

# GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS AUTHORITY



## MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2024 at 1:30 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 Tim Burkman

#### Alternates in attendance

Aaron Vis

#### Others present

Kevin Lynch, Jon Burke, Jared Grabinski, James Ouzts, Tiffany Berry, Mike Rummelt, Alexia Hall, and Kieran Kelley.

### 3. Approval of Meetings August 15, 2024

Corrections addressed:

- #8 point 7 – “thing” to “think”
- #9d. – “Comproller” – “Comptroller”
- #10c. – strike “above average”

Motioned by Mr. Vis, supported by Mr Burkman

**MOTION CARRIES**

### 4. Public comment

There were no public comments.

### 5. Review Donohue End Use Study scope quote.

Mr. Lynch gave a brief overview of the submitted quote. Wyoming approached Donohue to inform them that GVRBA should review the quote. Donohue presented a quote mimicking the original quote (presented previously) with minor modifications to add specific Wyoming parts. The scope of work quote is \$130,000.00, which is not budgeted for. Project description and scope are listed on Part 1 section A. of the attached quote. Set to conclude in March of 2025 (6-month study). Donohue will investigate Dryers (all different styles, ie. Belt, Rotary Drum, Paddle, etc.), Gasification and Pyrolysis. Consideration of nutrient management, air permitting, future biosolids, landfill availability/costs, and land application/costs. It was noted that this quote is for a study in continuation of the original study.

**6. Resolution 2025-04: Resolution to enter into a contract agreement with Donohue Associates for a Biosolids Drying Study in an amount not-to-exceed \$130,000.00.**

A vote to accept the quote from Donohue on the Biosolids Drying Study in the amount not-to-exceed \$130,000.00. Cost offset could be from monies budgeted for Polymer (\$1.4M, last fiscal year costs were less than \$1M) left over money from this could be used to cover costs and not warrant a budget amendment. This will be a continuation of the original study as to not have to re-bid this request.

Motion moved by Mr. Shay, supported by Mr. Vis

**MOTION CARRIES.**

**7. Resolution 2025-05: Resolution to accept Plummer's Environmental Quote for Wyoming Storage Tank Cleaning in an amount not-to-exceed \$439,315.00.**

Presented by Mr. Lynch, Wyoming is looking for approval to accept the Plummer's Environmental quote for storage tank cleaning. The Tank size is 2M gallons, Wyoming estimates 150,000 – 200,000-gallon cleanout. This cleanout is necessary as the tanks have not been emptied due to lowered material hauling, therefore it is unknown what the sludge is composed of. Original sample was taken but was not sent out for analysis on time. The quote is over the original approved not-to-exceed \$300,000.00, including estimations for treatment and disposal. The push is to have this completed prior to the winter months. This will be a one-time cleanout. Costs are expected to be lower, and budgeted funds for tank cleaning between Grand Rapids and Wyoming can be used to cover this service.

Motion moved by Mr. Vis, supported by Mr. Burkman

**MOTION CARRIES.**

**8. MAS (Michigan Agribusiness Solution) discussion**

Presented by Mr. Lynch, informational update on breaking contract with MAS. Discussions with legal counsel lead to believe we were within legal right to do so, it will be on MAS to pursue legal action and GVRBA has been instructed not to respond to any correspondences. No further action needed.

**9. GVRBA Authority Capital Asset Policy discussion**

Presented by Mr. Hurt, about a call he had with Judy Howard from City of Grand Rapids regarding GVRBA fixed assets. Current records are not good identifiers of what assets/equipment GVRBA own. Judy explained when GVRBA does a project, the project is listed as a total amount, not with individual pieces and prices. Grand Rapids Comptroller's Office was unable to assign costs to equipment older than GVRBA. Mr. Shay mentioned how this affects the City's normal operation, or the enterprise fund operation debt service coverage. Differentiating between a capital expense or an O&M expense. When items are not capitalized, the location is listed and therefore costs are covered by the owner of the location, not the partnership. Judy has presented GVRBA with a list of equipment that City of Grand Rapids has listed as GVRBA assets, this list is vague as it has lines of buildings and processes (suspected to be things built with the bond). Moving forward, GVRBA will keep cleaner records and will label equipment in a more detailed fashion. City of Grand Rapids will share the list of current equipment with Wyoming.

## **10. Waste Management Discussion**

Presented by Mr. Grabinski, about a follow-up to a previous meeting. This meeting focused on Waste Management adding a dryer at their facility, asking if GVRBA would like to be part of it. Waste Management is asking if GVRBA would like to get into a 10-20 year contract with them, and what the predicted volumes would be. This would allow Waste Management to build a dryer to the proper size but is hesitant to move forward with a capital investment without a commitment from GVRBA. There are Pros and Cons to this decision, and Mr. Grabinski wanted to bring this all to the attention of the board. Waste Management is roughly 4-5 years out from completion. Waste Management is only focused on drying systems to landfills, no pyrolysis or gasification. This means there would still be microplastics, and PFAS which would still be a concern for us. Mr. Grabinski is asking GVRBA members to be involved in the next meeting with Waste Management.

## **11. Finances**

Mr Hernandez will be available on an every-other meeting schedule. This is the off meeting.

## **12. Operations Team Update**

Mr. Rummelt presented on the following:

- A. Land Application - Durango hauled 3.8 MG / 623 dry tons in August best hauling month for Wyoming since May of 2022.
- B. Dewatering Facility Report - 99% recovery rate in August, above the 95% recovery goal. Solids are at 22%, which is below the 25% goal.
- C. Storage Tank updates – Covered in previous agenda item.
- D. Budget Summary and Details– Copy of July's data is attached. \$915 a dry ton. Early in the year is always high.
- E. Centrifuge - Maintenance is re-installing the bowl and scroll. E3 will install the last hydraulic back drive retro fit. Skyline Fall Protection has completed the platforms around #1 & #3. Once #2 is back, they will install the platform around it.
- F. Biological Odor control container (BIORem Tank). Asking for the possibility to hook into the GVRBA odor control carbon unit for a day or two while tank is replaced. This will be to protect the air permit; this is simply informational as of yet so no formal request of the board has been issued.

## **13. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Shay asked if there was any follow-up to the insurance bill. Mrs. Berry and Mr. Rummelt are tracking with Risk Management and will report any findings to the board. The policy letter will be emailed out by Mr. Rummelt to the board members.

## **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

## **15. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 1:30 pm