City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, January 17th, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton City Hall Room 110, 71 Main St. West, Hamilton

Present:
- Dan Rodrigues
- Dorienne Cushman
- Mary Lou Dickson
- Michael Caruso
- Jim Sweetman
- David Hart Dyke
- Tom Thompson
- Betty Hay Lambeck
- Peter Hutton
- Karin Maja Larsen
- Angela Pastorius

Regrets:
- Anton Volcansek
- Laurie Nielsen

Also Present:
- Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
- Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management, Waste Management Division
- Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
- Dennis Guy, Project Manager Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
- Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Ltd.
- Charles R. Stahn, Public
- Ed Viveiros, Public

The Task Force members and staff introduced themselves to those in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes from December 13th, 2006

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the December 13th, 2006 meeting.

Changes in the attendance section were requested as duplication of some members names occurred.

The minutes were approved as amended.
(Moved by Dan Rodrigues, seconded by Mike Caruso)

2. Administrative Items

a) Introduction of New Members

This item was covered at the beginning of the meeting.

b) Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

Nominations were solicited for the Chair position. An inquiry was made into whether there was a limit on how many times a person could hold the position. Staff indicated there was no limit. Staff and the current Chair gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Discussion took place on the issue of whether the four (4) new members could vote as they had not yet been approved by Council. It was proposed that the election of Chair and Vice-Chair be deferred until the February meeting when all Task Force members would be approved and able to vote.

The motion to defer this item until the next meeting was made by Peter Hutton, seconded by Dan Rodrigues. The motion passed unanimously.

It was requested that all members who would like to stand for these positions let it be known within two (2) weeks and outline their case for being considered. It was requested that staff be notified on these proposals.

The Task Force members left the room for a group photo. The Task Force members re-entered the room after the photo was taken and resumed the meeting.
c) WastePlan Delegates

Staff suggested that this item, as well as the appointment of the liaison to the Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee, be deferred until the Chair and Vice-Chair positions have been determined. The motion was moved by Doriene Cushman, seconded by Angela Pastorius. The motions passed unanimously. A request was made for the responsibilities of these positions to be outlined for all the members.

d) Sub-Committee Memberships

The three (3) Task Force sub-committees were outlined and the current membership of each group was indicated. It was requested that an existing sub-committee member give an overview of their committee for the new members in attendance. A representative from each of the sub-committees (Multi-Residential/Commercial/Institutional Waste, Education & Communication, and Business & Government Liaison) provided an overview of their group’s activities and plans for 2007.

The Chair requested that members consider joining one of these three (3) sub-committees and indicated that members of the public were free to join these groups as well.

Jim Sweetman and Dan Rodrigues indicated they would like to join the Multi-residential, Commercial and Institutional Waste sub-committee.

3. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Education Sub-Committee

No updates were provided from this sub-committee.

Business & Government

An update was provided on the sub-committee’s work on setting up the plastic bag display in Jackson Square, near the entrance to the Farmer’s Market. Discussion took place on whether it was possible for the display to be manned during high traffic periods.

Multi-Residential, Institutional & Commercial Waste

No updates were provided from this sub-committee.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

No update was provided as the GLCC have not had a meeting since the last Task Force meeting.

4. Waste Management 2007 Goals

Staff outlined the main goals of the Waste Management Division for 2007, including:

- The Multi-Residential Waste Diversion Strategy
- The opening of the Kenora CRC in the spring of 2007
- The implementation of a user-pay system in 2008 and the possibility of public consultation sessions being done in conjunction with the Task Force meetings
- The current work being done on the recycling program
- The work currently being done on WastePlan, including the stabilized landfill study and the presentation in the spring of its findings to the Joint Working Group and the Task Force.

An inquiry was made on the progress of reaching the 65% diversion goal and whether the City will change the target amount in light of the lower than expected diversion rates to-date. Staff indicated that achieving this goal is a challenge, but there are no plans to change these goals. A comment was made on the potential role for user-pay to get Hamilton to the 65% goal more quickly.
5. **Budget Update**

Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management, provided an update on the 2007 budget process. She indicated that the Waste Management budget increase presently stands at 15.5% due to annualization of the Green Cart program and the construction and operation of the CRC’s. A request was made for Task Force members to keep up on the upcoming delegations for the waste management budget. Potential increases in transfer station fees and introducing a user fee for bulk collection were presented as possible tools for decreasing the 2007 budget.

A comment was made on the upcoming departmental budget presentation and a request was made for an email notification as to when this will occur. Staff indicated the approximate time of the presentation but will follow-up with an email.

Staff reported that some user fees currently exist (i.e. White Goods containing CFC’s collection, transfer station fees) but the proposed fee for curbside garbage collection is what is being considered.

A question was asked as to when the budget is set to be finalized. Staff indicated that the proposed deadline is mid-March, but it may be later.

An inquiry was made into how budget limitations and the resulting changes in waste management programs, might affect the achievement of 65% diversion by 2008. Staff responded that the proposed changes will likely not affect diversion as bulk collection and transfer station tipping fees are not related to diversion programs. It was stated that these changes may actually have a positive benefit on diversion, as it will cost residents more to dispose of their wastes.

6. **Community Outreach Communications Strategy Update**

Dennis Guy, Project Manager Community Outreach, provided an update on the Waste Management Communications Strategy and plans for 2007.

A media release regarding the 3.5 million garbage bags diverted since the roll-out of the Green Cart Program was announced.

Some of the main components of the Communications Strategy presentation included:

- An increased focus on taking a community approach, and an outline of the nine (9) community events planned for 2007
- An outline of the longer-term communication goals (to 2012)
- The launch of the Reward & Recognition/Gold Box program
- Plans for Public Works Week, Waste Reduction Week, Earth Week and initiatives with other environmental organizations
- An update on the design of the CCF interactive viewing room was provided.

Tours of Waste Management Facilities were offered to new Task Force members.

A question was asked as to the possibility of providing the Hamilton Eat Locally Project some compost from the CCF. Staff indicated this could be considered but would need more information to make that decision.

Staff were asked if they had a role in the recent Spectator waste ads. Staff indicated they did not.

Discussion took place on the potential for multi-residential waste diversion messaging to use no-cost advertising space on the HSR.

An inquiry was made into whether Task Force members could see the new Waste Management calendar and make comments before it is sent to print. Staff indicated this wasn’t possible but provided instructions on how comments could be made to staff about suggested changes from the 2006 calendar.

A question was asked about how to arrange tours. Staff indicated that interested parties should call (905) 546-CITY to arrange a tour.
An inquiry was made into the location of Eco-house. Staff provided the location.

An inquiry was made into whether Waste Management has worked with the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce on any initiatives. Staff indicated that this has not been done in the past but they would be interested, specifically regarding outreach to multi-residential property owners and building managers.

An inquiry was made into whether townhouse complexes are to be included as part of the multi-residential waste diversion strategy. Staff indicated that some townhouse complexes will be included whereas other complexes were already included in the roll-out of the single-family green cart program.

An inquiry was made into whether communication materials had been translated into Braille or other languages. Staff responded that translation into some other languages was done, but not Braille. It was noted that for multi-residential communication materials, translation will be a greater focus.

7. New Member Q & A

An inquiry was made into locations where downtown multi-residential residents can dispose of Household Hazardous Waste. Staff outlined the options available and stated that HHW has now been designated under the Waste Diversion Act by the province, which will require more disposal options to be made available. Staff indicated that HHW collections have doubled since the opening of the CRC’s and related outreach programs and that the City of Hamilton has ranked very high (20th percentile) in tonnes of HHW collected in Canada.

A question was asked on the availability of data to determine where and what materials need to be promoted to improve diversion rates. Staff responded on the data that is collected and analyzed by the City.

A comment was made on green plastic flower pots and their reuse potential in the home as containers fastened to waste baskets for collection of “Green Cart” materials.

A public attendee made a statement regarding the need for SWMMP Recommendation #5 to be implemented. Staff provided a response on the work of WastePlan and gave a background talk on the consideration given to Energy from Waste as a potential residual waste disposal option. Staff encouraged this attendee to consult the WastePlan website and watch for upcoming public consultation sessions.

An inquiry was made into SWMMP Recommendation #19 and the progress made by other City departments on implementing diversion in City owned facilities. Staff provided an update on the implementation of the corporate recycling program, recycling containers in public parks, development of a recycling committee in the Water & Wastewater Division as well as the work being done on green procurement.

8. Other Business/Public Discussion

A request was made that the Task Force members get together on an informal basis before the next meeting to get to know the new members.

Staff announced the new SWMMP Steering Committee members.

The Bag It Back (www.bagitback.ca) website was announced, which is the LCBO deposit return system which will be implemented in February.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21st, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Dan Rodrigues and seconded by Dorienne Cushman that the meeting be adjourned.

Copies to: All present
Regrets
SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List
Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works Department
Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Ida Bedioui, Lisa Barroso