M I N U T E S
JOINT WORKING GROUP PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Regional Niagara Headquarters
2201 St. David’s Road, Thorold

Attendance:

Hamilton Contingent:
Councillor Phil Bruckler
Councillor David Mitchell
Pat Parker, Manager Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division

Niagara Contingent:
Councillor Damian Goulbourne
Councillor Gord Harry
Councillor Tim Rigby
Councillor Dave Eke
Councillor Judy Casselman
Andrew Cavasin, Waste Management Advisory Committee
Albert Witteveen, Waste Management Advisory Committee
Barry Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services
Drew Berketo, Manager, Waste Policy & Planning, Waste Management Services
Cheryl Crawley, Program Manager, Waste Management Services
Kimberlee Lambe, Business Partner
Janet Pilon, Legislative Assistant, Clerk’s Department

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

Others:
Councillor Baty
Councillor Brock
Councillor Leavens
Councillor Timms
Doug Symington, Waste Management Advisory Committee
Councillor Damian Goulbourne, chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. **Welcome from Chair**

Councillor Damian Goulbourne welcomed those in attendance.

The members of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group introduced themselves.

Councillor Damian Goulbourne welcomed representatives of the Town of Pelham, City of Thorold, Township of West Lincoln and City of St. Catharines to the meeting.

2. **Overview of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan**

Mr. Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Limited noted that the draft report on the selection of the preferred disposal system presents the consultant’s conclusion on the preferred disposal system for public consultation and that there will be no decisions made on the preferred disposal system at this time until comments are received from interested public, agencies and other stakeholders.

The attendees were advised that following a thorough analysis the consultants recommend System 2B, the Thermal Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste and Recovery of Energy followed by Recovery of Materials from the Ash/Char, as the preferred disposal system for Niagara and Hamilton.

Mr. Plaice provided those in attendance with an overview of the Eight Step Evaluation Process: Selection of the Preferred Disposal System and the consultation process during the selection of the system. The consultants during their analysis reviewed high diversion programs around the world; examined the philosophy of a “Zero Waste” Society; considered potential for additional diversion for both Niagara and Hamilton, when in 2004 Niagara was at 46% with organics and Hamilton was at 28% with no organics diversion and concluded that there are no comparable municipalities who have achieved 65% diversion at this time and that a 65% diversion rate is a reasonable target for the planning of disposal needs, therefore, the projected waste quantities and composition was based on achieving 65% diversion.

Alternative Systems were then formulated to manage the remaining 35%. There were eight alternative systems evaluated through a “Net Affect Analysis”.

Mr. Plaice continued with an explanation of the evaluation methodology and results. The applied methodology utilized a qualitative approach that allows for a more reasoned explanation of decisions and results and avoids the debate that arises over the numbers and limits that define the data ranges/effects and better facilitates the review of the results and feedback by the general public compared to a quantitative approach. The consultants compared the Alternative Systems, through a “Pair Wise” comparison, which involved three levels of comparison of alternative systems in pairs. This approach allowed for due consideration to systems ranked between best and worst for comparative considerations. The detailed analysis of pairings can be found in Appendix 5 and 6 Table 8.1 which presents the comparison of the final pair of systems (the preferred landfill based system 1 and the preferred thermal based system 2B).

Those in attendance were directed to browse the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan at [www.wasteplan.ca](http://www.wasteplan.ca), for additional information.
3. **Outline of Procedure to Receive Delegations**

   Councillor Damian Goulbourne advised those in attendance that the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group would follow the list of registered speakers, followed by anyone in attendance interested in speaking.

   The speakers were advised that speeches would be limited to ten minutes.

4. **Registered Speakers:**

   - **Mr. John Jackson** on behalf of the Citizens’ Network on Waste Management (submission attached)
   - **Ms. Gracia Janes** on behalf of the St. Catharines and District Council of Women (submission attached)
   - **Ms. Liisa Harju, Ms. Marguerite Hanratty and Ms. Joan Ashcroft**
     Provide those in attendance with a showing of the video entitled “Nova Scotia: Community Responsibility in Action”.
   - **Dr. John Bacher** on behalf of the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (submission attached)
   - **Mr. David Griffiths** on behalf of Mel Swart Lake Gibson Park Group (submission attached)
   - **Mr. Patrick Crowe**, Niagara Falls
     Mr. Crowe thanked the Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton for putting in the time to complete the study, noting that nothing is perfect, we can continue to review it, but he believes in incineration and that if we do nothing we will have a big problem sooner than we think.
     Mr. Crowe noted that Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton could be the leaders because there are other communities just sitting down now to discuss this issue.
     Mr. Crowe advised the Joint Working Group that the recommended system is a positive step and that he would like to see sooner rather than later.

5. **Written Submissions**

   - **Mr. Richard Bell**, Fort Erie (submission attached)
     At Mr. Bell’s request his letter was read by staff.
   - **Mr. Peter and Evelyn Heida**, St. Catharines (submission attached)
     Their letter was received by staff to be considered in the final report.

6. **Speakers - Not Previously Registered** (without written submissions)

   - **Mr. Ken Durham**, West Lincoln
     Mr. Durham made reference to the comments he made at the October 11, 2005 Public Meeting, where he provided the Joint Working Group with the history of the PCBs that were found in an industrial park in the Township of West Lincoln and that the system selected to rid the industrial park of PCBs was incineration, which was successful in ridding the area of PCBs.
Mr. Durham noted that he was in agreement with the consultant’s recommendations for System 2B, noting that the recovery of energy should be utilized.

Mr. Durham advised the Joint Working Group that agricultural land should not be used for another landfill, as landfills affect the water tables, pollute the streams and the air and that industry should be responsible for reducing the amount of packaging they are including with products, as a means of reducing waste.

Mr. Durham read a paragraph from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Policy Handbook (Page 19) under Waste Management, Landfills, “OFA objects to the use of viable agricultural land for the disposal of municipal solid waste. OFA’s long-range goal is to eliminate the need for landfills altogether, while the immediate objective is to reduce reliance on them through effective programs in reuse, reduction and recycling. For those material that must be disposed of, OFA advocates incineration. We firmly believe that state-of-the-art incineration technology provides a viable alternative to landfills. However, incineration must be a component of an integrated waste management system that includes reuse, reduction and recycling.”

Mr. Durham, in closing, restated his endorsement for System 2B, which reduces our dependence on landfills.

Mr. Tony Mete, Welland

Mr. Mete advised those in attendance that he would recommend that the process be stopped.

Mr. Mete noted that proceeding with this initiative is against his rights and that Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton should continue with what Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton knows “landfills”.

7. Adjournment

Councillor Damian Goulbourne thanked everyone for taking an interest and for attending this evening’s Public Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.