

# GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS AUTHORITY



## MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Water Resource Recovery Facility

1300 Market Ave SW - Grand Rapids

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Hurt.

### 2. Members in attendance

Chairman James Hurt, John Shay, and Myron Erickson.

#### Alternate in attendance

Molly Clarin

#### Others present

Kevin Lynch, Jon Burke, Jared Grabinski, and Kieran Kelley.

### 3. Public comment

There were no public comments.

### 4. Update on Biosolids Transportation and Land Application Contract

Mr. Lynch gave a brief overview. MAS (Michigan Agribusiness Solutions) has been the hauler for Grand Valley Regional Biosolids Authority (GVRBA) since September of 2021. In the spring of 2025, GVRBA would have either accepted a five-year extension of services contract or would have gone back out for bidding. GVRBA was happy with services and anticipated on extending the contract with MAS. GVRBA started receiving calls from farmers and other land applicators that MAS has been purchased by BioTec Argonomics. BioTec Argonomics was rejected for the original contract due to poor performance, even though they were the lowest bidder. Scott Smith, City of Wyoming City Attorney, has reviewed and determined that MAS has in fact defaulted on the original contract by altering or passing on the contract without the written consent of GVRBA. The purchase was confirmed by Jim Jergins moments before this meeting took place.

Durango JS, LLC (Durango) is listed in the resolution. Durango is located across the street from the Wyoming plant and approached the plant asking if GVRBA would be interested in switching haulers and submitted a bid for services. Scott Smith has reviewed the bid and approved. The Wyoming plant is at full capacity at 4 million gallons. As of the day of this meeting the City of Wyoming has begun sending all solid waste, such as primary solids and thickened waste

activated solids, to Grand Rapids for processing. Hence the need for an emergency meeting on this resolution. Durango has hired Tom and Bill Goetsch from MAS as the field reps. Tom and Bill hold a solid, positive relationship with the farmers and haulers, where BioTec has ruined the relationships previously. Some farmers have noted that if BioTec is the hauler for GVRBA they will withdraw from the Land Application and will go to a traditional fertilizer, or manure.

5. **Resolution 2024-02: Resolution to contract with Durango JS, LLC. For biosolids transportation and land application services after notifying principal of current provider of non-consent to involvement of another entity (Motion)**

The resolution was reviewed and approved by Scott Smith. Resolution was sent to Jessica Wood, attorney with Dickinson Wright, PLLC. for review as the legal counsel for GVRBA. The board does not approve of the transfer of the original contract to BioTec Argonomics. Therefore, the board considers the original contract with MAS forfeited. The resolution authorizes a contract with Durango for the remainder of 2024, and all of 2025. The contract lists a rate of \$0.06075 per gallon. Durango expects a 30 day turn-around and has begun to line up tractors and trailers.

Motion moved by Mr. Shay, supported by Mr. Erickson and Mrs. Clarin.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

6. **Board Member Comments**

There we no board member comments.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

8. **Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024, at 1:30 pm (CANCELLED)

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024, at 1:30 pm