City of Hamilton
Public Works Department
WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MINUTES

Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

Monday, November 28, 2005
Glanbrook Landfill Meeting Room
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Attendees:
CITY OF HAMILTON, WASTE MANAGEMENT:
Beth Goodger, Director
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal
David Kerr, Supervisor of Landfills
Frank Falcone, Project Manager, Landfills

MEMBERS:
Allan Freeman, Chair
Andy Fevez
Brook Ryan
Councillor Dave Mitchell

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORPORATION:
Ron Wright (Resource)

Regrets:
MEMBERS:
Job Manning

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT:
Joanne Placko (Resource)

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY:
Ann Michaud (Resource)
Review Of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of August 29, 2005 were approved as circulated. Motion to approve by Andy Fevez and seconded by Brook Ryan. All in favour. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Legal Interpretation of Certificate of Approval: There was some business arising from the May 30, 2005 GLCC meeting regarding a request to have the City’s legal Services provide an opinion on whether or not trucks other than transfer vehicles from the City’s transfer stations be permitted to go directly to the Glanbrook landfill site.

The City’s legal services provide the following interpretation:

Legal Services has reviewed the City’s Certificate of Approval for the Glanbrook Landfill Site and is of the view that the use of the packer trucks to deliver Bulk Waste to the Glanbrook Landfill Site in the spring of 2005 was permitted. Legal Services has also indicated that it was appropriate for City staff to verify that such trucks and waste were permitted at the Glanbrook Landfill Site with the Ministry of the Environment prior to doing so.

A member of the public, Sheila May, wished to be recorded as disagreeing with the MOE and City legal departments interpretations.

Funding for Welland River Study: At the August 29, 2005 GLCC meeting, a question was asked by a member of the public in attendance to provide the details of a $65,000 study for the Welland River that he believed was funded from Glanbrook reserves. City staff was to report back at the next GLCC meeting about this study. Dave Kerr mentioned that Joe Spiler, the Manager of Capital Budgets, Development and Corporate Services for the City has looked into this issue and could find no record of $65,000 being spent for such a study out of Glanbrook Reserves. Joe Spiler asked that the member of the public who tabled this question call him directly and provide further details so that he could look into this further and provide a more informed response.

ITEM ACTION

1. Bio-monitoring and Buckhorn Creek

In lieu of the conservation authority not being present at the meeting Dave Kerr provided a general overview of the report and relayed that the NPCA would present the findings at a future GLCC meeting.

Andy Fevez read out conclusions from the bio-monitoring report which are as follows:

Results show all sample stations have impaired water quality, however the level of impairment at sites located downstream of storm retention pond #1 and downstream of landfill activities closely matches the level of impairment found at upstream reference stations. Chemical data collected at these sampling stations also indicates that there is no change in water quality between upstream and downstream locations. Based on these results, it may be concluded that landfill activities are not causing additional water quality impairment to Buckhorn Creek and the Welland River.
Significant water quality impairment was observed at the station located downstream of the flowing spring located near the landfill entrance on Haldibrook Road. The observed level of water quality impairment is consistent with a previous water quality assessment completed in 2002, and BioMAP indices calculated at this site in 2004 were found to be very low. In addition, this flowing spring has been identified as a barrier to fish migration in Buckhorn Creek. It is recommended that the site be naturalized to disperse the flow of sulphurous groundwater into Buckhorn Creek.

2. Gull Control

Dave reviewed that at the last GLCC meeting the gull management plan was presented. The plan consisted of short term recommendations including a falconer with predator birds and a propane cannon to scare the gulls off the site. Ron Wright discussed how the propane cannon worked and that it was situated at the far southeast corner of Phase 2. Two members of the public mentioned that the canons disturbed their dogs. Dave informed them that a letter was sent out to the direct neighbours of the landfill asking people to contact the City if they had any concerns with the bird bangers and no calls were received after start-up of the plan, however he stated that comments from members of the public are invited.

Dave stressed that the short term program was intensive but is scheduled to stop at the end of the year after which a long term program would be implemented in 2006. He recommended that preliminary monitoring of the different methods seemed to indicate that the falconer had the best success. Members of the GLCC and public reiterated their desire to see culling of birds at the site.

Dave met with the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee on November 15 to discuss methods to deter gulls and take the GLCC concerns to the committee. The members of the advisory committee mentioned there will be an increased focus on egg culling in the harbour area for 2006 and onwards.

3. Potential Electricity Generation from Landfill Gas

Craig Murdoch passed out handouts and provided an overview of the recent work the City has undertaken with regard to this project. He outlined a partnership formed between the City's Waste Mgmt. Division and Hamilton Renewable Power Inc. The partnership is looking at electrical generation from methane gas at the Glanbrook Landfill. The Province has recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for green energy initiatives under 20 mega watts. Craig mentioned that previous to SWARU closing, waste going to the Glanbrook Landfill was mainly ash and much lower in organics as the organics were burnt off. Therefore, the source for methane gas was limited and electrical generation was not economically feasible at the time. Current waste going into the landfill has a higher organic proportion and greater potential for methane generation therefore electrical generation is much more economically feasible. An overview of electricity generation options and the rationale for selecting the preferred option was provided. Beth Googder and Craig Murdoch will be continuing to meet with Hamilton Renewable Power Inc to lead this process.
Beth informed the committee that the payback to the City depends on the price of energy. The deadline for the renewable power RFP is the end of March 2006 and the City will provide an update at next GLCC meeting.

4. Update on Roll-Out of Green Cart Program

Craig Murdoch provided a brief update on the Green Cart program which will be rolled out in 2006 at the same time that the compost facility is completed. He also suggested that people go to www.hamiltoncompost.ca for further information on the green cart program and central composting facility. The large size green carts are 120 liter and will be delivered to the majority of residents in the City starting April 1st 2006. The green cart program will be completely phased in by the end of June, 2006. Kitchen catchers, 8 liter containers, will also be supplied to the residences in Hamilton during the phase in. An RFP for mid-size green carts for inner city areas where driveways are fewer in number and street parking is prevalent is currently out for bid and we will be able to provide an update at the next meeting. The City has also purchased 18 rear loader vehicles and 10 side loader vehicles (packer trucks). Beth discussed that starting in January 2006 the City will be rolling out our advertising and educating about the green cart program. Commercials will be developed showing how to clean and maintain the carts so there is a minimum of odours. Beth also noted that we will continue to promote backyard composting.

5. Status of Leachate Mound

David Kerr provided cross sections to members of the GLCC showing leachate mound height at different times of the year relative to the landfill form. The data collected thus far indicates that leachate levels continue to drop slowly but steadily. This data confirms that the leachate collection system improvements and hydraulic connections are working well. A member of the public, Sheila May, asked why levels were high at LM4. Dave explained the likely reason was that leachate is being trapped and perched in clay encapsulated areas around LM4. He also mentioned that leachate levels have dropped at LM4 by .5 to 1m over the last 4 months and that staff will continue to monitor the mound height in this area. Alan Freemen suggested that City staff keep an eye on LM4 and that remedial work be planned around this area if the level has not come down within the next 3 months. There was some confusion over the units shown in the cross sections as not everyone can relate to elevations in metres. It was agreed that in future, two different scales will be shown on the cross-sections, one in feet and the other in metres.

Ms. May asked if there were any new seeps on the landfill and Dave Kerr responded that we have noticed a new seep in an area not previously remediated and that the seep will be remediated in 2006. Dave noted that the water quality in pond 2 improved dramatically after the seeps in that area were repaired in 2005.
6. **Waste Reduction Task Force Update**

Brook Ryan provided an update on the Waste Reduction Task Force. His report included:

- The Central Composting Facility was moving along well. He informed members that it may take 60-70 days to move a unit of organic material through the system.
- 150,000 - 120 liter green carts will be rolled out to start.
- "I love Hamilton" T-shirts are available from the Mayor’s office.
- The cost of new landfill building was raised at the last WRTF meeting. Craig responded that the actual cost of the building ($202,000) was less than budgeted ($350,000) and was awarded in accordance with City Purchasing Policies. He also mentioned it was the lowest bid of three received.
- Councilor Pearson would be taking a position on a School Board committee and will assist in providing recycling initiatives to the Board.
- The Community Living store at the mountain CRC had a great grand opening.
- At the last WRTF meeting members felt that hazardous waste mobile stops should be setup in a brownfield area to service city core.

7. **Central Composting Facility Status Presentation (Time Permitting)**

There wasn’t sufficient time for the presentation. Time permitting it will be presented at a future meeting.

8. **Flowing Spring**

It is also recommended that biomonitoring be continued on a biennial basis to track any changes in water quality in these watercourses resulting from activities at the Glanbrook Landfill.

Dave Kerr informed the committee that the naturalization work on the sulphur spring was recently completed. The vertical outflow pipe was removed and approximately 10 cubic meters of 6 inch stone added around the spring to provide a surface to disperse the flow. The City will continue to monitor the water quality in this area. Ron Wright provided some overview of the specific naturalization work that was completed.
9. New Business

Councillor Mitchell mentioned that at the Committee of the Whole meeting today there was a discussion on the possibility of waste from Toronto coming to other municipalities including Hamilton. He went on to say that our Council endorses advising the Province that Hamilton would not accept refuse from any other municipality into any public or private landfill in the City of Hamilton. Councillor Braden put a motion on the floor at the COW meeting to recover the costs for infrastructure from the City of Toronto if we were forced to take Toronto's garbage. The figure discussed at the meeting would be over $300/tonne to cover infrastructure replacement. Councillor Mitchell said at the COW meeting he would like to discuss the matter with the GLCC and suggested that the GLCC may want to consider providing a motion in response.

In response a written motion was prepared by Alan Freeman and it was moved by Andy Fevez and seconded by Brooke Ryan. The motion is as follows:

*Whereas the Glanbrook Landfill Committee has spent considerable time and effort to protect the integrity and foundation of the Glanbrook Landfill in the City of Hamilton.*

*Whereas the Glanbrook Landfill Committee has previously established a policy of NO Landfill waste from outside the City of Hamilton is permitted to be deposited in the Glanbrook Landfill.*

*Therefore the Glanbrook Landfill Committee once again re-affirms the previous policy of NO waste from outside the City of Hamilton be permitted in the Glanbrook Landfill.*

The motion was carried.

Beth Goodger informed the committee that if the US passes legislation to close the border Toronto has a grace period of 90 days before the border shuts down. She also stated that the Minister of the Environment could issue emergency approvals for Glanbrook (as well as other municipalities including Halton) to take Toronto's garbage. However, the Minister can only force municipal landfills to take Toronto's garbage - not private landfills such as Walker Brothers or Taro.

Councillor Mitchell informed the GLCC that he is the chair of the Hamilton Renewable Power corporation and will be looking at recovering energy from landfill gas.

Member of the public, Sheila May mentioned she was very impressed with the annual monitoring report that the City prepared and agreed with everything in the report except the conclusions that agricultural sources provided input to background levels of contaminants in the area.

Ron Wright provided a brief overview of the daily cover material presently being used and informed the GLCC that the wood chips being used for daily cover were monitored for quality. Sheila May asked if we were allowed to import clay as cover. Craig responded by saying that we did amend the certificate to allow clay and that the GLCC was actively involved in the process.
ITEM

Alan Freeman discussed a letter that was recently sent to the MOE by the City and titled Application for Approval of Waste Disposal Site, Glanbrook Landfill (C of A no. 130604) Updated Design and Operations, MOE Reference Number 0919-6EEJM8. Alan was copied as Chair of the GLCC. Alan had some concern regarding one of the City's recommendations in the letter, specifically the third last paragraph on page 2 which states:

"Although it is recognized that under normal operating conditions curbside collection vehicles do not go directly to the landfill and by-pass the transfer stations it is important that the C of A be flexible enough to allow an alteration or deviation to normal operating practices such as this to accommodate emergency and or special circumstances which do arise on an infrequent basis. We recommend that the C of A be clarified to allow these emergency situations and or special circumstances where prior notification is provided to the local District Manager of the Ministry of the Environment".

In response to Alan Freeman's concerns Craig Murdoch replied that the purpose of keeping the Certificate of Approval flexible was to allow the City to address an emergency situation without threat of violation. Craig mentioned that bulk pickup would no longer be conducted through bulk collection days but rather call in service which will even out the large increases seen during traditional bulk events. Alan stated that he is opposed to the request made in the above mentioned letter. Craig responded by saying that the MOE will have record of his opposition through these minutes and be aware of the GLCC's concerns.

NEXT MEETING – February 27th, 2006

Minutes prepared by David Kerr