MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #8-05
Tuesday, September 13th, 2005
Hamilton City Hall, Room 264
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Present:
Councillor Dave Braden
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Philip Bruckler
Councillor Chad Collins
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collections, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Project Manager, Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
Colleen Brakewell, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
David Hart Dyke, Chairperson, Waste Reduction Task Force

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Pearson, seconded by Councillor Bruckler). CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes from previous meetings, August 9th, 2005

The minutes were adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Pearson, seconded by Councillor Bruckler). CARRIED

3. Solid Waste Management By-Law Enforcement Strategy

Staff has been reviewing the set fines. The final version will be shorter. Staff has also been discussing, with the Tax department, the concept of an Award and Recognition program for residents who are diverting everything they can from the waste stream. The program would consist of a monthly random draw for the cost of waste management services ($120) to be credited to the resident’s tax bill. Staff will bring the By-law enforcement strategy back to the committee in October.

4. Budget Update

a) 2005 Budget Update & 2006 Budget Development

Beth Goodger presented to the Committee the 2005 Budget update and 2006 Budget development. The budget is a program based budget which relies heavily on contracted services (approximately 60%-70%). A major driver is tonnages and the budget is prepared on a cost per tonne basis. Councillor Pearson asked about Tim Horton’s cup recycling and staff informed her that the cups will be acceptable in the green cart next year and that the lids can go in the blue box now. The trend in the budget shows that program efficiencies are improving. The hope is that moving to a call-in bulk service will reduce the amounts going to landfill in 2006 and beyond. The 2005 bulk tonnage increased over 2004 and will increase further due to the additional bulk collection from the storm flooding. Councillor Pearson asked if one neighbour called in for bulk collection and another neighbour placed items out for pick up would the City pick those items up. Blair Smith confirmed that the City would pick the bulk items up. Councillor Collins requested tonnage information for scheduled bulk versus call-in bulk.
Blair Smith informed him that bulk tonnages would drop when call-in bulk is initiated. David Hart Dyke asked where bulk goes if we expect tonnages to drop? Blair Smith and Dennis Guy responded that we will be able to talk to people when they call in for bulk collection and direct them to reuse good quality items. Councillor Pearson stated that she attended a Pesticide seminar and the speaker told attendees not to use city compost in their gardens. Staff confirmed that the Ministry of the Environment sets standards for compost quality. Councillor Collins asked how the Green Cart costs are distributed. Blair Smith advised in the B Zones, Zone B1 and B3 are compensated by units served, and in Zone B2 compensation is by units served and tonnages. Costs are relatively the same as the truck has to go by the door anyway. Councillor Collins asked about the range of costs depending on the success of the Green Cart Program. Beth Goodger advised that staff would get back to committee with those numbers. Councillor Braden stated that they need to know that the assumptions are conservative and also be forewarned of any problems. Beth Goodger informed the group that there is a greater potential for landfill life due to redesign. Councillor Collins requested the updated chart showing landfill life. Beth Goodger responded that further analysis is required and staff will report back at an upcoming meeting. The presentation will explain the variables that affect landfill capacity and life. Councillor Braden stated that the conservative process is best for the political process and that he would like a discussion on this by the end of the calendar year. Staff informed the committee of a report that will be coming showing the budget impact of vacuum collection of leaf and yard waste. Staff also is looking for opportunities to reduce tax impacts.

5. Kenora Community Recycling Centre - In camera Discussion

Committee came out of camera and direction was given to continue with the issue of the tender for the Kenora Community Recycling Centre.

6. SWMMP Implementation

a) Green Cart Roll-Out Update

The Request For Proposals for the purchase and distribution of green carts is expected to be awarded by the end of September. The tender for the side loader trucks that the City is purchasing is also expected to be awarded by the end of September. Construction of the CCF is moving along and is currently on schedule and on budget. There may be some additional costs for the project relating to storm water ponds. The ponds serving the site have filled with silt over time. Staff are reviewing options and costs and will report back when the information is available. On September 23rd, there will be a partnership meeting on site at the CCF and the group would like to invite members of council and the steering committee to attend. Lunch and a tour of the building will be provided. Councillor Braden requested a vehicle leave from City Hall to the site. Dennis Guy gave an overview of the communication strategy outlined for the launch of the green cart. The strategy is based on the 4 most common barriers to using a green cart, which are cleaning, animals, odour and storage. Councillor Bruckler brought up the problem of winter cleaning of the green carts. Dennis Guy informed the committee that there would be seasonal tips in issues of Cart Smarts. David Hart Dyke questioned what is stopping people from going back to paper bags for groceries. Pat Parker informed the group that we are researching plastic bags. Dennis Guy also informed the committee that he is looking into using Smart Cars for the launch of the green carts. He will contact Chris Hill in Fleet in regards to this. Councillor Braden wants to see the green cart program brought to schools and is willing to go to schools to speak about it. Dennis Guy advised that the Hamilton Spectator’s Newspaper in Education Program will be utilized for Green Carts, similar to what was done with the recycling program in 2005.

7. SWMMP Implementation

a) Community Recycling Centres

The grand opening of the mountain CRC will take place on October 4th. David Hart Dyke asked
that the Waste Reduction Task Force be kept informed of the opening. Councillor Collins asked about battery recycling and was informed that Radio Shack will take batteries back. Craig Murdoch will confirm via email if this is the case as well as other options. David Hart Dyke would like to see battery recycling in multi-residential buildings. He will speak to his superintendent in regards to setting this up in his building.

b) Environment Day

The committee was notified that the next Environment Day will be held at the Centre Mall on Sunday, September 18th, from 9am to 3pm.

8. New Business

Councillor Braden informed the committee that while visiting the Dundas Transfer Station during the summer he experience a long waiting time. He asked that staff speak with the contractor and ensure that there is appropriate staff training.

Councillor Braden would also like some analysis done as part of the budget process on the consequences of energy prices rising on our costs and also on the effect on plastic and scrap metal commodity prices on the budget.

Councillor Braden also noted that he is affiliated with a group that would like to plant trees at all of our new facilities. He stated that it is very cost effective to green these sites using the group he is affiliated with. Craig Murdoch informed him that there is a landscaping plan for each of the facilities but additional trees would be welcomed. A list of potential locations will be provided.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11th, 2005, City Hall, Room 264

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th, 2005 in Hamilton City Hall, Room 264.