MINUTES

SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #04-09
Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane
Room 203
Thursday, April 9, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Chad Collins
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented. (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on March 11, 2009

The minutes were approved as presented. (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED


Staff presented highlights of an Information Update to inform Council of the City’s Green Cart delivery services and the details of the revised distribution system for residents to acquire new or replacement Green Carts. The replacement system will be moving to a pick-up system at the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) to enable faster cart replacement and increase distribution efficiencies.

The Green Cart Program was rolled out City wide to residential properties in April 2006. Since that time, the Waste Management (WM) Division has handled requests for delivery of Green Carts to new properties and to new residents (resale home purchasers), as well as for the repair and replacement of broken and irreparable carts. In 2008, 5,031 Green Carts were delivered to new properties and new residents while 1,983 Green Carts were delivered as replacement carts. These duties have been handled through the WM Division by work accommodated staff. Two (2) staff members are currently making the deliveries.

A new initiative is being developed in cooperation with the Return to Work Services Section whereby work accommodated employees are provided short term (4 month) rotating work assignments in different areas of the organization where on-site job training and networking opportunities are provided. (“Work accommodation” staff may not return to their original position because of injury.) This initiative provides an opportunity for employees to gain the skills and confidence to apply to
postings and secure a funded full-time position within the organization. The program would last for about one (1) year. There is no budget impact as work accommodation staff is already being compensated for full time employee hours.

Staff is planning to amend the current delivery service by allowing residents to pick up a Green Cart at the CRCs. The WM Division will purchase a multi-use trailer with the main function as a mobile Green Cart distribution centre. Other functions include transporting recycling containers/Green Carts/waste containers to festivals and events. The Green Cart distribution centre would be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. several days each week and would attend one (1) of the three (3) CRCs every Saturday on a three (3) week rotation.

Residents calling in for a replacement Green Cart will first be advised of these pick-up locations. If a resident is unable to pick up a Green Cart, the delivery service will be offered. To receive a Green Cart, the broken one must be returned; otherwise a fee of $25.00 will be paid at the CRC Scalehouse. Residents arranging for cart delivery - without the exchange of a broken cart - would be required to pay the $25.00 fee at a Municipal Service Centre in advance of the cart delivery. This will cover approximately 50% of the cost of the Green Cart and its distribution. The fee for the Green Cart was approved by Council on December 10, 2008 (Item 2 of COW Report FCS08037).

Carts damaged during collection would be replaced for free. The operator would radio in that the cart had been damaged during collection. The City would arrange for delivery of a replacement cart to the address.

The Committee asked if there would still be door to door service. Staff responded that delivery service would be at the same level as Blue Box service, that is, limited to those who are unable to attend on their own. Carts are generally dropped off to new developments in bulk so that they may be handed out as homes are purchased.

Staff commented further that this is the first year that a fee for a Green Cart Replacement is indicated in the Waste Management Service Fee By-Law.

Since there is a space constraint at the Municipal Service Centres and Transfer Stations, utilizing the Community Recycling Centre locations is a viable option.

(Move to receive the information by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

4. Report on Canada Fibres Ltd. Compensation for LCBO Glass

Staff informed the Committee that a report will be coming forward to the Public Works Committee to address the Canada Fibres Ltd. (CFL) request for compensation as a result of a reduction in glass tonnages due to the Ontario Deposit Return Program (ODRP) implemented by the LCBO in February 2007. Hamilton has experienced an approximate 30% reduction of glass tonnage since the beginning of this program. Other municipalities have also seen a reduction in glass tonnages.

Staff has negotiated an agreement with CFL for annual compensation starting in 2008. The agreement stipulates that compensation received by CFL would be put back into the processing system for improvements. The removal of glass from the City’s recycling system has reduced costs for the City for processing, shipping and recycling of the glass. The report requests Committee and Council approval of the negotiated change in the compensation.

The Committee asked if there was savings to CFL. Staff answered yes there is a savings operationally since there is less maintenance on the container line and reduced costs associated with the handling and processing of glass. There are still fixed costs for operating the container processing line.

The Committee asked who owns the equipment. Staff advised that the City owns the container line. The fibre processing line belongs to CFL and they would be entitled to remove their equipment when their contract is finished.

(Move to receive the information by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED
5. Diversion Program Updates

5.1 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Green Cart delivery is now into Phase 3 of the roll-out which consists of the higher density high rise buildings. Staff distributed a summary explaining that Phase 1 is complete and that Phase 2 has a few outstanding difficult buildings left to address. These buildings have been set aside and will be addressed once the full roll-out is complete. Delivery in Zones A2 and A3 (Dundas and Waterdown) is now 72% complete. Delivery has commenced in Zone A1 (the downtown area). Phasing is linked to collection routes and scheduling. It is going quite well however in-building consultations have required some scheduling changes to accommodate the availability of apartment dwellers.

The Committee asked if there was any way to get a sense of the level of contamination and participation so that diversion levels can be monitored. Staff responded that some participation information is being generated and the quality of material can be monitored. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

(Move to receive the information by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

5.2 One + One Update

Staff reported that overall the implementation of the program is going well at the curb. Requests for Special Consideration that are not eligible include large families, households with multiple pets, single family residences with non-registered rental units, homes with in-law suites, multiple occupants living in the same home, museums with special events, two (2) children (only) under five (5) years old with one (1) child over five (5), families with teenagers and/or grandparents residing with them (extended families), families that baby sit their family members. Currently, there are 387 eligible Special Consideration properties: 64 are approved under the Family consideration, 16 are approved under the Agricultural provision, while the bulk of applications (307) have received Medical consideration.

Staff indicated that letters regarding the Agricultural provision will be sent to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, the Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers’ Federation of Ontario and the World Farmers Union.

The One + One campaign is continuing to be promoted through additional testimonials in print and cable TV advertising. The newest stories have a diverse point of view as a larger variety (age, gender, and ethnicity) of people sharing their stories, tips and tricks.

Compared with 2008, there appears to be a reduction in the amount of curbside garbage collected and an increase in source separate organics. The Committee commented that they tend only to see the negative statistics, e.g. the number of OOPS stickers used, and would like to receive some positive statistics as well such as the increase in Blue Box and Green Cart tonnages.

The Committee asked if information could be provided from the CRC as to whether there has been an increase in the amount of people coming to dispose of their own garbage at the CRC. Staff will provide information at the next meeting.

The Committee commented that it is important to flush out the illegally converted duplexes and triplexes and pass this information along to other departments for appropriate records and taxation. Staff answered that this type of information would be recorded in Hansen and could be available to other departments. The Committee reminded staff that the Building department records are in Amanda and would like it confirmed that this information is being communicated to the appropriate departments, as it is valuable information across the corporation.

Councillor Whitehead has introduced a notice concerning the One + One. The issue is to remove the requirement for the second container to be clear. Staff noted that this would require a change to the By-Law. Staff recommended that no changes be made at this time and that we work with those residents that are having problems. So far, the community as a whole is doing very well with this initiative. Staff will continue to report back on progress and any areas that require further attention.
6. Waste Reduction Task Force Update (WRTF)

Peter Hutton announced that this would be the last SWMMP Steering Committee meeting he will be attending. Jim Sweetman will be attending these meetings as the representative from the Waste Reduction Task Force. Jim is the past Chair for the WRTF and a Chemical Engineer now retired from Dow Chemical.

The last WRTF meeting consisted primarily of discussions around their Terms of Reference and updates to the Solid Waste Management By-Law 05-190. This coming meeting will focus on Energy-from-Waste, Extended Producer Responsibility and comments regarding the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) documents.

7. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

There are two (2) papers that have recently been released by the CCME for comment: “Towards a Proposed Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility” and “Towards a Proposed Canada-Wide Action Strategy for Sustainable Packaging”. Staff are preparing a report for to the May 4th Public Works Committee and are recommending both documents be supported. The Blue Box program is currently being reviewed by Waste Diversi on Ontario. Staff has participated in the public consultation process. The timing of any changes is unknown at this time.

Discussion continues with other municipalities concerning the next phase of the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) program plan. Currently, municipalities are at different stages with implementation through a standard agreement with schedules to address varying municipal programs.

Phase 1 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) program plan began April 1st, 2009. Municipalities are facing challenges in registering with the program due to storage and shipping requirements. The City of Hamilton has not registered for this program as we can not meet the requirements due to the configuration of the CRCs. The City also accepts a full range of electronics, beyond the Phase 1 materials. Some smaller municipalities did not offer electronic collection before this program was initiated and thus are able to implement programs based on the requirements.

Staff discussed that the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario has created a waste sub group to look at municipal solid waste issues. This waste sub group plans to work together and jointly report on issues such as the CCME papers, Blue Box Program funding as a result of lower commodity revenues and proposed changes to the Blue Box Program Plan transition to the private sector.

8. Operations Update

The Gas to Energy (GTE) facility at the Glanbrook Landfill (GLF) is working well and will generate between $200,000 and $300,000 of revenue for Hamilton Renewable Power (HRP) every month. This is meeting the revenue expectations that were estimated when the project was developed.

HRP and Waste Management staff is currently addressing a noise issue with the GTE facility at the GLF. Noise levels are meeting the day time limits but not the night-time limits. The low tones tend to travel further. Noise abatement measures are being installed and this should bring the levels down for full compliance.

On May 22, 2009, there will be an opening event for the GTE facility. The Ministry of Energy has been invited by the Mayor. This event is being hosted by HRP.

Because the new landfill contract has been awarded to the current contractor, Waste Management of Canada Corporation, the City and operator have the opportunity to bring some of the new contract equipment in early. One newly acquired piece of equipment is the compactor which is heavier and will provide better compaction. Later in the year, a new litter fencing system will be installed. As there
were clear advantages to the City, the contractor was permitted to supply the equipment prior to January 1, 2010.

A tender is going out next week for the renovation and repair of the Transfer Stations wall panels, tipping floors and change rooms. Funds for the work were approved in the 2009 Capital Budget and the work will ensure the facilities are in good condition when the new operating contract begins in January 2010. Each Transfer Station will need to be closed for approximately three (3) weeks to complete the work. The schedule will be in rotation so that only one (1) Transfer Station will close at a time. Facility users will be notified through posted signs as well as advertising.

Concerning recycling commodities, staff reported that while most recycled materials are moving to markets, the price of fibre and container commodities has increased slightly since the end of 2008. Staff will continue to report back on the recycling revenues over the few next months.

9. Outstanding Action Items

The two (2) items on the outstanding action items list related to larger Blue Boxes and waste diversion at festivals will be discussed at the May meeting.

The Committee expressed they would like to see the City of Hamilton Waste Management Division assist with the Winona Peach Festival, however, organizers need to use paper products and other materials (organic and recyclable) that are acceptable in our Blue Box and Green Cart programs.

10. Other Business

The compost giveaway locations are being confirmed. They will be held on three (3) Saturdays in May (May 9, 16, 23) at two (2) locations per day. Shovel your own will be offered only.

The movie “Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home” will be screened at the Hamilton Mountain Silver City on April 16th. Six hundred (600) students from eight (8) schools are registered to attend. Dan Rodrigues the Chair of the Waste Reduction Task Force will be attending.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Room 320B in the City Centre at 77 James Street North.

Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, Acting General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager, Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Collections, Waste Management Division