SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #06-09
Hamilton City Centre, 77 James Street North, Room 320B
Monday, June 15, 2009
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
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
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division

Regrets:
Councillor Chad Collins

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson:

The agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on April 9, 2009

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson:

The minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Diversion Program Updates

3.1 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff reported on the progress of the green cart program roll-out to multi-residential buildings. To date 69% of all buildings have received the organics program, this represents 39% of all units. Of the Phase 3 (larger) buildings, 26% of the buildings are now on program; this equals 28% of all units. The roll-out will be finished by the end of the year. There is four staff doing the roll-out, averaging 10 per week, or 2 per day.

Committee asked what “deferrals” meant. Staff explained that these are buildings that have asked WM to return at a later date because they are under construction, etc.

Committee enquired as to how many of these buildings had the blue cart recycling program. Staff explained that 97% of multi-residential buildings already have the blue cart program.

Committee asked if we were getting closer to the 65% diversion mark. Staff explained that we are, especially after the 1 + 1 garbage program was implemented. Total waste generated and the blue box tonnages are down, this is most likely due to the economy. Green cart tonnages are up. The diversion rate for residential is currently at about 49%. There was 95% compliance already with the 1 + 1 garbage limit, as audits indicated that 85% of households already only set out one bag of garbage per week, and 9.3% set out two bags weekly (therefore approximately 95% haven’t needed to change their behaviour).
Amendments to Property Standards By-Law 03-117 will be brought forth as a consent item at tomorrow's (June 16, 2009) Economic and Planning Committee meeting. Recognizing that the Property Standards By-law needs to be updated to support and align with the City’s Solid Waste Management By-law 09-067. The new “waste” definition recognizes recyclables and compostables, allows more flexibility in waste removal and recognizes diversion efforts.

Moved by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson:

That the information be received.

CARRIED

3.2 2008/2009 Waste Audits

3.2.1 Corporate Facilities Waste Audit

Staff reported that corporate waste audits were conducted at three City facilities between December 2008 and February 2009: 77 James – Suite 320, 330 Wentworth (2nd floor) and the Public Health building at 1447 Upper Ottawa were all audited and showed great results. Reported diversion rates were 81.9%, 79% and 80% respectively. The average diversion rate for the three facilities was 80.3%. The contamination rate was less than 5%.

Committee mentioned that the lunch room they frequent does not have a clearly labelled bin system. Staff responded that posters could be laminated and adhered to the cupboard doors.

3.2.2 Single Family Waste Audit

The single family waste audit was conducted in last week of October and first week of November 2008. The 2008 diversion rate was 53.4%, up from 44.3% in recorded in the 2006 single family waste audit. The 2008 organics capture rate was 54.3%, up from 36.4% in 2006. Staff reported the following results:

- High capture rate materials (85% or higher) include: newspaper, corrugated cardboard, PET plastic bottles, aluminium and steel food / beverage containers, and glass.
- Lower capture rate materials include: mixed fine paper, composite cans, aseptic containers (drinking boxes), polystyrene packaging, and aluminium foil and trays.
- 15% of food waste is still ending up in garbage waste stream; and
- 36% of households are using compostable liners.

Staff also reported that the residue rates at the Central Composting Facility (CCF) have spiked. Currently, the residue rate is 7%, up from 2.3% in 2007, and 4% in 2008. Residue items found in the organics waste stream consist of hard plastic pieces (clamshells and plant pots), glass, and sharps.

Committee enquired as to the price of compost. Staff explained that the price ranges from $0.25 /yd$^3$ in the winter when demand is low, to $7.00 /yd$^3$ in the summer when demand is high.

Discussion shifted to plant pots and it was mentioned that Fortino’s is accepting all brands of plant pots. This diversion program is not being communicated consistently throughout the City. Staff has experienced that enquiring at a store will lead you to the recycling bin, however it is not obvious in all locations.

Staff explained that audits at the CCF will be done to determine the amount and type of residue items in order to create focussed messaging to address this problem.

4. Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) Update

The WRTF reported that staff led members through the World Café workshop: a brainstorming exercise. Members broke off into small groups for three (3) ten (10) minute rounds of conversation. Some participants moved to new tables every 10 minutes. Two questions were posed for discussion –

- How can we build on our successes to move from 55% to 65% diversion?, and
- What consideration around technical issues and process are important for the SWMMP review?
A lot of good ideas were generated that evening. A couple of suggestions stood out - to move quickly to the one bag limit, and to have consequences for residents that are not following the rules. Members do find the current diversion rate a little frustrating because they believe they divert 85% and don’t understand why others aren’t there yet.

5. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Updates

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE): waiting for the implementation of Phase 2. Issues still exist regarding packaging of the returned electronics for disposal.

Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW): phase 2 and 3 of the program has been consolidated and the commenting period concerning these phases has passed. The full program is to be implemented later this year. Accessibility to take back locations remains an issue.

Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO): more discussion is taking place regarding full extended producer responsibility (EPR) and making sure that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is aware of the impacts this will have on Municipal systems. It appears that total EPR may be transferred to industry in 5 years. Phase 1 will consider the implementation program; Phase 2 will focus on the cost and financial transfer to industry for funding; and, Phase 3 is when industry fully takes over. Some questions being considered are: does 100% EPR mean industry will have to do it all; can industry offer more efficient programs than what is already offered; and, could this drive up other costs? Issues surrounding infrastructure and compensation for existing programs – similar to blue box funding – still need to be considered.

Bridge financing is based on what happened two years ago. It is a rolling average; consequently, we are only now receiving blue box funding from industry based on what was reporting two years ago. The MHSW program has moved closer to real time reporting since this program reports quarterly. Municipalities are currently experiencing a $40 million shortage.

6. Operations Update

6.1 Transfer Station Renovations

An Information Update concerning Transfer Station (TS) renovations was sent out one and a half weeks prior to this meeting. The TS’s were constructed in 1980 and have been continuously operational for the last 29 years. Capital improvements will be made to all three TS’s to replace cracked outside concrete panel walls and worn tipping floors. Washrooms, change rooms and lunchrooms will also be updated.

The renovations will have no impact on the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) areas of the TS and they will remain open and operational during the renovations. Kenora will be the first location to be renovated, and since this TS is double sided, half of it can be shut down while renovations take place. The Mountain and Dundas TS’s will be closed to commercial and curbside collection vehicles for about four weeks while their tipping floors are replaced.

Upgrading at Kenora will begin at the end of this month when all paper work has been completed and building permits received.

6.2 Glanbrook Landfill Building Renovations

The landfill building which is approximately 30 years old has always been maintained but never updated. Current washroom facilities are inadequate, the roof needs replacing, the kitchen / lunchroom area is too small, and the office and storage area for the City needs to be expanded. At the end of 2009 (after Christmas) it is anticipated that the City will have a permanent presence at the landfill and will need to have proper office space, in addition, the service provider will have 7 staff working out of this location.

The tender for this work will be issued at the end of the month.

6.3 Recycling Program Update

Staff sited current recycling commodity prices in comparison to the highest price per metric tonne over the last twelve months, for example:

- Aluminium cans: $1116.00 (May ’09) $2209.00 (July 2008)
• Steel cans:            $53.00 (May ’09)               $416.00 (July 2008)
• Corrugated cardboard:       $55.00 (May ’09)     $123.00 (Sept 2008)
• Newspaper:      $64.00 (May ’09)    $169.00 (Aug 2008)
• Boxboard:       $17.00 (May ’09)      $73.00 (Aug 2008)

The current price for a basket of goods is $61.00 / metric tonne, compared to $150.00 / metric tonne in 2008, and $145.00 / metric tonne in 2007.

6.4 Material Recycling Facility

Council has approved the Waste Management Collection Operations relocation to the MRF from 330 Wentworth. Collection’s is hoping to stay at 330 Wentworth until the end of the year while the site is renovated to accommodate office / work space.

7. Outstanding Action Items

7.1 Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection

Staff announced that an Information Report regarding larger blue boxes for curbside recycling collection will be coming forward to the Public Works Committee in September 2009. Staff explained that they had met with Councillor Collins to discuss curbside collection operations and that he is satisfied that we are currently doing as much as possible. The main issues that prevent changes to the present system are health and safety concerns, ergonomic affects, and contractual obligations.

8. Other Business

8.1 Summer Meeting Schedule

The summer meeting schedule was discussed and it was agreed that the July meeting would be cancelled.

Committee asked about the next steps to work towards the 65% diversion goal. Staff mentioned that we would be looking into Toronto’s durable goods program which is a variation of the bulk collection program but instead of putting these items in the landfill, they are stripped of their reusable and / or recyclable components. Disposable diaper diversion programs will also be explored, as well as drywall recycling, user pay systems, etc.

Committee asked about Energy From Waste (EFW) programs. Staff explained that EFW does not presently count as diversion; however, this may change in the future.

Moved by Councillor Ferguson, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information and all reports discussed be received.

CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on August 12, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson:

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED
Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Collections, Waste Management Division