



REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

For City Council – December 13, 2021

From: Office of the City Clerk

Date: Monday, December 13, 2021

Title: Agreement between the City and Envirem Organics Inc

Description:

Council-in-Committee, at its session held on December 13, 2021 considered an administrative report from the Director of Engineering and Operations which requested Council approval and authorization to revise the Request for Proposal P14-06 for the Disposal of Biosolids for the City of Fredericton.

The City of Fredericton provides treatment of all wastewater at the Barker St. Treatment Facility or Garden Creek Lagoon. The Barker St. facility has been in operation from 1969 to present and treats approximately 90% of the wastewater generated in the City. This facility utilizes a biological process to remove contaminants to meet identified Federal and Provincial Regulatory effluent standards. This biological process produces a nitrogen rich material referred to as “Biosolids” and can only be taken to Provincially approved locations for disposal. Biosolids are generated on a weekly basis and must be removed from the treatment facility as they are generated. On average 5,500 tonnes per year or approximately 106 tonnes per week, are produced.

For the past 20+ years the City’s biosolids have been taken to Envirem Organics Facility located on the Killarney Rd. As per an existing agreement the City pays Envirem on a per tonne basis, or tipping fee, to receive the biosolids. The biosolids received by Envirem are composted and utilized as a component in their manufactured topsoil product which is sold to the public.

The City of Fredericton operates its own composting facility located on Beek Ct, where yard waste and wood products are processed, generating a composting product which, similar to Envirem is utilized as component to produce a manufactured topsoil product. The Beek St. Composting Site is constructed on top of the decommissioned City of Fredericton landfill site and is not an approved location for receiving biosolids.

Earlier this year, City staff decided to utilize it’s stockpiled manufactured topsoil from the Beek Ct. Composting Facility, for 2021 City Capital Projects. In previous Capital Projects there has been allowances within the contracts for topsoil reinstatement however, the General Contractors could purchase the material wherever they want, as long as it meets the identified City of Fredericton Specifications for topsoil.

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A long term biosolids disposal option is required, therefore over the past few months Staff have met with Envirem to revise the existing agreement. The revised agreement includes increases in the existing tipping fee (cost per tonne to dispose of biosolids) and has clauses that guarantee the City has a location to take biosolids until 2024.

City Council approval is required for budgetary changed in accordance with Financial Management policy COR-POL-062.

Environmental impact: As noted above to achieve Federal and Provincial wastewater effluent standards biosolids are a necessary by-product of the treatment process. Without a long term biosolids disposal option, the City's Barker St Treatment Facility would not be able to function effectively thereby significantly affecting the water quality of the St. John River.

The Committee directed that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fredericton hereby approves and authorizes the agreement between the City of Fredericton and Envirem Organics Inc. with respect to the disposal of biosolids for a term expiring on December 31, 2024 (the "Agreement"); and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Fredericton authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the municipality and such further legal documents as may be required to facilitate the Agreement and this resolution.