MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #01-11
Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West
Room 816
Wednesday, January 12, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collections
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
Adam Watson, Policy/Program Analyst
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Councillor Judi Partridge
Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations

1. Adoption of Agenda
The agenda was amended to include the appointment of SWMMP Chair and Vice-Chair, to be added as the first item on the agenda.

Added item of Chair and Vice Chair appointments – Councillor Powers nominated Councillor Pearson to be the SWMMP Steering Committee Chair; Councillor Pearson nominated Councillor Powers to be the SWMMP Steering Committee Vice-Chair.

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on September 8, 2010

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson:

That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes
No business from the minutes.

4. SWMMP Review Update - January 24th Public Workshop
Staff presented information on the upcoming public workshop and provided invitations to the attending Councillors. Staff outlined the goals of the workshop and highlighted the community groups who were invited.
5. Diversion Programs

a. Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff provided an update on the recent building rollouts and provided information on the few remaining non-compliant properties. Staff indicated that the Ward Councillors will be apprised of the buildings in their ward that will be removed from service.

Councillor Pearson offered information on one non-compliant property in her ward and offered to assist if needed.

Inquiries were made into reasons for non-compliance. Staff responded with information on some of the main reasons, including concerns that the program would cause problems with pests and odours.

b. Other Diversion Options – Budget Report

Staff provided a presentation on the upcoming diversion options report and the associated budget implications. Staff outlined the Council motion to research and report back on the following diversion options: street sweepings, drywall, commercial organics, school recycling, and leaf & yard waste and CCF optimization. The discussion related to each diversion option is outlined below:

Recycling of street sweepings - Councillor Powers inquired whether we would get the processed/finished product, staff indicated that we would not as the vendor intends to recycle it for some construction use and not it would not be processed for re-use in the winter control program. This diversion option is considered cost-effective and will be recommended.

Drywall recycling– Staff indicated that the drywall recycler, New West Gypsum, was found to be the sole service provider in the area. There would be costs for City’s transfer station contractor to manage and transport the material for processing. It was determined that the net cost of drywall recycling is too high, so it is not being recommended at this time. Councillor Pearson inquired whether a local option exists as an alternative for residents who want to recycle their drywall. Staff indicated there is one in the City that residents could access directly at a tipping fee.

Leaf & Yard Waste (LYW) – Staff is not proposing any changes to the topping up of green carts with LYW and the option of setting out two additional bags per week. Staff is recommending the removal of grass from curbside programs and is also looking to make an internal change in the way materials are collected to redirect some of the 2 LYW containers in the off-weeks during peak season. It was explained that when necessary another truck will collect and send the LYW it to the Glanbrook windrow composting site separately. Staff outlined the additional cost for providing the increased service. Staff outlined the rationale and how the program would work for collection and at the CCF. Councillor Powers asked for an assurance that there will be no difference in service for the residents. Staff indicated that there would be no change. Staff indicated that the rationale for the program change is an improvement to the efficiency of operations. Staff indicated that savings will be achieved through reduced processing costs at the CCF and the revenues from processing other municipalities’ organics at the CCF will be maintained.

Peter Hutton highlighted the issue around the removal of grass and noted that the WRTF members would be out promoting the elimination of grass. Peter noted that this would not be phased out gradually, but instead would eliminate it completely in the organics and LYW programs.

Some conversation took place on grass-cycling and the options that staff has already promoted to residents over the years through the waste calendar.
Councillor Powers inquired whether the increased amount of LYW at Glanbrook will impact operations. Staff indicated that redirecting a portion of the LYW helps with operations at both the landfill and the CCF.

Councillor Pearson inquired into the potential use of the land behind the CCF to use for windrow processing of LYW. Staff indicated that the future use of the site and the CCF operations will be reviewed through the SWMMP review.

Staff provided a summary of financial implications of each diversion option. Councillor Powers requested that the net savings in the chart be combined to make it clearer for Council in the report.

Staff provided an update on discussions held with Halton Region and their interest in shared facilities.

The recommendations of the report and the timelines of these proposed changes were outlined. Councillor Powers inquired on the timeline of the removal of grass. Staff indicated that April 2011 would be the start and staff would be out in the field assisting residents with the transition.

Staff will also be sharing this presentation with Councillor Partridge and the additional Steering Committee member, should one be appointed.

Staff indicated that a Green Cart pilot will be started up with about twenty schools in the Separate School Board and an update will be provided to Councillor Johnson who is the Council liaison with the Board.

6. Collection System Review

Staff provided an update on the Collection System Review and the current work being done on a report for the preferred options. A presentation will be provided at the next meeting on the report. Councillor Powers inquired on whether staff had a preference towards single-stream or two-stream recycling. Staff provided some information on the benefits and costs based on the current analysis. Councillor Powers directed this question to the WRTF representative as well. Mr. Hutton replied that the WRTF has received information from staff and have prepared a report that does support keeping a two-stream system. In the report, some concerns related to single-stream were outlined including: diversion impacts, changing services to residents, and the potential for increased blowing of materials and litter. Staff noted that some of these issues will be covered in the upcoming initial report presentation. Staff also noted that there is potential for future partnerships with Halton Region and they currently operate a single-stream system.

7. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Mr. Hutton provided an update on the November WRTF meeting. Discussion took place on the ending of some members’ terms and the potential changes due to the SWMMP review. The recruitment process for the potential new members was outlined. Councillor Powers inquired into the existing recruitment process. It was indicated that the WRTF does its own recruitment separate from the one undertaken by the City Clerk’s office at this time.

8. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

Staff indicated that there is a new Federal Minister of the Environment.

Staff stated that there is some work being done at the provincial level on streamlining the C of A process and that staff has been involved in the process. Also it was noted that the work of the WDA review seems to have slowed due to staff changes at WDO and the upcoming Provincial election.

9. Operations Update
9.1 Disposal Activities
Staff provided an update on recycling revenues as requested by Councillor Ferguson at the last meeting. It appears as though the waste budget will be met for 2010. Conversation took place on the budget moving forward and whether any excess funds could go into a reserve for future years. Staff will consider this suggestion for the future budget discussions and will discuss this with Finance.

9.2 Collection Activities
Staff indicated the all collection activities are occurring without significant issues. Note: Christmas tree collection began this week.

10. Outstanding Action Items
No discussion took place under this agenda item.

11. Other Business
Staff provided an update on the capital budget presentation upcoming to Councillors. Staff will send this info to the Councillors electronically after the meeting.

A discussion on future meeting dates took place. The existing timeslot is acceptable to all attendees, but it was requested that staff look for potential future conflicts due to statutory holidays and corresponding standing committee dates and adjust the meeting schedule accordingly.

Councillor Powers noted increased incidences of dumping at commercial plazas in his ward since the introduction of the one container limit. He indicated that in some instances, the dumpers are being indentified through personal information found in the bags, but OWM and MLE staff are not taking any action. Staff will follow-up on this and report back.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Moved by Councillor Pearson, seconded by Councillor Powers CARRIED

12. Next Meeting: TBD

Distribution List:
SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations, Operations and Waste Management Division
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs, Operations and Waste Management Division