Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
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 Lloyd Ferguson

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson:

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 Pearson:

The minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Jim Sweetman, representing the Waste Reduction Task Force was welcomed to the meeting.

Action items arising from the previous minutes were discussed as follows:

2.1 Committee had inquired about the current cost of the green cart distribution system compared to the proposed trailer system. The wages are included in the budget as the work is performed by work accommodation staff. Committee asked if an old cart is picked up when a new cart is delivered. Old carts are collected and sent for recycling. On an inquiry by Committee about the start date for the trailer, staff projects that it will be operational in about five (5) weeks and will advise on the start date.

2.2 Regarding an inquiry from Committee surrounding the identification of illegal apartments as a result of the One + One program, staff is working with the Tax Department and Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) section when the status of these properties is known. MLE staff indicates that the difficulty with this process is gaining access to these properties. It can take some time to establish the information through the Building and Tax divisions. The main concern around illegal conversions is with safety e.g., lack of smoke detectors, and not necessarily property taxes. Illegal conversions are a concern near McMaster and in the downtown areas of the City.
3. Waste Management Services for Festivals and Special Events

As a follow up to the referral of this item back to the SWMMP Steering Committee as part of the 2009 Budget Process (Item D, Budget Steering Committee 09-001), staff have been reviewing costs and options. The report dealt with the provision of full waste management service (garbage, recycling, and organics) to approximately forty (40) non-profit events throughout the city at an additional cost of $40,000. Given the diversity of waste collection methods from festivals, staff continue to recommend the full service approach to maximize diversion. Council approval of the process would be required in June 2009 in order for the services to be implemented. An option would be to delay implementation to 2011. In the interim, festivals will continue to be provided with recycling as has been done in previous years. The waste management service fees for festivals and events, which were approved by Council in 2009, can also be used should events wish to pay for organics collection.

The current waste removal and recycling practices at festivals were discussed. Most festivals do not receive waste collection from the City and this service is often donated by private contractors and this becomes a barrier to diversion. It was noted that the introduction of organics recycling will also require additional work on the part of the festivals to ensure that material collected isn’t contaminated. The upcoming Wing Fest was discussed as an example: volunteers would be needed at the receptacles to monitor the contamination and vendors need to utilize suitable containers which are accepted in our organics program. The Lobster Fests hosted by the Knights of Columbus and Ancaster Rotary Club are examples of extremely successful events that demonstrated that high diversion rates are possible. This was achieved by placing receptacles indoors, in a controlled area. Based on the discussions, the Committee agreed that more time is required to implement organic waste collection at special events. The Committee’s concerns are the implementation of programs that may not increase diversion, making the use of reusable/recyclable or compostable items by food vendors a requirement and how to continue to leverage private sector funding for garbage service that is currently being donated by private contractors.

Information will need to be sent to Festival and Special event organizers so that they can prepare for this initiative. Staff will begin discussing with festivals in 2009. Compostable products will need to be identified that are accepted in the City of Hamilton’s organics program.

Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information be received and that staff continue to review options to roll-out Waste Management Services for Festivals and Special Events in 2011, for consideration as part of the 2010 budget process.

CARRIED

4. Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection

Councillor Collins met with staff to discuss the available options. Further meetings are scheduled to discuss this matter. It was requested that this item be tabled to the next meeting when more information may become available.

Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information be received.

CARRIED

5. Collection Alternatives - Combined Collections Points (from Councillor Powers)

“Dundas in Transition” has put forth an idea to reduce garbage pick-up stops by having neighbours use a common waste collection area to set out their garbage. This would reduce the number of stops a garbage truck would need to make.

Staff explained that although the suggestion is appreciated, common collection areas tend to discourage diversion and promote a lack of individual responsibility. Issues concerning excess garbage and anonymity may arise from this type of undertaking. Staff added that with each collection vehicle making
between 600 and 850 stops per day, keeping track of inconspicuous common collection points would be arduous.

**Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:**

*That the information be received.*

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**6. Diversion Program Updates**

**6.1 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation**

Staff noted they have seen a reduction in total waste generated which is very encouraging. In Phase 3 (high-rise buildings), 17% of the buildings are complete which represents 16% or 6,600 units. The roll-out of Green Carts is moving along although it is proving to be difficult to contact property managers. It was projected that ten (10) buildings would be completed per week; but six (6) to eight (8) are actually being completed. Staff is attempting to handle more of the administrative duties in the office and hope this will focus student staff time to complete more roll-outs weekly.

There has been no additional set-out or participation data collected since January. The tonnages from the multi-residential sector cannot be isolated as the materials are collected by curbside trucks. Diversion tonnages on a whole have increased from 2008 and 2008 tonnages had increased significantly over the previous year. Overall tonnages are down, perhaps due to current economics.

The Municipal By-Law Enforcement section is working to amend the Property Standards By-Law 03-117 to reflect current waste management principles, facilitating the closure of garbage chutes. Garbage chutes are allowed to close as long as alternative collection service is provided.

**Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:**

*That the information be received.*

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**6.2 One + One Update**

The number of calls and OOPS stickers has decreased. 97% of households are in compliance with the two (2) container limit (one container plus one clear bag) while 85% are in compliance with a single container.

There has been over 1,100 special consideration applications with approval for 425 medical situations, 99 families with three (3) or more children under five (5), 34 agricultural provisions, and 5 residential day care approvals. Calls about special considerations have decreased. It was brought to staffs attention that the collection operators may need to be reminded about leaving a clear plastic bag at the curbside if it contains divertible waste and there are no efforts to participate in diversion programs. Staff will follow up on this.

The WRTF representative indicated that the public can relate to the One + One advertising campaign since it illustrates real life solutions/suggestions to solve a problem which goes beyond just telling someone to do something. Committee suggested utilizing this advertising on the Hamilton buses. Staff will follow up on the suggestion.

**Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:**

*That the information be received.*

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**7. Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) Update**

The WRTF revised Terms of Reference (TOR) was presented to the Committee for approval. The items are minor in nature however allow for the addition of a member from the Clean City Liaison Committee, the progression of Chair positions, e.g. Vice-Chair to Chair, clarification around the approval of new members and ensures that all incoming members are allowed to serve for three (3) years.
There was a question about the term of the WRTF members being the same as Council however there is no relevance and the three (3) year term provides more options for continuous replacement.

**Moved by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Collins:**

> That the Solid Waste Management Master Plan Steering Committee approve the amendments to the WRTF Terms of Reference.

**CARRIED**

Staff noted that an Information Report would be submitted to Public Works Committee on June 15, 2009 to accompany the minutes of the WRTF meeting and this Steering Committee meeting.

The WRTF representative discussed the Committee’s support of the overall principals of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility and Canada-Wide Action Strategy for Sustainable Packaging papers. The WRTF supports the idea of consistent recycling programs nation wide, and is against anything that would terminate curbside collection and does not agree with giving small producers a break. The WRTF is in support of having the consumer be fully educated. A motion from the WRTF was addressed in Report PW09040 that went to Public Works Committee on May 4 and will go to Council tonight.

**Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:**

> That the information be received.

**CARRIED**

**8. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update**

A staff report regarding the two (2) CCME discussion papers will be on the Council Agenda this evening.(May 13, 2009) following a recommendation from the Public Works Committee on May 4, 2009.

Staff is reviewing the current Blue Box Program Plan Review Report and Recommendations submitted by Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) to the Minister of the Environment in April 2009 in preparation for the posting of the actual plan on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry. Staff will continue to express concerns about the impacts of plan changes on the curbside blue box program, outreach and the integrated waste management system.

Concerning the WEEE program plan, Phase 2 comments have been submitted. Staff continues to have concerns about contractual issues related to the program and has not registered yet. Staff submitted comments electronically on May 7, 2009.

Concerning the MHSW program, Phases 1, 2 and 3 are now combined and being implemented simultaneously. This program will be 100% funded by Stewardship Ontario. There are some exemption issues to be addressed around specific products in aerosol cans being classified as MHSW, for example hair product containers would be considered to be a MHSW unless exempted. Pesticides are included as MHSW however since these products have been banned provincially there is no steward to represent these products. Staff cautioned that consumers need to take note of fees that may be added to purchases for designated materials, to ensure that the vendor is registered as a steward. Reports will be brought forward through Public Works Committee as time permits; however the timelines for commenting often don’t facilitate the report cycle.

**Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:**

> That the information be received.

**CARRIED**

**9. Operations Update**

**9.1 Transfer Station/CRC Spring Rush**

The spring rush has been taking place for the past month at all of the CRCs, with the Mountain CRC being the busiest. There has been a yearly spring rush for the past 28 years, and the early spring
brought the rush on a month earlier than last year. Police and additional staff were on hand at the Mountain CRC to answer questions and direct traffic. Saturdays and Mondays tend to be the busiest days and staff advise residents to avoid line ups by visiting on other days of the week or by using the Dundas or Kenora CRCs which experience much lighter traffic. Additionally, activity does tend to be lighter between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. There has only been one weekend when the line up was a one (1) hour wait. Staff has also been tracking site usage and car counts have not increased with the implementation of the One + One program, in fact the number of cars visiting the sites this year is down from last year.

This past weekend’s compost giveaway was a success. Despite the rain and windy weather very little compost was left at both sites. Two (2) staff members plus one volunteer from the food bank were on hand at each location. Staff will report back next month on all events.

Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information be received.

CARRIED

10. Multi-Year Work Plan

This document was last brought before the Committee last September and a revised plan was distributed. The main revisions were the following:

- The Collection Pilot has been removed from the work plan;
- The Long Term Disposal Options has been replaced with Alternative Disposal Options and this includes the current integration study with Hamilton Utilities Corporation;
- The Glass Processing Contact will expire in 2015 (a year later) because of the delay in the contract start-up with Unical.

Some of the highlights of the plan were discussed:

- The Pay As You Throw (PAYT) review was directed by Council for this year and work has been initiated in a joint project with Niagara Region;
- The main objective for 2009 will be the completion of the organics roll-out to multi-residential buildings. The organics roll-out to commercial properties will follow after this;
- The SWMMP will be updated. Based on our accomplishments and the variety of changes and issues around waste management policies and practices, it is appropriate to commence the review this year for completion in 2011. This will help to formulate future capital budgets.

Committee inquired about Green Carts for schools. Staff responded that we do not currently accommodate those requests and would require the development of a plan in cooperation with the school boards to implement. The Public School Board has implemented their own recycling program and there are blue boxes at all schools. The City provides recycling services for the Separate School Board.

Moved by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information be received.

CARRIED

11. Status of Solid Waste Management Master Plan, Options for Increasing Diversion and Landfill Capacity (PW07151a)

Staff will be reporting back to Public Works Committee regarding the two (2) temporary Customer Service Coordinator (CSC) positions that were approved by Council in 2007 to continue for an additional 18 months as part of Report PW07151a. As part of the Council Direction, staff are to report back on the future need of the positions.

There are two (2) CSC’s for A zones and two (2) for B zones. The two (2) temporary positions were introduced in 2006 as part of the Green Cart roll-out with an initial duration of 24 months. The positions were extended in 2007 and continue to be necessary for customer service follow up as an ongoing requirement.
There are about 116,000 Hansen entries concerning Waste Management services per year. 54,000 of these come to the Waste Management office. Approximately 20% or 11,000 of these require a site visit which may entail providing the resident with instruction, delivering literature, taking material that is left curbside with assurance from the resident of future compliance. Escalated calls are subdued/resolved by the Coordinators.

Staff is proposing that these two (2) positions be made permanent. This would not represent a staffing or budget increase since these two (2) positions are currently included in complement approved as part of the budget process. The cost is about $130,000.00 per year. The additional CSCs will continue to be needed for the implementation of the one (1) container garbage limit (2010) and the completion of the multi-res organic program. These positions will end in October 2009 however funding is available as per the budget until the end of the year. This issue will be taken to Public Works Committee on June 15, 2009. The Committee indicated their concern of how the request will fit with the 2010 budget and felt that the matter should be discussed at Public Works Committee. Staff was asked to look at options of continuing the positions on a temporary basis.

Moved by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Collins:

That the information be received.

CARRIED

12. Research and Development - Partnership with McMaster University

The Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS) Accelerate program links businesses with Universities throughout Canada to carry out short term (4 month) research projects. Graduate students participate in these programs. The cost is shared equally between the business, in this case the City, and MITACS with a federal/provincial monetary split. The Waste Management Division has contracted for two (2) students to do the research on public policy for the elimination of diaper disposal in landfill and technologies for the elimination of single use diapers, recycling, composting - feedstock for fuel.

13. Other Business

Committee would like an update on the Organic and Recycling processing capacity that is available.

Committee asked about the current prices for recycled commodities. Staff answered that fibre prices are up by about $7.00 per tonne to approximately $52.00 per tonne however an increase up to $105.00 per tonne is needed to see a gain. Aluminium is also up slightly while all other commodities have moved slightly down in price. Fibre accounts for approximately 70% of what is processed.

A public meeting concerning the Official Plan policies and Zoning By-Law provisions for waste management facilities is scheduled for the June 2, 2009 meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

Next Friday, May 22, 2009 is the Open House for the Energy to Waste facility at the Glanbrook Landfill.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on June 10, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Room 202, at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Motion by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Collins:

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, Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Collections, Waste Management Division