1. Approval of the Minutes from November 15th, 2006

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the November 15th, 2006 meeting.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Peter Hutton, seconded by Daniel Rodrigues)

2. Administrative Items

a) New Member Appointments

The Chair asked the public attendees to step outside the meeting room during the member appointment process. Each Task Force member seeking re-election was asked to leave the room at the time their specific position was being discussed. The meeting went in-camera to discuss new member appointments.

The meeting left in camera - public members were invited to return to the room.

A motion was made to recommend to the SWMMP Steering Committee and Council that the following individuals be appointed to the Waste Reduction Task Force:

- Tom Thompson - A1 Zone Representative for a three (3) year term
- Anton Volcansek - Education Sector Representative for a three (3) year term
- Dorienne Cushman - B2 Zone Representative for a three (3) year term
- Betty Hay Lambeck - A3 Zone Representative for a two (2) year term
- Jim Sweetman - A2 Zone Representative for a three (3) year term

(Moved by Daniel Rodrigues, seconded by Angela Pastorius)

The motion passed unanimously.

It was announced that the Chair and Vice-Chair elections will be held at the January meeting.
Staff advised that the new member appointment report will not go to City Council until late-January, but new members will be invited to participate in the January 17th meeting.

3. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Education Sub-Committee

An update was provided on the piloting of Green Carts in separate schools, with staff advising that one (1) separate school in each of the five (5) different sectors in the City will start using Green Carts in early 2007.

Business & Government

An update was given on the new plastic bag reduction presentation which was put on display in the meeting room. The sub-committee shared their experiences from a recent local grocery store presentation. The sub-committee will work on setting up a plastic bag display in a Jackson Square store-front for the public to view. A request was made for suggestions on where else to use the display.

An announcement was made by a member on the Government of Ontario initiative on a packaging protocol which will be done with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). Discussion took place on this protocol in relation to waste reduction and plastic bags.

A request was made for the sub-committee memberships to be revisited in January.

It was mentioned that an article written by Laurie Nielsen had appeared in the Hamilton Community newspapers.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

An update was provided on the items addressed at the November GLCC meeting which included:

- the capture and burning of landfill gas on-site
- reductions in the number of birds at the landfill site
- the occurrence of high levels of leachate and the new wells which will be dug to investigate the higher than expected leachate mounds

Discussion took place on the appointment of a GLCC member to sit on the Task Force and the status of Mike Caruso’s term as a Task Force member and as the liaison between the two (2) committees. Staff indicated they have been discussing with staff members that oversee the GLCC about having a new member attend Waste Reduction Task Force meetings in the New Year.

4. Community Recycling Centre End Markets

Emil Prpic, Supervisor of Waste Processing, gave a presentation on the diversion programs at the Community Recycling Centres and the end markets of goods collected at the CRC’s. Some key points included:

- positive results and problems that have been identified in the first year of operation at the Mountain CRC
- the fact that Dundas CRC is considered to be more successful and have lower contamination levels since it opened in April
- the plan for the Kenora CRC to open in spring 2007

A question was asked about the end market for wood. Staff responded that wood is sent to a company that makes energy for use in greenhouses.
A question was asked about what problems are anticipated for the Kenora CRC. Staff cited some problems which have occurred at the Mountain CRC and have the potential to occur at Kenora.

A suggestion was made that since the new rule on non-acceptable wood wastes was initiated after the waste collection calendar was published, citizens should be able to dispose of non-acceptable wood in a separate bin. Staff responded and indicated that the number of instances related to this issue have decreased since the new rule had been initiated. A comment was made about the acceptability of wood and the public relations issues that need to be considered in this situation. A suggestion was made that the City allow for any wood to be brought to the CRC, until the new calendar is distributed, to avoid alienating participants in the diversion programs.

A comment was made on the non-acceptance, at the curbside, of certain plastic items which are actually acceptable materials in the City’s recycling program. Staff responded that these materials will be listed as acceptable in the 2007 waste collection calendar, and that it won’t be too long until the new calendar is released.

A question was raised about the amount of materials which are not sold from the reuse centre and whether it ends up being landfilled. Staff responded that the material is not being sent to landfill, but is transferred to Community Living Hamilton’s other storage facilities.

A question was raised regarding the end market for waste electronics and whether audits are conducted by City staff. Staff outlined the process which takes place for the identification and monitoring of the end markets.

A question was raised about the presence of a committee which identifies other markets for materials collected at the CRC’s. Staff responded that they monitor how much of the products are recycled but can look into it further. Discussion took place on the Noranda process for recovery of materials. Staff outlined the Noranda resource/recycling costs and indicated at this time that it wasn’t cost effective as the process is very costly.

5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan 2006 Achievements & 2007 Goals

Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, and Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, gave a presentation on the City’s achievements of the SWMMP recommendations in 2006.

An inquiry was made on the City of Guelph organics program and the potential for shipping their organic waste to Hamilton for processing. Staff outlined the discussions that have taken place with Guelph regarding this.

A question was asked as to whether there were handouts with the results being presented. Staff indicated that this presentation was being done on an informal basis and the year-end figures will be presented in the annual report and the Council report on the Green Cart and waste audits in the New Year.

A request was made for a vote on whether this presentation should be continued or if the meeting should move onto the next agenda item. It was agreed that staff would present the 2007 goals at the January meeting.

6. Other Business

A comment was made on the possibility of addressing the user pay system with the new mayor as he has shown a lot of interest in this issue in the past.

An inquiry was made into blue box and green cart collection issues and how to address the concerns of residents in order to maintain public satisfaction with Waste Management programs. Discussion took place on whether there was a role for the Task Force to assist in dealing with common resident
concerns. Staff outlined the strategy they have adopted to deal with residents concerns and complaints and indicated that Customer Service staff will try and respond to these residents. Discussion took place on the possibility of providing information to the Task Force on the types and frequencies of concerns called in by residents. A comment was made on the need for the Task Force not to micro-manage and to focus on policy and larger scale issues.

An inquiry was made on what residents can do with organics which are in excess of the green cart’s capacity. Staff provided a response on what can be done with the excess.

A comment was made on the recent blue box ads and the issue of cardboard being advertised to be put in the blue box. Staff advised that small amounts of cardboard are acceptable in the blue box.

7. Public Discussion

An inquiry was made on the issue of contamination of the paper stream due to single-stream recycling in other municipalities and whether Hamilton will be going to single-stream recycling. Staff advised that these issues are presently being evaluated by staff and they in turn provided some detail on the benefits and disadvantages of single-stream system on citizen participation, the recycling industry and on the current fibre recycling equipment at the MRF.

An inquiry was made into the clear bag collection system and its potential for implementation in Hamilton. Staff indicated that due to the recent work on the recycling program this issue has not been considered in the past few months.

An inquiry was made into the cost of the annual report and a request was made for it to be downsized next year. Staff explained some of the options which will be explored to lower production costs.

A request was made that the City become more active in discouraging the use of plastic bags and some of the progress that has been made on this issue was cited.

Discussion took place on multi-residential waste diversion and the possibility for assistance to be provided to residents on how to promote it in their own building.

Thanks were given to the three (3) departing Task Force members for their years of service on the Task Force.

8. Adjournment

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

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17th, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Joel Begin and seconded by Laurie Nielsen 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