City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, September 20th, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Room 110, Hamilton City Hall

Present: David Hart Dyke Mary Lou Dickson Laurie Nielsen
Michael Caruso Linda Hughes Angela Pastorius
Peter Hutton Ron Joice Joel Begin
Dorienne Cushman

Regrets: Rena Marie Cornelius

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Anne Winning, Supervisor, Policy and Planning, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Colleen Brakewell, Policy Analyst, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Tim Jessop, Liberty Energy
Donna Robinson, Public
K. Johnston, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from August 16th, 2006

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the August 16th, 2006 meeting.

A request was made that the minutes be corrected as follows:

Item 2 - New Member Appointments

The following statement to be changed in the minutes to read “The chair requested a motion to go in camera…”.

A request was made to change the minutes to reflect Peter Hutton as the one dissenter identified in the motion, not Dorienne Cushman.

Item 6b - Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Schedule

A request was made to include the following statement in the minutes “Staff also indicated that some individual consideration has been given to residents in certain circumstances to mitigate the problem”.

The minutes were approved as amended.
(Moved by Peter Hutton, seconded by Ron Joice)

2. Administrative Items

The matter of alternate meeting locations during City Hall renovations was discussed. Joel Begin asked if we could have a meeting at the new CCF. Staff stated that we need to find a site for the next meeting, so it might be an option. Mary Lou Dickson commented that the public will not be able to meet at either the CCF or the CRC. Laurie Nielsen thought the Spectator Auditorium is available for meetings while Dave Hart Dyke proposed the Sky Dragon Centre for meetings. It was decided to hold the next meeting at the Mountain CRC and to defer future meeting locations for the time being.

Discussion took place on whether the new members had been informed of their acceptance on the Task Force. Staff indicated that these appointments had not been approved by Steering Committee and Council. The new members will be invited to attend the October meeting.

3. Standing Agenda Items
a) Sub-Committee Updates

Joel Begin would like to meet with members of the Education committee in the next month to discuss the coming year.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

Mike Caruso discussed the Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee meeting of August 28th, 2006. There is the potential for electrical generation from landfill gas and staff is currently working on this project which would begin in 2007 and be completed no later than mid 2008. A temporary flare system has been installed at the Glanbrook landfill to burn off gas emanating from manhole covers. The leachate amounts are going down slowly at the landfill and more wells will be drilled. Brooke Ryan has left the WRTF committee; therefore Michael Caruso will be the representative for both committees for the remainder of the year. Mike Caruso reported that four (4) day collection and single stream recycling are being considered by the City. Pat Parker commented that single stream and four (4) day collection are being considered but have not been approved of as of yet.

4. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives

a) Waste Diversion Facilities Update (MRF Retrofit, CRC’s, CCF/Green Cart)

CCF

Staff reported that to date 13,250 tonnes of material had been delivered to CCF. The first load of compost has been sold to landscape markets.

MRF Retrofit & CRC’s

Construction of the CRC continues at Kenora. The delay caused by the storm water management issue with the Conservation Authority did not set back construction and the facility is still scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

Mary Lou Dickson commented that the CRC brochures did not convey the correct message to the public. Mary Lou stated that if the WRTF had reviewed the brochure before it was printed they might have caught several mistakes. Staff responded that they would take comments back to the City’s Outreach staff.

The MRF retrofit RFP will be completed this month. Blair Smith will be attending the next Task Force meeting to discuss it further.

b) Green Cart Program

The Green Cart Program is going well. The Leaf and Yard program will commence soon and staff expects that participation in the Green Cart program will increase with the leaf and yard waste season. Participation from residents is at about 50% and with the heat of summer over, participation should increase. The tonnage is good and the material is very clean and contaminant free and the finished product is marketable. Mary Lou Dickson commented that she puts out her small kitchen container for collection and has stickers to let people know that she composts too. Peter Hutton asked about the Green Cart students. Staff informed Task Force members that the students finished working as of September 1, 2006. Peter Hutton asked if staff had any ideas on why the other 50% had not been participating in the Green Cart program and if the students could have told us why? Staff responded that several reasons why people may not be participating in the program is that some residents are backyard composting, some find it difficult in the rural area to get the cart out to the end of long driveway, and with July and August being prime vacation months this might have affected the numbers as well. Staff reported that they are planning to do set-out and participation rates in November. Anne Winning stated that staff will be conducting more single family audits in the fall and will hopefully get some feedback from these. Dave Hart Dyke inquired about 65% and wondered how we are doing as a result of this. Staff reported that we still need 9 out of 10 households, or 90%, to participate in recycling and organics collection. Michael Caruso inquired as to why batteries are showing up in the compost. Staff does not know why but understands that other municipalities are finding them in their compost as well. Joel Begin wondered if it was confusion on the part of new ...
Canadians as he had a new Canadian student who thought that was where they went. Dave Hart Dyke suggested a graphical based communication piece for people who do not have English as a first language. Joel Begin asked about the set out rates as he does not set out his Green Cart every week so it might skew the results. Staff reported that this was not the case as set out is measured over a longer period of time.

Peter Hutton inquired about the Steering Committee minutes and noted that the tonnage of garbage was increasing. Staff reported that this was the case and it seems to be normal when organics collection is implemented. Staff felt that it will change over time but initially this is the case. Joel Begin advised that Mike Caruso had brought in an article regarding bi-weekly collection of recyclables and asked if the City would be considering this. Staff stated they would not be looking into this at this time as they would rather look at bi-weekly collection of garbage.

c) WastePlan

An article on biogas was distributed to the committee. WastePlan is quite inactive at this time. The stabilized landfill study is being done by Gartner Lee and should be completed later this year. As a result of the election, it will be March before a preferred disposal system is presented to the Joint Working Group. Dave Hart Dyke asked if Halton’s plans had anything to do with WastePlan. Staff reported that Halton’s announcements with regard to incineration have no bearing on WastePlan because the scope of the Terms of Reference does not allow for it. Michael Caruso indicated that he found it confusing regarding sewage sludge and incineration and asked for clarification. Staff reported that Halton stated in a newspaper article that they were interested in Hamilton and Niagara’s garbage, but noted there have been no discussions between Hamilton and Halton at this point. Staff reported that the City is in the process of developing a Biosolids Master Plan with regards to sewage sludge.

5. Staff Updates on Other Waste Issues

a) Clear Bags for Waste Collection

A presentation on the use of clear plastic bags for waste collection was distributed. Mary Lou Dickson likes the idea of clear plastic bags however has a problem with the clear plastic bags being made from virgin material. Doriennie Cushman said this needs to be researched but as of the last few years, only black plastic was made of recyclable material and all clear ones needed to be made out of virgin material. Dave Hart Dyke stated that Nova Scotia dealt with privacy issues for residents by allowing them to place private items in an opaque bag inside the clear bag. Staff stated they have a concern with promoting plastic and not allowing reusable containers. Doriennie Cushman wanted to know why people couldn’t use a reusable container. Staff stated that like the black garbage bag a rigid container can hide materials. In two municipalities in Nova Scotia there is a neighbourly rivalry but eventually both communities took to the program as there are no options other than the clear bag. Laurie Neilson stated that without the bag, garbage flew out of the container and she ended up needing to use bags. Peter Hutton commented that this is probably not a priority for Hamilton at this time. Mike Caruso felt there is a benefit to clear plastic bags and would like to see if Hazardous Waste is being thrown away in the garbage stream. Dave Hart Dyke asked if it is on the backburner as far as staff is concerned. Staff stated they would not be able to accommodate this in the work plan before 2008 and that we will be analyzing the success of the Green Cart program in 2007. Mary Lou Dickson asked about bag limits and when they will be reduced. Staff advised that they will be coming back to Council next spring with a report on the Green Cart and a bag limit recommendation. Mike Caruso felt that residents should be aware of the plan and that the City should communicate and advise residents as to what is coming. Staff informed the Task Force that the average quantity of garbage containers being set out now is fewer than two so they would be recommending a one container bag limit. Doriennie stated that Cape Breton had several ways to deal with the privacy issue, one being an opaque bag or one black bag. She asked if clear bags would cause hazardous waste to show up in the Green Cart. Staff informed the group that the work plan for the next couple of years is very full and that staff will look into clear plastic bags at a later date. Doriennie Cushman agreed that the focus needs to be on multi-res diversion and that plastic bags is not a priority at this time. Dave Hart Dyke will put together a motion for the committee. Peter Hutton stated that residents do not understand that
Household Hazardous Waste includes batteries and added that communication needs to be put in place to this regard.

b) Deposit Return on LCBO Glass

The province has moved forward with a program to have LCBO containers (glass, plastic and tetra paks) returned to the beer store. The deposit system will hopefully make it work and the effective date is February 1st, 2007. Importers will have to identify the bottles somehow. A question was asked as to what the impact will be on the WDO and Stewardship Ontario? Staff does not believe this will be a big issue. Peter Hutton stated that the union of the LCBO feel that the beer store won’t work as glass will still need to be accepted in the blue box for awhile. Staff would like to see a ban on glass packaging. Angela Pastorius asked about glass from wineries and if they will need to be handled as well. Staff stated that they are looking at alcoholic beverages that are sold in the province. Peter Hutton felt a lot of bottles will end up in the blue box regardless of the deposit. Mike Caruso asked if there is any indication that the province is moving towards a deposit return for other containers. Staff responded that they are not aware of anyone pursuing this. Dave Hart Dyke added that the LCBO is paying high rent in many locations and do not have the space to take back containers.

c) EA Reform Report

The EA Reform report was distributed and accompanies the letter from the Task Force. The report went to PWIE on September 11th, 2006. The Task Force letter and report compliment each other very well. The Task Force logo will be investigated at another time. Peter Hutton asked about item b) regarding biosolids. Staff responded that other departments in the City were consulted and it was agreed with Wastewater staff that this be included in the report. The report mentions the production of ethanol and biodiesel which Fleet staff provided comments on.

6. Other Business

Three newspaper articles were distributed to the Task Force advising of the purchase of the Green Lane landfill operation near St. Thomas by the City of Toronto. The landfill has capacity of about 20 years. The start up will dovetail with the end of Toronto’s garbage no longer being accepted by Michigan after 2010. This takes the pressure off municipalities with landfill capacity such as Hamilton and Halton. Mike Caruso stated that Toronto said they would handle their own waste by 2010 but this is obviously not the case. Dorienne Cushman agreed that it is good for Hamilton but Toronto got out of the EA process by purchasing a landfill. Toronto has extended their diversion target of 100% from 2010 to 2012. Dave Hart Dyke asked if Toronto would have any controls over what would be allowed in the landfill. Staff reported that they do not know, but questioned whether ICI and C&D waste would still be allowed at Green Lane.

Dorienne Cushman requested if staff could provide a list of which Task Force members are coming up for renewal for the next meeting. Mary Lou Dickson asked if new members receive a glossary of terms. Staff replied that they do.

Joel Begin asked about the article in the Spectator with regards to the Public School Board and recycling. Staff reported that the Chair of our Steering Committee met with the Chair of the Public School Board and did not have a successful discussion. Joel Begin informed the group that the Catholic Board is involved in Ecoschools and that St. Daniel School received the gold standard. Dave Hart Dyke offered to send a letter of congratulations from the Task Force.

Mary Lou Dickson requested that staff provide the cost of the annual report card. Staff will report back on this.

Peter Hutton stated that Councillor Collins was interested in a by-law to mandate recycling at the Public School Board. Peter Hutton attended the Labour Day parade and reported that he found no recycling or organics bins at the event. He suggested that the Task Force send a letter suggesting they offer recycling at this event. It was reported that Tim Horton’s has placed recyclable containers in all locations and offer a $0.10 reduction if you bring your own reusable cup.
Laurie Neilson discussed fluorescent tubes. She is concerned that fluorescent tubes are not being recycled.

Dave Hart Dyke asked that all applications make their way to the group. Staff stated that the advertising will indicate that applications by City employees or employees of contractors to the City for waste management services will not be accepted.

Mike Caruso asked to know where recycling items from the Transfer Station are taken. Staff will report back on this.

7. Public Discussion

Donna Robinson asked about multi-residential diversion. Staff reported that they are working on a diversion strategy for multi-residential facilities. The program is scheduled to be rolled out between 2007 and 2009 as the facilities are so diverse.

Laurie Nielsen asked to see the application form with the requested changes made.

Peter Hutton stated that the Spectator article was unfortunate. Staff reported that they have no control over what was written.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Community Recycling Centre.

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 Lisa Barroso, Debbie Gargano