M I N U T E S
1-2007
JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING
Thursday, February 22, 2007
9:00 a.m. – Noon
City of Hamilton Central Composting Facility
1579 Burlington Street East, Hamilton

Attendance:

Hamilton Contingent:
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor Margaret McCarthy
Councillor David Mitchell
Councillor Russ Powers
David Hart Dyke, Chairperson, Waste Reduction Task Force
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Public Works Department
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department
Wendy Venance, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department
Natasha Di Cecca, Student

Niagara Contingent:
Councillor Brian Baty
Councillor Gary Burroughs
Councillor Judy Casselman
Councillor Damian Goulbourne
Barry Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services, Public Works Department
Lydia Torbicki, Manager, Waste Policy & Planning, Waste Management Services, Public Works
Cheryl Crawley, Waste Management Services Coordinator
Janet Pilon, Deputy Clerk

Consultants:
Janine Ralph, MacViro Consultants Inc.
Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Limited

Observers
Eric McGuinness, Hamilton Spectator
Councillor Gary Burroughs, one of the Co-Chairs of the Joint Working Group from the previous term, called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

   Moved by Councillor Ferguson  
   Seconded by Councillor Powers


   Carried.

2. Appointment of Co-Chairs

   Councillor Burroughs called for nominations for the positions of Co-Chairs for the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group 2006 – 2010 term, it was;

   Moved by Councillor Mitchell  
   Seconded by Councillor Ferguson


   Carried.

3. Appointment of Vice Co-Chairs

   The Joint Working Group decided by consensus that there was no need to have Vice Co-Chairs for the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group at this time.

4. Delegations

   None.

5. Approval of the Previous Minutes

   Moved by Mr. Hart Dyke  
   Seconded by Councillor Mitchell

   That the minutes of the October 12, 2006, Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group meeting, be approved as presented.

   Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

   The Joint Working Group was advised that the business to be dealt with from the minutes would be addressed throughout the meeting.
7. Walker Brothers Landfill Expansion Approval

The Joint Working Group was provided with an overview on the status of the Walker Brothers Landfill Site Expansion and provided with a copy of a News Release from the Ministry of the Environment entitled “Niagara Waste Systems Landfill Expansion Receives Environmental Approval” dated November 16, 2006.

The Walker Brothers Landfill Expansion has received approval to take up to 850,000 tonnes of waste per year, which will help to address the demand for disposal capacity for the industrial, commercial and institution (IC&I) sectors.

Environmental Assessment approval has occurred but planning and Environmental Protection Act approvals need to be completed.

Approximately 100,000 tonnes of the site’s approved capacity must be reserved annually for Niagara’s municipal waste. Niagara has the first right of refusal for slated capacity, but the consideration is that if Niagara does not use this capacity - then someone else will.

Currently staff are completing a full analysis of how the dedicated capacity can be utilized by Niagara in the short to long term.

Walker’s site could be used in the short or medium term i.e. between now and 2013, to:
- supplement Niagara’s current disposal situation by redirecting some portion of the Region’s tonnage to Walkers,
- serve as some type of contingency if one of the Region’s sites closed earlier than anticipated, etc.

Next steps include additional discussions with Walker. The economic implications of the use of the Walker’s site compared to energy from waste options must be analyzed. Some preliminary discussion focused on the potential costs involved.

8. Halton Region Energy From Waste Investigations

The Joint Working Group was provided with a copy of a media release from November 8, 2006 entitled “Moving forward on EFW as solution to Halton’s waste”, which details Halton Region’s plan to create an Energy From Waste (EFW) Facility following the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to five consulting firms, the successful firm will work with Halton Region’s staff on developing a business case to present to Regional Council in the spring of 2007.

Staff from Hamilton and Halton met to discuss Halton’s work in December and it was confirmed that there would be ongoing discussions as part of the process outlined in the media release. MacViro Consulting has been retained as the consultant for Halton through the RFP Process. Staff will continue to provide updates as information becomes available.
9. Project Overview - Presentation

The Joint Working Group was provided with an overview of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan, which is a joint initiative of the Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton, two municipalities working together to find a common solution for managing only those wastes that remain after waste diversion programs.

The Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan formally began in early 2004, the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment were submitted to the Ministry of Environment and the Minister for consideration February 2005, the Terms of Reference were approved by the Minister and the study process began, the study is now in stage three of a four stage process. During the third stage of the study, much of the research takes place and background documentation is developed.

The Joint Working Group was advised that following the receipt of the draft report recommending the preferred system, 2B – Thermal Treatment of Mixed Waste with Recovery of Energy and Materials from Ash/Char in December 2005, further public consultation took place from December 2005 to February 2006. In March 2006, the Joint Working Group requested additional information on stabilized landfill option and a review of the systems comparison based on the results.

Ms. Ralph clarified that although the December 2005 draft report includes only waste tonnage from the residential (5 units or less) sector, a more comprehensive future analysis will reflect the full quantity of residual waste being managed i.e. multi-residential, IC&I and municipal government waste.

The 2007 Work Plan and Budget and the projected 2008 activities were presented for information.

The Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan’s next steps entail the review of the stabilized landfill (tour, study and review of siting opportunities); sensitivity analysis on evaluation of preferred system (based on review of stabilized landfill options); reach a decision on a preferred alternative and commencement of the siting process, which will include further public consultation; a long list and short list of sites; identifying the preferred municipal site and vendor input.

Staff was requested to consult with their respective planning departments concerning Official Plan designations and policies that may restrict sites, such as Hamilton’s policies and plans for employment lands. Staff noted that both Niagara’s and Hamilton’s Planning Departments are on the consultation list for the study.

The Joint Working Group discussed the 106 comments that were received on the recommended preferred system. There was concern regarding the amount of input considering the total population of Hamilton and Niagara. The concern was that statistically this is not significant. Further, this is a small number compared to a population of almost a million residents.
The Joint Working Group discussed Durham’s situation and asked whether the costs of the disposal options were given to the public, during the polling process. Ms. Ralph advised that she was unsure whether the costs were a consideration, however, she would obtain that information for the Joint Working Group and report back. The Joint Working Group was also advised that Durham utilized a polling process to obtain public input; one question was asked during the polling of the public and that the question would be forwarded to the Joint Working Group members for their information.

10. Other Business

a) Business Types/Producer’s Responsibilities

Ms. Parker advised the Joint Working Group that she is in receipt of letters from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (AMRC) to the Ministry of the Environment respecting the types of businesses producing packaging and their responsibilities to the environment and that she will be producing a report.

The Joint Working Group asked that Niagara Region be provided with a copy of the report when it becomes available.

The Joint Working Group was apprised of Niagara’s ‘Niagara Week’ in Queen’s Park, where Niagara’s Regional Councillors discuss matters of concern with the various Ministers, if a resolution addressing the issue of responsibility could be prepared before April 2007, Niagara’s Councillors would be willing to bring it to the Ministers at the Niagara Week event.

A packaging workshop is scheduled to take place on March 12, 2007, and they have asked Niagara Region to participate and bring products that are considered unfriendly to the environment in their current state.

b) Standing Agenda Items

The Joint Working Group asked that staff ensure that updates from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE); Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) are a standing agenda item on the Joint Working Group’s agendas.

c) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Annual Environmental Mission

Councillor Powers advised the Joint Working Group that FCM’s annual Environmental Mission will be in Alberta this year in mid July, the tour will include wind/solar power, energy from waste.

Councillor Powers will forward the itinerary once it is available.
d) **Next Meeting**

The Joint Working Group agreed by consensus that the next meeting date will be determined later.

e) **Composting Programs**

The composting program that has been established in City of Hamilton was opened in June 2006 and the City of Hamilton is very pleased with the results. The facility at present is accepting composting material from York Region, as York’s processor in Quebec is unable to receive material at this time. The City of Hamilton’s facility with its reduced yard waste during the winter months, required more material and agreed to accept York Region’s material to fulfill its requirements.

The City of Hamilton’s facility however, does not accept plastic in their composting stream and the York Region’s program does, the presence of plastic in the material from York Region is proving to be a challenge for the facility at this time.

The City of Hamilton prior to implementation reviewed the options available and decided that ‘No Plastic’ was their preferred option, which has proved to be successful, although there is a yuk factor to be considered when using paper bags.

Niagara’s current composting facility is open windrow, which will be closing.

Niagara Region at the current time accepts plastics in their composting waste stream, staff will be monitoring the City of Hamilton’s program respecting ‘No Plastic’.

A question was posed regarding the status of partnerships that were originally discussed/envisioned between the two jurisdictions. Hamilton did not pursue use of the Niagara’s Recycling Facility primarily due to transportation costs. With respect to Hamilton’s new composting facility, Niagara’s organics tonnage could not be accepted due to facility throughput/sizing.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Co-Chairs.