MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #01-09
Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Executive Boardroom
Wednesday, January 21st, 2009
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Raffaella Morello, Project Manager - Collections Operations, Waste Management Division
Robert Walters, Senior Project Manager, Strategic Services - Special Projects, Planning & Economic Development Department
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.
(Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting from December 16th, 2008

Peter Hutton wanted it noted that paragraph eleven (11) under item 3. 2008 Year in Review, that this educational component be accredited to Dennis Guy, Project Manager - Community Outreach. This change was noted.

(Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

3. Private Waste Management Facilities Study

A presentation on the “Planning Study of Private Waste Disposal Sites” was given by Robert Walters from the Planning & Economic Development Department. Highlights of the study, which was presented to Economic Development & Planning Committee (EDPC) in November 2008 and referred the report with direction to the first appropriate Committee of the Whole meeting, included:

- Purpose of the study - to review private waste management facility development issues; identify issues and impacts; and, to recommend a preferred strategy for Official Plan (OP) policies, Zoning By-law regulations, and other City approvals.

- Issues with private waste disposal facilities - the number of facilities continues to grow; the timeline for commenting on applications through the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) is too short; existing Official Plan policies and Zoning regulations do not address the individual or cumulative impacts of the range of facilities including processing, thermal treatment, transfer, disposal (landfill) and hazardous waste facilities.

- Staff recommendations related to locations where various facilities are permitted and locational criteria for certain facilities relative to Official Plan designations and Zoning provisions. It was also recommended that the same criteria be applied to municipal waste disposal sites.
The EDPC referred the report to Committee of the Whole with direction to staff to develop a complete inventory of private waste disposal sites and to consider the implications of prohibiting private waste disposal sites in the City.

On a question about the new criteria concerning expansion to existing facilities. Robert indicated that the new criteria addresses health and safety issues, the protection of natural and cultural environments, serviceability, land use compatibility and appropriate site plan design.

Should the new Official Plan policies and zoning regulations not be adopted before the interim control By-law expires, there could be an extension to the interim control By-law or the existing zoning regulations would apply.

The harmonized Official Plan and Zoning is proposed to come forward in June 2009.

(Moved to receive the presentation by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

4. Transfer Station and Disposal Review

On-going meetings are taking place with BFI Canada Inc. (BFI) and Waste Management of Canada Corporation (WMCC) to finalize the contracts.

In Project B there is a change around the use of an existing backhoe to achieve savings. In Project A discussions around waste compactors at the Transfer Stations as a means to reduce trailer/truck requirements is under consideration. The analysis must also include consideration of capital costs to determine actual savings. Installation of compactors at the Transfer Stations will not increase compaction at the landfill as the compacted waste breaks apart and becomes loose again during the unloading process, therefore there would be no benefit to the landfill.

(Moved by Council Ferguson, carried by Councillor Powers) CARRIED

5. Diversion Options Implementation Updates

Staff reported that the Green Cart Program is being provided to commercial buildings with residential units.

A participation study was recently carried out on multi-residential buildings that have received green carts. Participation is considered setting out the green cart for collection once every two (2) weeks. Of the 136 buildings studied, 73 set out organics for collection and of these 44 set out the green carts weekly. Many of the smaller buildings appear to be participating less and this may be because the buildings tend not to have superintendents. The study also found that 64% of the buildings are participating in recycling. Buildings in A1 collection zone had the highest participation, while B1 had the lowest participation.

The multi-residential Green Cart Program has now been rolled out to 58% of the buildings in the data base. Over 8,000 units are now on service.

Staff will start to deliver green carts to the large buildings (Phase 3) during the first week of February. Phase 2 buildings are complete and all buildings have received green carts.

Related to buildings noted in the “refused service and under construction” category and what leverage the City has to force buildings to participate. Solid Waste Management By-law 05-190 needs to be amended to include multi-residential participation in the Green Cart Program. While there is Provincial regulation requiring multi-residential to have Blue Cart recycling, there is no regulation for organics.

The 2008 overall diversion rate is 39.2% including Transfer Stations and Community Recycling Centres; the residential diversion rate is 44%. It is predicted that a 55% overall diversion rate is achievable with the one (1) container limit. It is expected that all multi-residential buildings will be on green cart service by November 2009, with the most significant diversion increase expected in 2010.

Staff mentioned that garbage container limits will be decreasing from three (3) containers to two (2) [one (1) container of choice, plus one (1) clear] on March 30th, 2009. Direct Mail communicating this limit
change will be mailed in the first week of February. The annual Waste Collection Calendar, to be mailed the week of March 2nd, will also contain information on “One (1) Container”.

6. Update - Reducing Plastic Shopping Bags

Staff presented an update on the reduction in the use of plastic shopping bags as a follow-up to direction from Council related to PW07155 in November 2007 and Information Report PW07155a in March 2008.

Recommendations for consideration included continuing to collect and process plastic shopping bags in the Blue Box program, not taking any action to ban plastic shopping bags at this time and a possible reusable bag giveaway in conjunction with local food banks.

A motion was made to receive the presentation and place this item on the February agenda for discussion.

(Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson) CARRIED

7. Update - Alternatives to Blue Boxes (Item A, Outstanding Action Items)

This item is referred back to the committee. Staff met with Councillor Collins last week to discuss Blue Box alternatives. This item will not be on February’s agenda but will be brought forward in March.

(Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson) CARRIED

8. Waste Reduction Task Force Update (WRTF)

Peter Hutton mentioned that the WRTF undertook a self evaluation survey to measure and understand the effectiveness of what the WRTF objectives are according to the Terms of Reference. The results of this survey are being prepared and will be discussed at tonight’s WRTF meeting.

9. Operations Updates

Recycling Markets - The Corporations Supporting Recycling (CSR) price sheet which provides current pricing for recycling commodities was distributed. Prices are very low right now and although the markets are improving slightly overall they are affected by global markets. The 2009 budget submission is based on 49,000 tonnes of recyclables with revenues of $6.2 million. It is expected that the revenues will fall short of the budget by approximately $2 million. Beth presented some options for consideration in the budget deliberations.

Concerns were raised by the Steering Committee about depleting the recycling reserve to mitigate the shortfall.

The Steering Committee requested information on what other municipalities are doing. Staff will be attending a Municipal Waste Association (MWA) workshop “Responding to the Downturn in Recycling Markets” on February 5, 2009 that will provide additional information on what other municipalities are doing to address the situation. Information will be provided as part of the budget process.

Recyclables have been stockpiled at the Materials Recycling Facility since October and there is about 5,000 tonnes of inventory, mainly fibre materials. Container materials are being shipped although market prices have decreased.

On a question of banning recyclables from landfill, staff indicated that the By-law prohibits recyclable material in the garbage stream at the curb, however not at the Community Recycling Centres. This would not prohibit the City from landfilling material if storage capacity was an issue. Some other municipalities who do not have storage capacity have been landfilling recyclables.

10. Outstanding Action Items

Blue Box Alternatives will be discussed at the March meeting.

(Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson) CARRIED
11. Other Business

Councillor Powers provided staff with the City of Guelph’s Conservation Calendar which includes all waste collection information. (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson) CARRIED

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 - City Centre, 77 James Street, Suite 320, Meeting Room 320B.