City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, February 21st, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton City Hall Room 110, 71 Main St. West, Hamilton

Present: Dorienne Cushman  Mary Lou Dickson  Laurie Nielsen
Jim Sweetman  David Hart Dyke  Dan Rodrigues
Tom Thompson  Betty Hay Lambeck  Peter Hutton
Karin Maja Larsen  Angela Pastorius  Anton Volcansek
Tom Thompson  Betty Hay Lambeck  Peter Hutton
Karin Maja Larsen  Angela Pastorius  Anton Volcansek

Regrets: Michael Caruso

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Policy & Planning, Waste Management Division
Donna Robinson, Public
Jeanne Mayo, Public
Dan Ricker, Public

The Task Force members and staff introduced themselves to those in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes from January 17th, 2007

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the January 17th meeting.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Angela Pastorius)

2. Administrative Items
   a) Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

Nominations were solicited for the Chair position. Peter Hutton nominated Laurie Nielsen, seconded by Dorienne Cushman. Dorienne Cushman had been previously nominated for the position at the January meeting. Laurie Nielsen nominated Peter Hutton, seconded by Dorienne Cushman. The Chair closed the nomination process. Laurie Nielsen was the sole person who accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as the Waste Reduction Task Force Chair.

Nominations were solicited for the Vice-Chair position. Dorienne Cushman nominated Dave Hart Dyke, seconded by Betty Hay Lambeck. Dorienne Cushman nominated Peter Hutton, seconded by Laurie Nielsen. Mary Lou Dickson nominated Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Angela Pastorius. The Chair closed the nominations for Vice-Chair. Dorienne Cushman declined her nomination. Peter Hutton and Dave Hart Dyke accepted their nominations. Laurie Nielsen assumed the Chair position and the candidates left the room for the duration of the Vice-chair election process.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on the candidates and their qualifications for the position.

An inquiry was made on the proxy vote submitted by Mike Caruso. It was advised that the vote was not valid as it selected members who did not choose to run for the available positions.

Dave Hart Dyke was elected to be the Waste Reduction Task Force Vice-Chair.

A point of order was made by Betty Hay Lambeck regarding the use of a show of hands to indicate voters’ decisions. It was requested that another form of voting be used in future elections.
The candidates were invited to return to the room. Dave Hart Dyke was informed of his selection as Vice-Chair. Staff indicated the Chair and Vice-Chair selections would still have to be confirmed through a report to Council.

b) N-H WastePlan, SWMMP Steering Committee and Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC) Delegates

Discussion took place on the need for a Task Force member to accompany the present WastePlan delegate to meetings and learn through experience. Background on the WastePlan delegate position was given, including the requirement that one (1) of the two (2) citizen representatives needs to be in attendance in order for quorum to be achieved. Information on the date and time of the meetings was outlined. A request for a volunteer was made by the Chair. Jim Sweetman stated he would be like to be the observer and would be willing to carry on in the position once Dave Hart Dyke leaves the Task Force.

Staff outlined the meeting times and dates for the SWMMP Steering Committee. Peter Hutton volunteered for the position. Mary Lou Dickson volunteered to be the alternate for this position.

It was discussed that the Task Force delegate to the Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee will be Mike Caruso for the duration of 2007.

c) Sub-Committee Memberships

A request was made for members to indicate their membership on one (1) of three (3) sub-committees. The sub-committee memberships are as follows:

Education and Communication: Angela Pastorius, Anton Volcansek and Karin Maja Larsen

Business and Government Liaison: Dorienne Cushman, Mary Lou Dickson, Laurie Nielsen

Multi-Residential, Commercial and Institutional Waste: Tom Thompson, Jim Sweetman, Dan Rodrigues and Peter Hutton

Staff requested that sub-committee members meet at 6:30 p.m. before the March meeting to plan the work of the sub-committees in 2007.

3. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Education & Communication Sub-Committee

No updates were provided from this sub-committee.

Business & Government

An update was provided on this sub-committee’s work. The plastic bag reduction presentation was set up for the David Suzuki talk on February 17th, 2007 at Hamilton Place.

It was announced that an article on reuse options for unwanted goods will run in the Hamilton Spectator in the next few weeks or in the fall. This article received input from Mary Lou Dickson on the various reuse programs offered in the City.

Multi-Residential, Institutional & Commercial Waste

No updates were provided from this sub-committee.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

No update was provided as the GLCC have not met since the last Waste Reduction Task Force meeting.

An inquiry was made into staff's thoughts on the public open houses that were held regarding the Glanbrook Landfill. Staff indicated that no one in attendance was present at these open houses, so no input could be provided.
4. SWMMP Initiatives

a) CCF/Green Cart Program

Staff provided an update on the operations of the CCF and the Green Cart Program. It was reported that organics tonnages are down due to the cold weather and the absence of leaf and yard waste with contamination levels still low. Also addressed was the release of the Waste Management Calendar which will occur next month and will contain messages about the Green Cart Program that should help remind residents and improve participation.

An update was provided on the planning of the Multi-Residential Organics Program. Staff hope to have a report to present for the next meeting. Staff noted that two (2) co-op students have been hired and will begin work in May on the Multi-Residential Organics Program.

An inquiry was made as to what should be done with green carts that have cracked. Staff indicated that residents with a broken cart should call 905-546-CITY for a replacement.

An inquiry was made as to the status of pet waste and sanitary product testing from organics collected in the pilot areas. Staff stated that the testing has been completed and it was determined that these materials will have to be removed from the acceptable items list for the pilot homes as the Composting facility cannot effectively handle these materials.

b) Recycling Program Review

Staff provided an update on the work currently being undertaken on the recycling program. The Activity Based Costing report was outlined and staff announced that the Single-Stream Processing RFP has just closed and will be evaluated in the coming weeks with a decision made in the next couple of months.

A question was asked on the accountability of collectors to service complaints if the service is provided privately or publicly. Staff requested that all complaints be called in, as the City does apply liquidated damages to the contractor where applicable. Pat Parker outlined the trends in types of complaints which have occurred over the past few years.

The 2006 waste diversion rate was requested. Staff indicated it is approximately 37% and is higher (over 40%) for the residential sector.

An inquiry was made as to whether staff can provide Task Force members with information on the twelve (12) different recycling collection and processing options being considered by the City. Staff indicated this will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Kenora CRC

An update was provided on the construction of the Kenora CRC. The facility should be open in the spring.

Staff outlined some of the community events that are being planned for the Reuse Centre at the Mountain CRC and compost giveaways at all of the Community Recycling Centre’s.

A request was made for staff to provide new Task Force members with a Waste Management acronym list. Staff will provide this at the next meeting.

d) WastePlan

Staff provided an update on WastePlan and indicated that a Niagara-Hamilton Joint Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at the CCF. Councillors McCarthy, Powers, Mitchell, Merulla and Ferguson are the Hamilton Councillor representatives on the Joint Working Group.

Staff indicated that the stabilized landfill study will be presented within the next few months. An overview of the technologies being considered under WastePlan was provided for the new members.

It was announced that an Environment Hamilton public meeting on Energy from Waste Technologies will take place on March 8th at the Freeway Café located at 333 King Street East.

An overview of the WastePlan process was provided for the new members and public attendees, including the public consultation process which will take place at a future date.
5. **Budget Presentation**

Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning made a presentation on the 2007 Waste Management Budget.

The main points of the presentation included:

- An outline of the major programs and facilities operated by the Waste Management Division;
- The major accomplishments of the Waste Management Division in 2006;
- The operating budget comparison from 2006 to 2007;
- The proposed fee for bulk collection ($10 per call);
- The proposed user fee increases - Transfer Station fees, minimum vehicle fee, white goods fee;
- Capital budget breakdown.

A question was asked as to whether the revenues received by the Waste Management Division are being included in these figures. Staff advised that the revenues were incorporated in the budget.

Discussion took place on the impact of reduced recycling commodities on waste management revenues and the resulting budget repercussions. Staff outlined some of the reasons related to the lower price received for fibres, including the issue of the lower prices paid due to the mixing of fibre materials with those single-stream recycling processors that have higher contamination rates.

An inquiry was made into the potential revenue from landfill gas power generation. Staff indicated these figures are not yet known.

A question was asked on the impact of the new LCBO deposit return program. Staff indicated it was too soon to tell and will depend on public participation in the program.

A question was asked on the possibility of a green roof at the MRF. Staff remarked that this was discussed at an earlier Task Force meeting and were uncertain about any recent decisions or work on the matter.

An inquiry was made into the impact of the LCBO program on waste diversion. Staff indicated there would be little impact on diversion as the City only manages small quantities of glass in the blue box program.

A comment was made that the reduction of WDO funding has had a strong negative impact on the budget. Staff indicated that the LCBO program will have no impact on WDO funding until after 2008, and it will have to be determined what glass still has to be managed through the blue box program after that time.

Discussion took place on the Capital budget, how it is formulated by the Waste Management Division and how comments on the budget presentation are made to Council. Staff commented on the budget process and the Public Works budget process as a whole.

Discussion took place on the need for the Task Force to organize a letter or budget delegation in order to state the need to not jeopardize the planned implementation of the SWMMP. Staff provided timelines for the submission of the letter in order for it to be considered Council.

The idea of a motion in support of the bulk fee was presented. Staff stated that it had already been included in the budget and can be included in the budget letter that is to be prepared by the Task Force.

A question was asked as to how residents will be able to submit payment of the bulk collection fee. Staff outlined the process. A comment was made on the inconvenience of having to pay this fee. Staff added that this fee will apply to all residences in the City. A statement was made on the difficulty of one (1) member to support user fees as they feel it discriminates against lower income residents.

A comment was made on the need to add socio-economic considerations in any motion which supports the introduction of any new user fees.

The following motion was put forward regarding the introduction of a $10 (ten) dollar fee for the collection of bulk waste:

> “With due consideration of people in difficult economic circumstances, the Task Force supports the proposed bulk collection fee as a way to help offset the cost of disposal and to promote diversion.”
The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

An inquiry was made into whether there is a fee if CFC containing items are taken to the CRC’s. Staff indicated there is no fee for this service.

An inquiry was made into the lack of recycling containers at Hamilton Place. Staff indicated that HECFI receives private collection which makes it difficult to introduce a Corporate Recycling Program at their facilities.

An inquiry was made into providing recycling collection service to the Public School board. Staff reported that the City has submitted a proposal to the Public School board. Discussion took place on the idea of Task Force members requesting their School Board trustees act on the existing recycling proposals put forward to them.

An inquiry was made into efforts of the City to promote waste reduction. Staff informed Task Force members that there is an AMO/AMRC paper currently being reviewed by staff and eventually Council on the promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility. It was noted that the Minister of Environment has recently sent letters to industry groups regarding the promotion of source reduction.

A comment was made that IKEA is now charging five (5) cents per bag at their check-outs.

A compliment was made on the use of milk cartons for this Task Force meeting instead of the small plastic cream containers normally used.

A member indicated that the school they taught at is forming a staff committee on school recycling and inquired if Waste Management staff could offer any assistance with this. Staff indicated they are referring these requests from specific schools back to the school board to make them aware of the initiatives desired to be undertaken by their employees and students.

7. Public Discussion

An inquiry was made into whether the costs for the City to collect waste disposed due to evictions from apartments are known, and whether there are opportunities for these items to be collected and reused. A member responded that building owners need to be made aware of the alternatives to dispose of goods from tenants moving out or being evicted. Other alternatives to make these items available for reuse were proposed by the public attendee.

A question was asked on the progress made on improving HHW disposal options for multi-residential residents. Staff indicated that nothing has been done on this yet. An inquiry was made into the possibility for diversion programs and the introduction of deposit return for these materials. Staff indicated that the province has implemented deposit return for LCBO and will hopefully expand these programs in the future.

An inquiry was made into the potential for paper cups to be recycled. Staff indicated that some coffee shops are starting to recycle the cups and they are accepted as part of the green cart program.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21st, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Dorienne Cushman and seconded by Angela Pastorius 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 Ida Bedioui, Lisa Barroso