



Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

From: Niall Lobley, Acting CAO/Director Community & Environmental Services

Subject: Bio Digester and Lagoon Management Agreement

Report CAO-2023-13

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Recommendation

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a Services Agreement with Ontario Clean Water Agency for the operations and management of the wastewater lagoons.

Background

At its regular meeting, the BioGRID Joint Board of Management approved a Services Agreement with Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) for providing management services to the operation of the wastewater lagoons. The Board has recommended to the Council of the Township of Chatsworth and the Township of Georgian Bluffs that the Mayor and Clerk of each municipality be authorized to sign the agreement.

Analysis

The wastewater lagoons at the Derby Biodigester property provide a treatment facility for organic materials, largely the treatment of septic system waste. The lagoons complimented the operation of the Biodigester where they would receive waste materials from this, but operate independently of the biodigester, and are able to receive waste directly from haulers.

The lagoons are made up of two cells: an aeration cell and facultative lagoon, with a total capacity of around 25,000 m³. An irrigation area of almost 10,000 m² helps manage effluent from the lagoons. The operation of the site includes the management of the lagoons and the various supporting equipment such as holding tanks, storage tanks and various pumps and other ancillary equipment.

The lagoons are classed as a Class I Wastewater Treatment Facility and their management needs expertise, and knowledge. A Class I Licensed Operator is required



to manage. The Board has recommended to its municipalities that OCWA be retained to provide this specialist knowledge, and qualified operators, in support of the lagoon management, and, in early 2022, asked that staff negotiate an agreement for a five-year (plus five-year extension) agreement with OCWA to support the ongoing management of the lagoons.

The agreement that has been developed has an initial three-year term and considers renewal at 5-year terms thereafter. The agreement would be retrospectively effective from January 2023 for a three-year term, with renewal due in December 2025 for the 2026 year. Operations throughout 2023 have been undertaken aligned with the terms, conditions, and pricing of the agreement.

Financial Impact

The agreement has an annual cost of \$48,792 (\$4,066 per month) for 2023, rising by CPI and insurance costs in years 2 and 3. These funds would be paid by the Bio Board and funded through the Bio's self-earned revenue/municipal contributions, meaning the costs of the agreement are not a further costs to the Township.

The agreement includes a range of Optional Services in addition on a schedule of rates for additional works that might be required from time to time.

Strategic Priorities

Demonstrate and Enhance Environmental Stewardship

The Township of Georgian Bluffs strives to become a leader in Environmental Stewardship by reducing energy consumption, reducing solid waste, increasing diversion rates of recyclable materials, and lessening the environmental impact of existing and future infrastructure through innovation and upgrading.

Conclusion

The BioGRID Joint Board of Management are recommending that the Council of the Township of Chatworth and the Township of Georgian Bluffs authorize their respective Mayor and Clerks to sign a Services Agreement with the Ontario Clean Water Agency for the continued delivery of management services in respect to the management and operations of the wastewater lagoons.

Respectfully Submitted: Niall Loble, Acting CAO/Director Community & Environmental Services.



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Bio Digester and Lagoon Management Agreement.docx
Attachments:	- OM Lagoon GB Chatsworth 2023 - 2025.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 8, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer

Brittany Drury, Director of Corporate Services

Carly Craig, Acting Clerk