MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #03-10
Hamilton City Centre, 77 James Street North, Room 320B
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services
Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
Adam Watson, Policy/Program Analyst, Support Services

Regrets:
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division

1. Adoption of Agenda
The agenda was adopted as written.

Moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Pearson:
That the agenda be approved.
CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on January 12, 2010
Moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Pearson:
That the minutes be approved as presented.
CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes
There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Diversion Program Updates
4.1 Community Outreach: ONE Container Limit Communications Strategy
Staff outlined the procedure that will be followed for administering the ONE container limit.

Councillor Ferguson noted that he had not yet received the new waste collection calendar at his home.
Staff will follow-up to make sure all calendars were delivered in the rural areas.

Staff provided an update on the special considerations applications received to date and explained the nature of these applications. An increase in applications was seen since the mailing of the ONE container postcard in January. Agricultural applications have increased and the majority of the applications received have been for renewals from past applicants. To date there have been 1100 approved applications, with 700 of them for medical reasons. Staff noted that the rate of special
consideration applications is consistent with the 1-2% rate experienced by the City of Toronto and Peel Region when they introduced their garbage container limits.

4.2 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff provided an update on the multi-residential rollout and the work being done to complete the rollout with the remaining properties. Staff provided data on the number of buildings remaining and the reasons for them not accepting the program. Staff stated that all of these buildings have been contacted numerous times and staff was now planning on providing notice to these properties that they would no longer be receiving municipal waste collection service. It was requested that staff provide each Councillor a list of the remaining buildings in their ward as some Councillors may wish to contact these buildings themselves to see if they can address this issue with these properties. Staff will begin preparing these lists.

4.3 Other Diversion Options

Staff provided an update on the research into a drywall recycling program. It was stated that a pilot would be undertaken at Kenora on the transfer station side of the facility, which is the only location which currently has the space available to accommodate this type of program. Discussion took place into what types of drywall could be accepted and staff is looking into whether the processor can accept all types of materials, including painted and sheets with nails in them.

Staff gave an update on Frito-Lay’s new compostable Sun Chips bag being introduced into the Ontario market in late-March. Staff indicated that this product is not acceptable in the City Green Cart Program due to the thickness of the material which is incompatible with our processing technology as it takes too long to break down. It was also noted that the presence of one compostable potato chip bag may lead to resident confusion on whether regular plastic chip bags may also be acceptable in the Green Cart Program. Staff stated that they have met with representatives from Frito-Lay and that the meeting was useful in explaining the problems that Hamilton will face with the introduction of this product. Staff stated that an Info Update and PSA will be released to inform Council and the Public about these bags prior to the launch of the product on March 23. Discussion took place on possible efforts that could be undertaken to further address this issue, including the mailing out of a PSA postcard similar to the one done for the ONE Container Limit; the Waste Reduction Task Force undertaking a public education campaign; and a letter writing campaign to the company. Staff will be running trials at the CCF using 100 of these bags to get first-hand knowledge on how these products breakdown in our facility.

5. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

Staff provided an update on a current EBR posting on proposed reforms to the environmental approvals process which would streamline approvals for low-risk applications and allow the MOE to focus resources on C of A applications. The timeline for the commenting period does not allow for a Council Report to be prepared so staff will be commenting directly.

6. Waste Reduction Task Force Update (WRTF)

Jim Sweetman provided an update on the Waste Reduction Task Force. No formal meeting was scheduled for March due to the March Break. The WRTF is planning on undertaking a new project looking into the difference in recycling programs offered by the Public and Separate School Boards. Discussion took place on the differences in recycling programs and possible reasons for the resistance of the Public Board in operating these programs.

Councillor Ferguson left the meeting after Item 6. Staff continued to provide updates for Councillor Pearson although there wasn’t a quorum.

7. Operations Update

7.1 Disposal Activities

Staff provided an update on polystyrene processing and noted that the material is now being sent to Port Hope for processing, which is incurring a higher cost.
Staff provided an update on MRF revenues and noted that the basket of goods price has increased over the past few months. This increase in the basket of goods price has resulted in a decrease in the MRF revenue budget shortfall for 2009.

Staff noted that the new sign has been installed at the CCF and it looks good.

7.2. Collections Activities

Staff gave an update on the Youtube video of waste collectors disposing of the green cart and noted that a Level 4 policy review will be done with all of the collectors on proper collection procedures. Staff is also looking to provide a hook-type tool on all vehicles which would allow carts to be pulled out safely from the back of the collection trucks.

8. Outstanding Action Items

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

9. Other Business

Staff informed the Councillors of the upcoming Spring Bulb Show at the Gage Park Greenhouses. Councillor Pearson noted that her husband had a very positive experience visiting the Kenora CRC since the contract changeover in 2010.

An inquiry was made on the difference in bulk service provided at transfer stations, where there is a fee, and at the curbside, where it is free. Staff provided the rationale for having the fee as it acts as a means to encourage people to use the curbside program which reduces high volumes of residents visiting the transfer stations to dispose of their bulk goods.

Staff informed the Committee that they will provide an update 2009 leaf & yard annual report.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in room 320B of the Hamilton City Centre.

There being no further business, the Committee was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am

Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations, Operations and Waste Management Division
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs, Operations and Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Program Development, Operations and Waste Management Division