MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #01-10
Hamilton City Centre, 77 James Street North, Room 320B
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
Craig Murdoch, Acting Director, Environmental Services
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager, Policy and Programs
Anne Winning, Supervisor, Program Development
Dennis Guy, Project Manager, Community Outreach
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Support Services
Rūta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Support Services

Regrets:
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Pat Parker, Acting Director, Support Services

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

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Collins:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on December 10, 2009

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Collins:

That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes
Staff is looking into the installation of a City of Hamilton sign (the ‘H’ logo) for the Central Composting Facility (CCF) building which will be visible from the Burlington Street overpass. The logo would identify the building as a City facility. Pricing is being explored for both a lit and unlit sign.

4. Diversion Program Updates

4.1 Community Outreach: 2010 – 2011 Waste Collection Calendar
Staff presented a draft of the 2010 – 2011 Leaf and Yard Waste Schedule, which replaces the Waste Collection Calendar. The main page consists of a bi-coloured map (yellow and purple) which indicates the alternating Leaf and Yard Waste (LYW) collection weeks. These colours were tested and are
acceptable even for persons who are colour blind. On the backside of the map, a calendar with the alternating weeks is shown in the yellow and purple colours to correspond with the map. The grace weeks are listed separately to avoid confusion that only those with the corresponding LYW week are allowed to set out three containers of garbage for collection.

Staff was directed to proceed with printing and distributing this year’s schedule.

4.2 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff reported that Green Cart roll out did not occur during the Christmas season. Total buildings now receiving organics collection is 94%, representing 77% of all building units. Just over 80 buildings are not yet on the program. The majority of these buildings are either undergoing construction and/or refusing to accept the organics program. Waste Management staff will concentrate on the implementation of the green cart program at these buildings.

Committee asked what tactics could be used to bring the outstanding properties on board. Staff responded that buildings that are refusing to receive the program will be approached one more time by staff, failing this it will escalate to Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) involvement, after which garbage collection service could be refused if the building still does not accept the program.

Committee advised staff to keep the Ward Councillor informed and asked if the buildings refusing service had common owners. Staff responded that these buildings are often held by absentee owners. Committee would like to see a list of the buildings refusing service before engaging MLE so that everyone is aware of the outstanding locations.

Set out data was collected over a two week period in November and December 2009 at 49% of Phase 3 buildings (typically larger buildings receiving bin garbage collection). Results indicate the following:

- 91.3% are participating (defined as setting out at least one green cart over a 2 week period) in the Green Cart program;
- The estimated capture rate is just over 30%;
- Approximately 37% of the carts surveyed had significant contamination;
- 32% had minimal contamination; and,
- 31% of the buildings had no contamination.

Considering capture rates by waste collection zone, B2 (east of Grays Road and Centennial from Lake Ontario to Highway 20) has the highest capture rate, the A2 zone (west Hamilton below the escarpment, west of Hwy 403 and Dundas) has the lowest capture rate. The A2 area was the first to receive the green cart, while B2 is the most recent area to be completed. The A2 zone includes the west end of Hamilton in the McMaster area with higher occupant and superintendent turnover. The estimated capture rate based on building size indicates that smaller buildings (less than 50 units) tend to have a higher capture rate, but lower participation rate.

Committee asked if staff could consider a way to recognize buildings that had “no contamination”. Condominiums appear to perform better than rental buildings and further attention will be paid to this for future reporting.

5. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

5.1 “From Waste to Worth” Report

Staff provided an update on this report which will go to the Public Works Committee (PWC) on January 18, 2010. A position will also be finalized by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on January 29. The report recommends:

- There should be no negative impacts to municipal integrated waste management systems;
- Residential service levels are maintained or improved;
- Municipalities are involved in the priorities and timing of the future designation of materials;
• Landfill levies should not be imposed on municipal landfills used for residential waste where the municipality has integrated and comprehensive waste diversion programs that are funded through the municipal tax base;
• Municipalities whose waste diversion infrastructure becomes stranded assets as a result of Extended Producer Responsibility are appropriately compensated;
• Implementation results in demonstrated cost reductions for municipalities;
• Implementation is done in consideration of the waste management hierarchy and overall environmental impacts.

5.2 Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) submission to the Minister of Environment regarding the Ontario Blue Box Program Plan

WDO is conducting a review of the Blue Box program (2008) on behalf of the Minister of the Environment. As part of the consultation plan, WDO issued 2 documents concerning Blue Box Program Plan management issues. Due to the short timeline for response, staff submitted a letter directly to the Ministry with the following comments.

The first document “Greater Consistency of Printed Papers & Packaging Collected in Ontario’s Blue Box Programs”, discussed implementing a consistent Blue Box Program collection service throughout Ontario. The cost to implement consistent service would be between $315 - $350 million dollars. The City’s recycling program is more comprehensive than many Ontario municipalities, and with a recent $2.7 million upgrade to the container line at the City’s Materials Recycling Facility staff did not support removing LDPE/HDPE film and Styrofoam from the recycling program as suggested in the document.

There was discussion surrounding reliable markets and concern with situations such as the one Korean market for gable top and aseptic containers. It wasn’t clear from the paper who would be responsible for securing these markets.

The second document “Recommended Process to Identify and Address Printed Papers and Packaging that are Problematic for Recycling Programs”, sets out a comprehensive process for identifying problematic materials and implementing solutions. Staff commented that if a material is not recyclable it should not be in the market place and the cost of materials that do not fit in the blue box (15 L water bottles) or can’t readily be processed should be handled at full cost by the producer.

The timeline on this process appears lengthy and the current regulatory framework will continue to be the default until a solution is found.

Consideration is being given to a public database to invite public input on problematic materials.

5.3 Compost Regulations

The Ministry of the Environment has released new draft guidelines for compost operators which includes new national standards. An extension for the commenting period was requested but not granted; consequently, this won’t be discussed at the upcoming PWC meeting on January 23. The guideline sets out quality standards and allowable uses for each compost class. Presently there are two compost classes: A and B. The three proposed classes include: AA - unrestricted use; A - needs to be mixed with soil for garden application due to potential metal or salt content; and, B - restricted use - suitable for landfill daily cover, possible roadside applications, or mine reclamation. Although the proposed compost classes will be more restrictive, new regulations should improve compost quality. Staff is working with the Compost Council of Canada to ensure that the municipal perspective is included.

6. Waste Reduction Task Force Update (WRTF)

There was nothing new to report as the next WRTF meeting is not scheduled to meet until Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

7. Operations Update

7.1. Disposal Activities
Staff reported that the contract changes for the operation of the Transfer Stations (TSs) on January 1, 2010 went smoothly. Staff was at all sites to oversee and assist with the transition. Staff reported that the all of the contractors were professional in the transition.

Committee has heard that the new staff was polite and helpful. BFI is looking into a shelter for staff at the Dundas TS especially in the upper tier area for their employees although the Ministry of Labour does not require that a shelter be provided. Committee suggested that an unused bus shelter might be used.

7.2. Collections Activities

Staff reported that recycling commodity pricing is trending upward with a basket of goods being $101.00 in September, $100.00 in October, $102.00 in November, and $110.00 in December. Hopefully, December’s jump is the start of an upward trend and not just a blip. The 2008, 2009 year to year comparison for recycling prices is $150.00 and $80.00 respectfully (for a basket of goods). Total recycling tonnages for 2009 (including December) have been inventoried. 2009 revenues from the sale of recyclable material was $3.05 million, which represents a budget shortfall of over $3 million.

Christmas tree collection is currently underway and there have been no concerns this year with respect to Christmas trees being stuck in or under snow banks.

Staff reported that the Collection crew has moved from 330 Wentworth Street North to 1579 Burlington Avenue East.

8. Outstanding Action Items

Committee asked that staff give an update regarding how the new “ONE Container Limit” will be communicated with the public and how program information will be shared with Council members, their assistants, customer service staff, etc.

9. Other Business

Staff reported that the commercial organics programme roll-out is being planned. Meetings would be held with HABIA and individual BIA’s to develop a coordinated implementation plan. Staff is attempting to identify properties that receive municipal garbage service and these properties would be given priority.

Staff advised committee that a report regarding “Budget Reductions: Operations and Waste Management Division” which includes a flat fee option for waste disposal had been prepared for the budget deliberations.

Motion by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That all information presented and discussed be received.

CARRIED

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 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.

Motion by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Collins:

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division