



Staff Report

Report Title: Commercial Fertilizer

Prepared By: Michele Barr, Manager of Building and Planning/CBO

Department: Building and Planning

Date: May 15, 20223

Report Number: BLDG-2023-05-12

File Number: C11 BLDG 23

Attachments: None.

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number BLDG-2023-05-12 prepared by Michele Barr, Manager of Building and Planning/CBO.

Background:

Council inquiry regarding product being stored on Agricultural Lands in the Township of Huron Kinloss.

Agro Boost Premium Dry Fertilizer, Agro Boost Biosolids Pellets, slow release fertilizer biosolids pellets.

Discussion:

The Township received an email complaint regarding product being stock piled on agricultural lands that had a very strong odour.

Staff proceeded to contact Ontario Ministry of Farming and Rural Affairs(OMFRA) to see if the lands were part of a nutrient management plan and seek out more information on the procedure/storage the product. From this conversation it was noted that OMFRA, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks(MECP) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have been discussing the project. There are approximately 20 companies handling the product that they are aware of including LaSalle Agri.

Staff contacted the owner of the lands and LaSalle Agi, who is supplying the product. The product is Agro Boost Premium Dry Fertilizer, Agro Boost Biosolids Pellets, slow

release fertilizer biosolids pellets. LaSalle indicated this product came from the Detroit plant.

Currently, the company has trucked in approximately 5,000 tons of dry fertilizer to this site. Upon completion of the delivery the fertilizer was entirely tarped, which helped with the odour. The fertilizer will stay in place until August 2023. The owner has a number of acres in Huron Kinloss and Huron County that the fertilizer will be spread on.

From the discussions with the Ministries, it would appear that the owner and supply company are following Best Farming Management Practices, however in future communication would be key to help benefit the community.

Concerns were raised to the Fire Chief about the product and the large volume being stored. The Fire Chief has obtained a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for biosolid products. Upon review it is noted that the product is labeled as a flammable product. The product would need to directly encounter an ignition source in order to be ignited. The SDS sheet also notes that the product will self heat when wet. To self combust due to heating the volume of moisture in the product would need to exceed 10% of its volume weight. There is currently approximately 5000 tons stored on site at the present time. The volume of water needed to accommodate self heating and spontaneous combustion is extreme and is unlikely to happen in this circumstance. The product is currently covered and protected from moisture. The Fire Code does not regulate this type of product.

The flammability rating on the SDS isn't clear as to its flammable properties. As such the Fire Chief has submitted the SDS to the Office of the Fire Marshal for comment and further advise. At the time of this report the Fire Chief is still awaiting a reply from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time

Strategic Alignment / Link:

n/a

Respectfully Submitted By: Michele Barr, Building and Planning

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer