

# Report to Council



**Date:** April 10, 2017  
**File:** 1845-04  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Utilities Planning Manager  
**Subject:** Strategic Biosolids Review Status and Communications Plan

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Utilities Planning Manager dated April 10, 2017, with respect to the Strategic Biosolids Review Status and Communications Plan.

## **Purpose:**

To inform Council of the status of the Strategic Biosolids Study currently underway and to review the public engagement process proposed to commence in the coming weeks.

## **Background:**

The cities of Kelowna and Vernon are evaluating options for the economical and environmentally responsible long-term management of wastewater solids. As populations in and around both centres continue to grow, the cities are seeking to identify sustainable ways to manage an increasing supply of wastewater solids.

An important consideration for the planning process are the issues experienced at the Regional Biosolids Composting Facility (RBCF) with:

- odour;
- supply of wood amendment;
- available market for the sale of composted materials;
- processing capacity at the current mix ratios, and;
- constraints for growth or changes to the existing site.

Opus International Consultants (Opus) has been retained as the primary consultant for a strategic review of all available options to process and manage biosolids in order to:

- ensure that any future investments are feasible;
- can be operated efficiently;
- are cost effective, and;
- can mitigate any potential risks and have a sound business case.

As part of the project scope, a public engagement component has been included to review potential options with the public. Once complete, public acceptability feedback will be provided to Council on the, priorities and risk of any potential solution.

Opus has completed a series of feasible options and their possible combinations. A copy of Opus's presentation on the status of the project and proposed engagement strategy has been included with this report (attachment A).

Once staff have obtained public feedback on the options to process and manage biosolids available, staff will present the findings and recommendations to the Biosolids Advisory Committee, and then to Kelowna and City Councils.

Staff expect to complete the community engagement and report by September, 2017.

**Internal Circulation:**

Communications Supervisor  
Utility Services Manager

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:  
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:  
Existing Policy:  
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:  
Personnel Implications:  
External Agency/Public Comments:  
Communications Comments:  
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

A. Reeder, Utilities Planning Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attached: OPUS - Strategic Review of Wastewater Solids Management Presentation

cc: Divisional Director, Communications & Information Services  
Divisional Director, Civic Operations