

Biosolids Challenges & RFQ

Date: 02/24/2020

Annual production 12,000,000 gallons

12,000,000 gallons = 2,000 semi loads annually at 6,000 gallons/load

It takes about 1,500 to 1,600 acres annually for disposal if land applied

2019 summary

Spring Land applied 1.0 million gallons should have been 6.0 million gallons.

To make up for the short falls in the spring 2.5 million gallons was disposed of using other methods biosolids went to a permitted Septic Haulers storage tank, following DNR regulations.

We didn't dispose of enough biosolids in the spring so we hauled about 3,300 yards of cake to the Landfill which is expensive about 2 – 3 times the cost of normal disposal.

We moved into the fall, the year was wet, crops were planted late because of a wet spring. So, this caused crops to mature late and wet going to market/late harvest. Land didn't become available until October 26th. With my farming back ground and the relationships, I have with farmers. I knew the window could be small or at least knew we needed to haul while the sun shined. Hauling started we worked with 3 contractors to move as many Biosolids as possible. We hauled for 12 days straight which equaled 1,163 truck loads of Biosolids we never hauled the rest of the year after that 12th day.

We had 5-year agreement with Synagro to manage our Biosolids program which expired on 12/31/2019. They struggled to perform in 2019 along with other contractors in the business of managing biosolids to be disposed of on agriculture land.

We currently have 25 – 35 days of storage and are working on an RFQ for Biosolids Management this will be a 1-year agreement review after first year, this will get us through facility upgrade and move into a class A product which will have better options for disposal, Market as Fertilizer, Market to landscaper's, or use as energy) as better options as compared to the way we do or have done it.

New options in RFQ use 2 contractors for disposal spread the work out so more can done in smaller windows. Utilize a method to compensate farmers to delay spring planting to make land available. Use early harvest options to compensate farmers to harvest sooner which will cost them more for drying at market.

We need to think out side the box to avoid the expensive land fill costs. Note La Crosse County Landfill is limited to the amount they can except other landfills are up to 3 hours away and would be very expensive.

Jared Greeno,

Wastewater Superintendent

City of La Crosse