City of Hamilton
Public Works Department
WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MINUTES

Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

Monday, August 29, 2005
Glanbrook Landfill Meeting Room
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

CITY OF HAMILTON, WASTE MANAGEMENT
David Kerr, Supervisor of Landfills
Frank Falcone, Project Manager - Landfills

MEMBERS
Allan Freeman, Chair
Andy Fevez
Brooke Ryan (WRTF)
Councillor Dave Mitchell

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Joanne Placko (Resource)

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORP.
Ron Wright (Resource)
Paul Muldowney

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Sheila May, Lloyd Davies,

Regrets:

CITY OF HAMILTON, WASTE MANAGEMENT
Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal
Job Manning

MEMBER

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Annie Michaud (Resource)

Review Of Minutes from Previous Meeting
Minutes of May 30, 2005 were approved as moved by Brooke and seconded by Andy

AGENDA

1. Stage 3/C of A Update

   Jim McLaughlin from Dillon Consulting mentioned that there was no major changes in Stage 3 re-design since his last presentation to the GLCC in November 2004. However, Dillon did change the numbering of the cells to lettering to avoid any confusion with similar numbering in stage 4. A copy of the stage 3 lettering of the cells (Cells A-G) was then passed around and shown to members.
Joanne Placko mentioned that the application for Stage 3 update/amendment was currently being reviewed by the Ministry’s Approvals branch.

2. **April Bulk Event – Legal Interpretation**

- Dave mentioned that our legal services have apologized that they have not had a chance to provide their opinion on the April bulk event as they have been backlogged with legal paperwork from the recent flood event. As soon as we receive our legal Services’ opinion we will provide communication to the GLCC. Sheila May asked if the City would have some back-up plan for the next bulk event to ensure all trucks will be loaded with bulk at the transfer station before they come to landfill. Dave Kerr confirmed with Andy Fevez that a situation where there was direct haulage of bulk from the curbside to the landfill would not re-occur during the next event.

- Brooke wondered if there was another bulk event as a result of the flood. Dave Kerr mentioned that there was a specific bulk event for the residents that had possessions that had to be thrown out as a result of the flood. Paul Muldowney mentioned that bulk items from the flood are presently being picked up and taken to the transfer stations. Paul said there should be no problems in handling them. Dave Kerr feels that volumes of these bulk items are not anywhere near those of one of the normally scheduled bulk events.

3. **Bio-Monitoring of Buckhorn Creek**

- Annie Michaud provided her regrets for being unable to attend the meeting and requested that her presentation of the report be deferred to the next GLCC meeting.

4. **Gull Control**

- Dave Kerr handed out a draft plan of the gull control program for the landfill and provided a brief summary of the plan to the members. The plan was prepared by City of Hamilton, Waste Management staff in consultation with a number of regulatory agencies including the Niagara Conservation Authority, The Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada, and Waste Management of Canada Corporation. Dave gave a quick summary of the previous history of gull control at the site and mentioned that pyrotechnic devices had been discontinued because of the noise and complaints by residents and that culling had not been recently undertaken since it is a controversial method. The falconer was also recently discontinued because of the concern voiced by Sheila May and other neighbors of the landfill that the predator birds were scaring gulls from the landfill site onto neighbors’ properties.

- Based on the City’s research during the preparation of the gull control program as well as advice by others it was determined that no single method of gull control was 100% effective and that maximum success is achieved when a series of different methods are employed (and times of employing the methods are constantly changing). The research indicates that an intensive gull control program (where gull control deterrents are employed daily) is necessary for a couple of weeks in order to remove gulls from an area. To ensure the gulls do not return to an area, a less intensive
long term monitoring program is needed to be employed after completion of the short term intensive control program. Dave Kerr provided an overview of the recommended 2-4 week intensive short term program that the City is recommending for the site. The program involves on site culling (WMCC to obtain a permit to kill 5-10 birds/week), a falconer (3 days per week), and pyrotechnics and propane cannon. The long term program that the City is recommending for the site involves a falconer (at less frequent visits), a green cart program to lessen the organic food source at the landfill, intermittent culling and periodic use of audible deterrents. For both the short term and long term program the gull deterrents should be used on the landfill property but not necessarily confined to the waste fill area. The gull control program should also target the stage 3 loafing area and perimeter roads.

- Andy suggested that we re-establish contact with the Port Authority and ask them to step up the seagull egg oiling program. Dave Kerr mentioned that we would be meeting with the Port Authority at the next Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting and will ask them at that time. The Wildlife Advisory Committee meets on November 15 and is made up of local stakeholders in the Hamilton Harbour watershed including the City of Hamilton, the Port Authority, Hamilton Conservation Authority and Halton Conservation Authority. The mandate of the committee is to look at controlling nuisance wildlife in the area. The City of Hamilton Waste Management division has asked to be part of this committee in hopes of bringing concerns from the landfill and GLCC to the committee as well as having a consistent approach across the city to deal with gulls. Andy Fevez asked that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority be invited to sit on this committee as well.

- Sheila May reported that some of the neighbors did not like the pyrotechnics and that she would like to see something else instead. She then suggested that the permit to kill is the best route to go for gull control.

- Dave Kerr informed the committee the program is presently in draft and will be finalizing it but re-iterated the importance of the intensive short term program and that although it may not be to everyone’s perfect solution and some methods controversial it should produce good results in the long term. Andy re-iterated the importance of oiling eggs for proper gull control and letting the federal government know that it is their responsibility.

- Brooke advised that grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula use bangers during regular hours for gull control and it seems to work.

- Andy Fevez made a motion that the City recommend to the port authority they step up their gull control program. The motion was seconded in by Brooke and carried.

- In response to this staff direction Dave Kerr mentioned that the City would send a letter to the Port Authority after the meeting of the Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting on November 15th.

- Councillor Mitchell made a motion that the City requests the Canadian Wildlife Services to increase the number of gulls that can be killed per week in problem areas. Alan Freemen seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

- Based on this staff direction Dave Kerr will request that WMCC make this request to Canadian Wildlife Services.
Dave Kerr asked that the committee adopt the short term recommendations as outlined in the draft gull control program. Andy Fevez made a motion that the City and the landfill operator WMCC implement the short term recommendations for gull control as outlined in the proposed program. Brooke seconded the motion and it was carried.

Paul Muldowney re-iterated the importance of the gull control experts recommending a variety of activities and that this approach has worked at other WMCC landfills.

Sheila May said the noisemakers did not bother her but they bothered Gary Birch, a local resident. Andy suggested that Gary Birch’s dog could be left inside when using noise makers. Ron Wright suggested that the landfill mound has changed shape and form significantly since the last time WMCC had used pyrotechnics and the landfill would likely provide more of a barrier to noise and not be as bad as it might have been when Gary Birch first complained several years ago.

Dave Kerr suggested that the short term options will be in place by the end of October and will go until the end of the year.

Alan suggested a letter be sent to people in the neighborhood letting them know about the start-up of the gull control program. Andy made a motion to go ahead with implementation of the short term options conditional on discussion and negotiating methods with the landowners. The motion was seconded by Brooke and carried.

5. Glanbrook Annual Monitoring Report

Dave Kerr presented the annual monitoring report of the Glanbrook landfill to the GLCC. Waste Management staff has acquired more technical expertise in the hiring of the two project Managers and have prepared the report internally. The data supports the fact that surface water is not contaminated around the site in Buckhorn Creek and the Welland River, although there is some shallow contamination in the groundwater adjacent to the waste fill any contamination is contained on-site and is not a threat to any offsite resources. Some of the shallow groundwater around the site has been improving in water quality. Deep overburden and bedrock groundwater quality shows no indication of leachate contamination which supports the fact that the leachate collection system is working as well as the leachate mound going down in height. The report recommends that monitoring be continued. Councillor Mitchell suggested that an executive summary be done in the future and be provided to all members.

There was a budget related question from a member of the public regarding a Welland River contamination study that was undertaken and the City of Hamilton has taken $65,000 out of Glanbrook reserves for this. One of the members of the public asked why the money was taken from the Glanbrook shares and not the whole City. Dave Kerr will try to find out the answer and get back to the committee. Councillor Mitchell recommended that if this was the case then the money should be put back into the reserve. Councillor Mitchell mentioned that prior to amalgamation the community was reimbursed for having a waste management facility in their neighborhood and that this changed after amalgamation. Apparently Joe Spiler quoted $65,000 in the audit report.
Alan Freemen recommended that in the future the annual report not be couriered and be hand delivered to save costs.

6. Update on Roll-Out of Green Cart Program

Dave Kerr provided updates for June and July and passed them out to the members. In summary, the Central Composting Facility is on budget and on track. Councilor Mitchell felt the Green Cart program makes sense in the urban areas but in rural areas he was interested to know what the pilot scale studies in Flamborough indicated and what was the basis for the decision to have green carts in the rural community over backyard composters as the community has voiced concerns with truck traffic going up and down the roads picking up green carts. Dave Kerr will provide the information at the next meeting.

7. Status of Leachate Mound

Dave Kerr distributed cross sections of the landfill showing the leachate mound on February 23, 2005 and July 19, 2005. Close to the lateral leachate collection pipes the leachate level is lowest confirming the leachate collection system is working as expected. In time the leachate mound will continue to drop. A significant decline in leachate level on the order of 7m is noted from February 23rd to July 19th, 2005 in the area of LM1. Dave Kerr mentioned this drop was likely due to the recent hydraulic connection installed in the area. Brooke questioned why a leachate drop was not noted at LM4. Dave replied there is likely some trapped water in cells that were not connected to the trenches and could be perched. Dave explained the complexity of water infiltration and flow within a landfill such as Glanbrook where clay was extensively used for daily cover. However, the leachate collector acts as a good drain in most areas of the landfill and in other areas where the level has not dropped very much. It may just take longer such as around LM4. These phenomena may be localized to LM4; however, we will continue to monitor leachate levels in the area. The Leachate level is about 50ft high at LM4. Some members of the public asked if this was legal. Dave Kerr replied the important thing is that the leachate is being collected and not going off-site.

Dave Kerr reported that the City has been able to get approximately 15,000 cu. meters of clay for the site to use as cover and minimize leachate generation and reduce the leachate mound.

In most places the leachate levels are less than 20 ft in height or less.
8. **Waste Reduction Task Force Update**

- Brook Ryan provided an update. The City has hired Recyclable Materials Marketing (ReMM) to improve the types of materials to be recycled and find new markets. Brooke passed out a brochure. An energy generation plant has been proposed which uses waste wood to provide energy. This has no effect on the solid waste master plan; however, the committee will keep monitoring.

- The Mountain CRC’s grand opening is scheduled for September 14th. By April 2006 all CRC’s will be up and running. The new by-law had a lot of comments from the public regarding recommendations that garbage collectors receive better training. The composting plant construction is on schedule. Brooke provided additional details on proposed fines in by-law enforcement and implications to future budgeting. In response to public input the waste management by-law will be revised and the City will be presenting revised by-laws to council. Approximately $110 of every homeowner’s tax bill goes toward Waste Management services and there are poverty advocates that are opposed. These advocates will have a chance to speak to the issue on September 21st at the Dundas Town Hall.

9. **Central Composting Facility**

- Dave Kerr provided a quick summary of the project and shared there is a new web-site on the composting facility that the public can view www.hamiltoncompost.ca. The project is on schedule and on budget and will hopefully be open and operating in February of 2006

10. **New Business**

    **Building Addition**

- Andy Fevez inquired about the cost of the building. Dave Kerr answered that it was $202,529.880 and also under budget. Dave provided an overview of what was included i.e. meeting room, washroom and office. There were some concerns with the footings that caused extra efforts/costs for engineering. The project was tendered and there were 3 bids that were reviewed. The lowest bidder was selected as the successful bidder.

- The City will provide the GLCC with updated square footage of the building at the next meeting.

**D. Kerr**

**Limits of Storm Water Release**

- Dave Kerr will provide the MOE’s latest correspondence to members identifying storm water release at the next meeting.

**D. Kerr**

**Verification of Vehicles Entering Site**

- Alan Freeman had questioned if there were any other trucks other than WMCC that were coming to the site. Dave Kerr answered there was clay, also grit from the City’s wastewater treatment plant, street sweepings and gully muck that were coming to the landfill. Paul mentioned that trucks have transponders to allow them into the site, if not the gates do not open. Alan said he saw a packer truck in the area and Ron mentioned that the packer truck picks up local garbage then would go back to the transfer station.
Litter

Councilor Mitchell asked if litter from the landfill that landed on Fred Zimmerman’s property was ever cleaned up. Ron said that it was.

Bulk Waste

Joanne re-iterated that MOE conditions in the C of A did not outlaw packer trucks from going to the landfill. Joanne is asking the city to clarify whether or not packer trucks can go to the landfill. Joanne made a decision in the public’s best interest in response to an emergency situation identified by the City to allow packer trucks to the landfill for bulk collection. Sheila argued that there should be no packer trucks coming to the landfill. Alan and Brooke said that the important point is this will not happen again.

Odours

Sheila May talked about odour and mentioned that there were odours in the area around Woodburn Rd. and at the time WMCC was grinding compost. WMCC mentioned that this was rectified and that in future they would use odour controls when this occurred.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, November 28, 2005

Minutes prepared by Jacquie Wilson – jawilson@hamilton.ca / 905-546-2424 X5490