by the end of the year, and that the pelletizer will be fully operational sometime next year.
- **Karey Shinn** said that there were several reasons for the delay, including contractual issues.
- **Mark Rupke** said that the rebuilding of the pelletizer was a little behind schedule, but he did not believe there was any specific reason for it.
- **Awaiting response.**

Action Item from Meeting #64: Mark Rupke to find out if it is possible to test for individual versus groups of chemicals.

- **Mark Rupke** said this was completed and a list of chemicals was presented at a previous meeting.
- **Michael Rosenberg** said that he believes this question was about pesticides. **Mark Rupke** said that anything they are able to test for was reported in the presentation.
- **Karen Buck** said the amount and placement of methaprene pucks in the sewer system has never been reported on. **Mark Rupke** said that was likely a health department issue.
- **Michael Rosenberg** suggested that the NLC put forward a motion regarding the testing for pesticides. **David Evans** asked him to create the wording for this motion.

Action Item #1 Meeting #69: NLC members to submit questions to ask the proponent about the landscaping proposals. Questions should be sent to David Evans.

- **Completed.**

Action Item #2 Meeting #69: Mark Rupke to report additional information on the EA exemption of Lake Ontario Park including a map showing the area affected.

- A copy of the Minister's Order was sent to Karey Shinn. There is no issue.
- **Completed.**

Action Item #3 Meeting #69: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming for an update on the Biosolids Peer Review.

- The peer review in limbo.

Action Item #3: Mark Rupke to find out the status of the biosolids peer review.

Action Item #4 Meeting #69: Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to write a letter on behalf of the NLC expressing support for the Green Roof Incentive Pilot Program.

- **Completed.**

Action Item #5 Meeting #69: Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to write a letter expressing interest and requesting further information about the Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Project at Exhibition Place.

- **Completed.**

Action Item #6 Meeting #69: Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to write a letter requesting to be kept informed of any impacts the August 19, 2005 storm had on the ABTP or the feeder sewers.

- There was no impact on the ABTP.
- **Completed.**

Action Item #7 Meeting #69: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming for an update on the SENES work at Falconbridge.

- Awaiting response.
- **David Done** said that SENES is no longer doing the characterization of biosolids for Falconbridge.

Action Item #4: Mark Rupke to ask Nancy Fleming for an update on the characterization of biosolids for Falconbridge.

Action Item #8 Meeting #69: Mark Rupke to speak to Nancy Fleming and report back to the NLC regarding the thinning of trees and the application of pesticides.

- **Mark Rupke** said that he spoke to Nancy Fleming about this, and they were not sure what it was regarding. **Karen Buck** said it was Parks and Rec's use of pesticides.
- **David Done** said he does not think they sprayed the Glenn Stuart Ravine in the fall of 2005.
- **Karen Buck** said that according to her research, they injected the pesticides into the trees instead of spraying.

Unnumbered action items:

Motion: The NLC to write a letter to the Ministry of the Environment requesting a date by which the Ministry will respond to questions about the EA.

- Mark Rupke sent an email to the Ministry and is still awaiting response from the new EA coordinator.
- **Awaiting response.**

Karey Shinn requested a copy of the report to Works Committee on the August 2005 storm's impact.

- **Complete.**

Discussion:

- **Connie Demb** asked David Evans to ensure that when someone requests information that the information provided to that person also is made available to everyone on the NLC. **David Evans** said that sometimes he reads it as the individual requesting information for themselves, but unless it is a thick document, he could attach any requested information to the minutes. **Karey Shinn** said large items could be passed around. **Connie Demb** suggested that the person who requested the information could provide a synopsis to the NLC.

3.0 Mini-Updates

3.1 Progress on Biosolids

Mark Rupke said that he had nothing new to report, but suggested that someone could provide an overview of the 100% biosolids beneficial uses program meeting that took place earlier in the day.

Karey Shinn read from a copy of the meeting handout. She said that the City has three contracts for the management of the 160,000 wet tonnes of biosolids that had been going to Michigan. The first contract is for a co-compost company called Ferti-val in Quebec (20,000 wet tonnes). The second is for GIS Environmental which is doing co-composting, a degraded site reclamation in Quebec, and also has access to a landfill site in New York State (50,000 wet tonnes). The third contract is for land application by Teratec (25,000 dry tonnes). If any of these companies come up with an expanded program, they could apply to increase the amount that they take.

Karen Buck said 160,000 wet tonnes is equal to approximately 50,000 dry tonnes.

Karen Buck said that Teratec was only able to spread 15% of their contract, leaving the remaining 85% to go to landfill. At the meeting today, NLC members encouraged the City to consider storage options. The City's response was that it would require an Environmental Assessment.

David Done said that co-compost guidelines are more stringent in Ontario than in other provinces. He said that Lou DiGeronimo suggested that the law should be changed so that when biosolids are added to green bins, the whole thing is not considered waste. **David Done** suggested that there was room for lobbying the provincial government.

Karen Buck said that, since they have had to negotiate these new contracts, coupled with the fact that there is a peer review for the master plan; the master plan will likely have to be readdressed. There will likely be an RFP for the management of the balance of the biosolids until the pelletizer is rebuilt.

Karen Buck explained that the response time for the REOI was only two weeks because of the emergency. The City received eight responses, five of which were valid.

Discussion:

- **Karen Buck** said that Nancy Fleming hasn't responded to questions from the ICMC about whether or not the RFP process would be limited to those who responded to the REOI. **David Done** said he did not think this was the case, as they were told

Falconbridge was still a player, though they did not submit an REOI. **David Evans** said that he believes the REOI was a way for the City to get ideas.

- **Karey Shinn** said she is concerned that the REOI dealt only with technology rather than end use. **Karen Buck** suggested that the NLC encourage the City to put out a separate REOI for end use markets.
- **Connie Demb** asked whether railcars could be outfitted and used for temporary storage. **Mark Rupke** said this would not be feasible, as the sludge would need to be stored for months before the odour subsided.
- **Michael Rosenberg** said the numbers do not add up. **David Done** said replied that the contracts are not the annual rate, but rather the contracted amount. **Karey Shinn** added that all of the biosolids are currently being dealt within the three contracts.
- **Jim Neff** asked if there was any indication of minimum or maximum length of the contracts. **Karey Shinn** said they would not say, as it is confidential. In response to a question from **Karen Buck**, **Mark Rupke** said he does not see a copy of the contracts.
- In response to a question from **William Sheehan**, **David Evans** said that the three contracts were short-terms solutions, whereas the REOI was looking for long-term solutions.
- **David Done** said that Lou DiGeronimo said they are revamping the wastewater group to form an operations coordination team. This will be headed by Martin Shigeishi, the plant manager of Highland Creek. There will be a biosolids group under Martin Shigeishi, and Nancy Fleming will be its senior engineer.
- **Connie Demb** asked why they chose someone from Highland Creek, where they incinerate. **Karey Shinn** said that Martin Shigeishi is mostly being hired to look at contracts for compliance. **Karen Buck** said these people have been hired to manage contracts, however, she believes that media relations needs to be addressed as well, as the City has received press that is not deserving or accurate.
- **William Sheehan** asked who attended this meeting. **Karey Shinn** replied that there were a number of people including Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin, who chaired the meeting; Councillor Paula Fletcher; a representative from Councillor Shelley Carol's office; Frank Quarisa, the head of Wastewater, and Professor Rashid from the University of Guelph. **Karey Shinn**, **Karen Buck**, **David Done**, and **Michael Rosenberg** attended the meeting as NLC representatives, as an official representative has not yet been chosen.

Karen Buck suggested that the handout be attached to the minutes and added to the agenda for discussion at the September NLC meeting.

Action Item #5: David Evans to send an electronic copy of the meeting notes from 100% biosolids beneficial uses program meeting to all present NLC members and mail them to John Hopkins.

The NLC held a vote by secret ballot to elect a representative and two alternates to represent them at the 100% biosolids beneficial uses program meetings. **David Done** and **John Hopkins** put their names forward for the representative position. The NLC elected **David Done** as the representative.

Michael Rosenberg , **Karey Shinn** and **John Hopkins** ran for the two alternate positions. **Michael Rosenberg** and **Karey Shinn** were elected as the alternates.

3.2 Progress on the ABTP Environmental Assessment Approval

Mark Rupke reported that Gavin Battarino has been appointed to deal with their file at the Ministry of the Environment. He is currently away, but will be back next week. The EA is expected to go forward for approval sometime this fall.

3.3 Storm Water Issues—Number of Bypasses

Mark Rupke reported that in 2005 there were 13 bypasses at the plant due to wet weather flow. These were secondary treatment bypasses, meaning the water bypassed the secondary processes. This water did receive preliminary and primary treatment, plus disinfection.

Discussion:

- **Connie Demb** asked whether there would be solids in the bypassed water. **Mark Rupke** replied that there would be some still in it. **Karen Buck** asked whether the effluent would be clear. **Mark Rupke** said it would be somewhat clear, but it would not be as clear as water that has received secondary treatment.
- **Jim Neff** asked about the total volume of the bypasses. **Mark Rupke** said that it was .6% or about 1500 megalitres over 13 events. **Jim Neff** asked how large the largest bypass was. **Mark Rupke** said it was about 400 megalitres.
- **Connie Demb** asked how this relates to the Coatsworth Cut. **Mark Rupke** said it is unrelated. Coatsworth Cut is part of the sewer system and is upstream of the plant. He estimated there were probably a comparable number of overflows at Coatsworth Cut.
- **Karen Buck** asked whether chlorinating a large event could result in a toxic amount of chlorine entering the lake. **Mark Rupke** said the chlorine dosage is controlled to provide an appropriate amount of chlorine for the water flow.

3.4 Progress on Odour Control Implementation

Mark Rupke showed a short movie clip of an aeration diffuser that has been pulled out for testing. These diffusers have been sent away for testing to determine the extent to which bacteria growth, or biofouling, on the units is affecting them. He explained that each aeration tank would have about 10,000 diffusers covering the floor. The diffusers bubble air into the aeration tank to allow bacteria to grow and break down the sewage. He clarified that the air moving through the biofilters is the air that became odorous in the wastewater treatment process and will need to be cleaned.

Mark Rupke showed pictures of the three biofilter/bioscrubber pilot units that are currently operating in the parking lot. The three vendors whose products are being tested are: Siemens USF, Bioway and Biorem. They are evaluating these units, in order to decide which one to install.

Discussion:

- **Connie Demb** asked whether they are testing the air coming out of these units. **Mark Rupke** said there is extensive odour testing of the strength of the odours in the air both coming in and going out of the units.
- **Connie Demb** asked whether the air coming out of the units smells better. **Mark Rupke** said that the term for the quality of an odour is hedonic tone. They have not been testing for hedonic tone, as the Ministry does not recognize this criterion. **Connie Demb** said that regardless of the MOE's criteria, the NLC is primarily concerned with how the air coming out of the pilot projects actually smells. **Mark Rupke** said the odour coming out

of the stacks has a wet, musty smell. It is usually described as a freshly-turned earth smell.

- **Karey Shinn** asked whether the odour units would be buried. **Mark Rupke** explained that Biorem's unit could be buried in a large concrete tank. Bioway's unit is a tower, and it is largely fixed to its geometry. It would not be larger than shown, but there would be more of them.
- In response to a question from **William Sheehan**, **Mark Rupke** said that the filters will affect the smell of the plant, not the sludge.
- **William Sheehan** asked about the costs of the units. **Mark Rupke** said that they are paying \$100,000 for each pilot. This cost includes the unit and the company's services over a year, including installation and operation.

3.5 Progress on Landscaping Site Plan RFP and Implementation

Mark Rupke said that they were set to go to Bid Committee to recommend award of the contract when someone decided that they would have to go to Works Committee instead. They are currently putting in a report to Works Committee for the September 11 meeting.

3.6 Pelletizer Update

Mark Rupke showed the NLC a recent picture of the pelletizer. He explained that it is still an open structure, as the exterior had to be removed due to damage and to allow machinery to be put inside.

Discussion:

- **William Sheehan** asked how much it is costing insurance to rebuild the pelletizer. **Mark Rupke** said he did not know. **Michael Rosenberg** asked if this is public information. **Mark Rupke** said, as far as he knows, it is not. **Mark Rupke** said these questions should be directed to Nancy Fleming.
- **Karey Shinn** suggested that these could be asked at the biosolids beneficial use meetings. **Karen Buck** suggested sending a written brief to the group to deal with this.

3.7 Water Quality Monitoring in Coatsworth Cut

Mark Rupke said there was nothing new to update. Monitoring is continuing.

6.0 Review and Approval of Minutes from NLC Meetings #72

The minutes from meeting #72 were amended and approved. The final version of the minutes will be available on the website.

7.0 Next Meeting

A motion re: pesticide use for West Nile Virus will be added to September's agenda. The next meeting has been set for Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 7:00 PM. The following meeting has been tentatively set for Thursday, November 23, 2006 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.