Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee
Monday, February 23, 2009
Glanbrook Landfill Meeting Room
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:
Members
Allan Freeman, Chair
Andy Fevez
Sheila May
Brooke Ryan
Councillor David Mitchell

City of Hamilton, Waste Management
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal
Frank Falcone, Project Manager, Landfills

Ministry of Environment
Joanne Placko (Resource)

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Joshua Diamond (Resource)

Waste Management of Canada Corporation
Ron Wright (Resource)

Regrets
Fabiano Gondim, Supervisor of Landfills
Dan Rodrigues (WRTF)
Reid Cleland (Resource)

Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting
The minutes of the November 24, 2008 meeting were approved by the GLCC and Council.

ITEM ACTION
1. Landfill Operations Contract Update
Craig Murdoch reported that the contracts for Waste Management of Canada Corporation and BFI Canada Inc. were completed on February 7, 2009. There are a number of milestones and transitions between the old and new contract that staff will be following in preparation for the new contract. This will affect the Transfer Stations more than the landfill because WMCC is still at the site, but it does require new and additional equipment as part of the new contract. Ron Wright from WMCC will be following the milestones. The transfer takes place as of January 1, 2010 and with WMCC staying on-site at the landfill it will give the City flexibility if WMCC wishes to bring the new equipment on-site earlier. At the Transfer Stations it will be more difficult as WMCC will be leaving the site on December 31, 2009 and the new contractor will be on-site on January 1, 2010 and operating on January 2, 2010. Craig noted that Disposal staff vacations during the last week of December have been cancelled to allow for contract transitions. The new contract will end February 28, 2020.
2. **Certificate of Approval Amendment (Final Copy)**
   - A new Certificate of Approval was distributed to Committee members. This is the final CofA the Landfill is operated by. The City was issued a CofA approval in May 2008 which was the original Certificate of Approval that was issued by the Ministry. A review by the City found there were 21 conditions that were problematic that either resulted in additional costs to the City, lost landfill space or instant non-compliance of the certificate. The City worked co-operatively with the MOE before the issue went before the Environmental Review Tribunal. The City agreed to remove 7 of the issues and the remaining 14 conditions the City and MOE came to an amicable agreement on. There is an amending document attached to the CofA that has a different date which amends the May 2008 CofA. Should Committee members have further inquiries they can contact Fabiano Gondim at the City or Joanne Placko from the MOE.
   - This item to be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

3. **CofA Amendment for Leaf & Yard Composting (Withdrawn)**
   - Craig Murdoch reported the City was in the process of amending the CofA for the Leaf & Yard Composting area located beside the landfill to allow for material from Haldimand County. The process was slower than anticipated and Haldimand County required an answer on processing material sooner than what the C of A was going to permit. There was a risk that Haldimand County wouldn’t have a place to take their material if the City pursued the C of A amendment. Haldimand will bring their material to the Central Composting Facility on Burlington Street which is permitted to take the material. The City withdrew the application for processing the material at the landfill area as it would be too complicated for the benefit and the cost involved to go through the process and satisfy all the questions for the MOE. The City has a CofA for the Composting Facility that allows them to take in other municipalities waste and process it.

4. **Landfill Gas Project Update, Media Event and Noise Mitigation**
   - Craig Murdoch reported that commissioning began on November 7, 2008 with a series of load and reliability testing completed along with other ancillary pieces as chillers and fans. As of November 18, 2008 the City was eligible for revenue for any energy generation done during commissioning. The engines have been commissioned since December 9, 2008 and have been running consistently since that period of time. The engines are shut down from time to time due to part failure or oil changes. As of the end of January, one of the engines had a 96% up-time and the other had 98%. The contract for the energy operator is with Toromont CAT and Hamilton Renewable Power requires the engines to have an 80-85% up time which Toromont CAT has exceeded. The flare is started up when the engines are shut down for a period longer than 8 hours. Frank Falcone added that the flare is turned on only when one of the engines is down.

   - Craig Murdoch indicated that letters have been sent out from the Mayor’s office requesting that the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure to attend the official ribbon cutting for the Landfill Gas Project. The event is scheduled for Friday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to which the Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee will be invited. There will be several speakers including Mayor Eisenberger, Councillor Mitchell and the Chair of Hamilton Renewable Power. A marquee tent will be set up in case of rain and tours will be provided with one of the engines shut down so people can take a look inside. Craig Murdoch to provide an update to the Committee by e-mail as to the Minister’s attendance at the event.

   - A member asked if there had been discussions on the revenue from the Landfill.
Gas Project going to residents that lived around the landfill. Councillor Mitchell indicated that he asked for this matter to be logged in the minutes of Council so it can be discussed in future. There is a 4.5 year payback to pay off the equipment, so it would be after that time when profits would be made. There is the possibility of the Hamilton Utilities Corporation taking Hamilton Renewable Power over and the profit coming back to the City with the taxpayers receiving the benefit.

Sheila May and a member expressed concern over past compensation and the issues of living near the landfill. She discussed the history of the landfill and advised that the township would receive $100,000 per year for 10 years. The township never received that money. The first year after the landfill opened in the documents Proctor and Redfern said it would be looking after 650,000 tonnes. The contract with Tricill was based on this tonnage. The first year the tonnage was 232,000. Tricil stated they would take in 650,000 tonnes per year and the Region signed a contract for that.

Craig Murdoch reported that noise complaints from 2 different households were received regarding the engines. Other complaints may have been made to the Ministry that the City may not be aware of. Immediately, Toromont CAT retained Conestoga Rovers & Associates to determine noise mitigation measures and conduct noise assessment studies. As a result, testing is being conducted and the exhaust pipes have been redirected to point towards the landfill hill instead of straight up to redirect the sound and sound barriers have been placed on top of the containers. City staff requested that a report be prepared indicating what are the sound levels being achieved as the Ministry will only permit 40 decibels of sound at night and if not in compliance, what other options exist for meeting the sound limit. Testing has been completed and staff are awaiting the results. Hamilton Renewable Power will be handling any further mitigative measures. Frank Falcone noted that testing was delayed as weather conditions had to be ideal to be accepted by the MOE. Staff have communicated with residents informing them the City was making some adjustments to try and make conditions better for them.

5. Tree Planting Update

Frank Falcone reported that 30 trees have been transplanted from on-site and 50 trees planted from off-site. This is an on-going process and more trees will be planted in the spring and fall in strategic areas. A new layer of thick trees has been planted where trees were damaged and where trees were cut down by Hydro. Other trees will be planted along the west side where older trees are thinning out.

6. Pond Data, New Internal Procedure

Frank Falcone distributed a handout on the pond sampling data.

Frank Falcone reported that staff were called to sample ponds on December 27 as they were filling up due to melting snow. In the handout under the column Actions Taken it shows a partial release of Pond 3 on December 30. The reason for this is that during the Christmas shutdown the City lab was closed and staff had to use an external lab (Maxxam). Staff checked the samples that came back on December 30th which Maxxam tested and concluded that the pond results met the release criteria and instructed Ron Wright to release the pond. When staff returned from holidays another staff member checked the results and noticed that Maxxam reported the results in milligrams per litre instead of micrograms per litre as the City lab reports. When staff member saw this discrepancy in measurement units they concluded that the sample now did not meet the release criteria and instructed Ron to stop the release of the pond. Out of 7,000 cubic metres released approximately 4,000 cubic metres was released. Staff checked if there
was any impact at the Welland River and there wasn’t. On January 2 staff did additional testing on Pond 3 and the results met the release criteria which conflicted with the December 30 results so it took additional samples on January 5 which also passed so the City concluded that the December 27 sample was just an anomaly so the pond was released on January 5 after two confirmatory tests found that the pond met the release criteria. On February 10 the pond failed testing and on February 12 tests confirmed a pass. Craig Murdoch explained that this incident revealed a weakness in our procedures. A formal procedure has been written where staff have to follow the procedure which includes checking the units for the lab data. Staff can’t assume that the units are the same whether it be from the City lab or an outside lab. The procedure has been put in place to ensure this doesn’t reoccur. The City did advise the MOE immediately of the incident and the amounts recorded with the release of the ponds would not cause fish kill.

7. Culvert Review and Pond 5 Approvals Update

Frank Falcone distributed a handout showing the existing floodplain mapping of the creek in the north buffer area. As part of Pond 5 and 6 approvals one requirement is to have existing floodplain mapping done to see what effects the new Pond 5 will have on the area in the north buffer of the landfill where the new Pond will be located. As part of this exercise staff looked to see what effects the floodplain has on the Finlay property which is located at the north-west corner of the landfill. Staff have concluded that the floodplain as it stands does not effect the Finlay property. Staff also looked to see what the effect would be if we upsized the existing 450mm diameter culvert under the existing access road to a 1400mm diameter culvert. It was concluded the culvert has negligible effect on the floodplain. What affects the flood plain is the access road itself and this will only affect about halfway between the house and the access road. The water level will never back up to the house and will only back up about 100 yards from the access road. The culvert is not related to anything that causes any flooding in the area around the house. It was also discovered that the downstream end of the creek there is a 1400mm diameter culvert that crosses Hall Road and it was sized because of backing up of the Welland River on the north side of Hall Road and not the flooding that is caused from north landfill buffer area. Based on this information staff have concluded that upsizing the culvert under the access road will have no effect on the flooding problems at the house.

Frank Falcone met with the new owner of the Finlay property and was told that the source of the basement flooding for the home was actually a failed sump pump rather than flooding near the home. Additionally Frank determined that some of the grading of the back yard could contribute to directing creek flow toward the house and has suggested to the home owner that the area be regraded.

The other part of the floodplain mapping it to see what effect the new Pond 5 construction just north of the existing Pond 5 will have on the floodplain. It was concluded that the new Pond 5 construction will have minimal effects on the floodplain. Once approvals are finalized and staff receive the detailed design they will obtain the OWRA application from the MOE for final approval and then can proceed with a tender and construction.

8. Daily Cover Update and Fees for Impacted Soils

Frank Falcone reported that since the last meeting there has been approximately 50 loads of daily cover received at the site. The City has approved as of January 1, 2009 that all impacted soil brought to the landfill will be charged $30/tonne. Impacted soil is tested and the procedure staff follow is required by the Ministry.
Soil from other areas is still being reviewed by the Ministry for approval.

Craig Murdoch reported the EA has been completed and the 30 day comment period has closed. The MOE to provide follow-up at the next meeting.

Frank Falcone indicated that with the new contract Alternative Daily Cover tarps will be used in addition to the approved wood chip or film. This type of ADC is very common at landfills in Canada and the US.

9. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Craig Murdoch provided an update and reported the roll-out of the 1+1 program which is 1 dark garbage bag or container and 1 clear bag and that will be starting on April 1, 2009 before it goes to 1 bag on April 1, 2010. The idea for the clear bag is that if recyclable material or organisms are found inside, the bag will be left at the curb and stickered. No other changes have been made to any other waste programs as a result of this roll-out to 2 bags.

Craig Murdoch reported that concerning storage of recyclable materials we do have a value for the materials but it’s a small value compared to the past e.g. if a compacted bale of fibres was worth $150 previously, it’s now worth $20 (numbers for demonstration purposes only). He noted the City has a year’s worth of storage capacity available at the MRF and it’s fibres the City is holding on to with everything else being sent to market i.e. aluminum, plastic, PET. Staff are trying to mitigate the budget shortfall in lost revenues.

10. New Business

Craig Murdoch reported that a Committee has been set up with City Councillors and representatives from Hamilton Utilities Corporation. The Joint Advisory Committee was established by City Council in January to determine the future business mandate of Hamilton Utilities Corporation. The City’s representatives are Mayor Eisenberger and Councillors Ferguson, Mitchell and Powers. Phase One of the study will look at short term options of combining the existing and proposed energy and energy-related environmental projects, including Hamilton Renewable Power. Phase Two of the study will investigate longer term possibilities such as Energy from Waste.

Craig Murdoch advised that there have been no odour complaints for the Central Composting Facility since the one complaint that was unconfirmed in October of 2008. Aim and Maple Reinders are looking at the possibility of off-site curing to increase the value of the end product. The compost that comes out of the facility is cured and meets the definition of cured and is tested and the analysis must be provided to the MOE.

Andy Fevez said that Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. The last weekend in May there will be a fishing derby on the Sunday and as well as an open house on the Saturday. There will be free admission for everyone with rides, hikes, challenge canoe races. Organizers are looking for partners for the event. Craig Murdoch to inform the Community Outreach section of the possibility to set up a booth for Waste Management.