MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #10-07
Wednesday, November 14th, 2007
Boardroom, Central Composting Facility
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor Russ Powers
Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Acting Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Colleen Clark, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force Member
Stephen Bailey, Municipal Law Enforcement Coordinator, Planning and Economic Development
John Foden, Canadian Energy-From-Waste Coalition
Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Limited

Regrets:
Councillor Chad Collins
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division

1. Adoption of Agenda
The Agenda was adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Powers). CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting from October 10th, 2007
The minutes were adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson). CARRIED

3. Canadian Energy-From-Waste Coalition Delegation Presentation
John Foden of the Canadian Energy-from-Waste Coalition made a presentation to the committee on the Coalition, its activities and reasons why Energy-from-Waste is a viable consideration for residue waste. Councillor Ferguson asked if the Coalition has been in contact with Hamilton Hydro. Mr. Foden responded that they have been in contact. A motion to receive the presentation was made by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Powers. CARRIED.

4. Donation Boxes Update
Stephen Bailey of the Parking and By-Law Services Division reported on charity donation boxes and had a procedure to address dumping concerns as outlined in a memorandum dated November 11th, 2007. Mr. Bailey outlined the procedure for handling complaints with regard to charity donation boxes. He stated that the Green Pages on the Waste Management webpage gives residents options for door-to-door service for donations which he feels has caused a decline in the use of drop-off boxes. The By-law Division works with property owners to get sites cleaned up as charity boxes are not allowed to be placed on City property. Mr. Bailey advised that the enforcement procedure outlined in the memorandum could be implemented within the next month. Staff would like to see the proactive enforcement procedure implemented by the next staff meeting. A motion to receive the presentation and support the enforcement procedure was made by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson. CARRIED
A motion to remove Item B from the Outstanding Agenda Items List was made. Motion moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Powers. CARRIED.

5. Diversion Options Update

The report on Waste Diversion Options which will be presented at Public Works Committee on November 19th was discussed. Councillor Ferguson expressed concern about hiring additional staff for by-law enforcement. Beth Goodger explained that the extra 0.5 FTE outlined in the report was requested to address current needs and provide support for escalated cases that can’t be resolved by Customer Service staff. Councillor Powers inquired about grace periods and wanted to know why Christmas was not included. Beth Goodger responded that the first week of January has historically more tonnage than Christmas. Beth Goodger reported that staff has met with approximately half of the Councillors with regard to the Waste Diversion Options report. She reiterated that it is critical that we get to a one (1) container limit if we are to achieve 65% diversion. The report is recommending a customer service process instead of user-pay. Waste composition studies show an average set-out rate of less than two (2) containers so a two (2) container limit will not affect diversion. A decision on the report is required before Christmas so that the changes can be communicated in the new Waste Collection Calendar. Beth Goodger reported that Customer Service representatives do 250 site visits per week and Waste Management staff deal with 500 calls per week. This is above and beyond the calls that are handled by the Customer Contact Centre without escalating them to Waste. Peter Hutton advised that the WRTF will be at the Public Works Committee and are in full support of staffs report. He stated that a one (1) container limit recognizes the residents who are complying and feels this should be sent as a positive message instead of a negative one. Councillor Ferguson commented that the timing of the report and requirement for a decision would prevent him from taking the information to his community council for input. Councillor Powers will send the presentation and report out electronically on Friday to his community council to gauge their response. Councillor Ferguson stated that the farm community would likely have a hard time meeting a one (1) container limit. Beth Goodger indicated that Waste Management staff would be pleased to attend community meetings to discuss the changes and commented that the education and customer service approach for 2008 will enable staff to identify areas that may have difficulty in reaching the one (1) container limit, such as the farming community. Colleen Clark will email out the presentation and report to Councillors Powers and Ferguson on Friday.

6. Market Update

Blair Smith reported that we are showing a shortfall in commodity revenues for recyclables of approximately $900,000. This is due to the fact that tonnages are lower this year than last year in combination with revenue markets not meeting the goal set by Council. He added that we have not noticed a significant difference in glass tonnages as a result of the LCBO deposit return system. Tonnages may be lower due to scavenging. Councillor Pearson commented that she informs her constituents what revenue we make from recyclables to show them how it offsets their taxes. Beth Goodger reported that overall, Waste Management has an $83,000 positive variance with the commodity shortfall being offset by Community Recycling Centre and Transfer Station fees and revenues from processing the available capacity at the CCF.

7. Multi-Res Green Cart Update

Anne Winning provided an update on the Multi-Res Green Cart program and reported that the program is currently focusing on the small curbside serviced buildings first. To date 84 buildings in A2 and B1 have been completed. A one (1) month follow up with 24 buildings indicated that 14 are using their Green Carts and 85% of the carts were 50% full with virtually no contamination. Staff will continue to update the committee as the program advances.

8. Transfer & Disposal Station Review Update

The update was deferred to the December meeting.
9. Glanbrook Landfill Operations Update

Craig Murdoch reported that the energy generators are being delivered today for the co-gen plant with a photo-op to take place at the landfill. The plant is scheduled for an August 2008 start-up. The collection system has been installed and the engines are the last component to be put into place. Councillor Ferguson asked who the manufacturer of the generators was which Craig responded it was Caterpillar. Councillor Ferguson indicated he had heard of problems with engines from a different manufacturer.

Councillor Ferguson inquired about the financial arrangements between the City and Hamilton Renewable Power Inc. and asked if any dividends are being paid by HRPI to the City. Craig Murdoch reported that HRPI purchases methane gas from the City, however if Councillor Ferguson would like to know the details of the financial arrangement between the City and Hamilton Renewable Power Inc., he recommends that he speaks to Joe Rinaldo. A motion to receive the information was made by Councillor Powers and seconded by Councillor Ferguson. CARRIED.

10. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Peter Hutton reported that at the last WRTF meeting staff provided a detailed account regarding organics collection at the Peach Festival. He indicated that there continues to be discussion among members of the Task Force regarding parks recycling and the budget process. The Task Force feels there is not enough momentum for recycling in Parks and they want to promote a consistent message to residents. Councillor Powers commented on the City’s contract with Creative Outdoor Advertising that provides litter containers for bus stops and the potential to use this approach for parks. Anne Winning informed members that the Parks audit has been completed and staff will be reviewing the document and will report back to the Committee at a future meeting. The Chair of the Keep Hamilton Clean committee is on the Task Force and so they are discussing litter as well. Last week members of the Task Force as well as City staff took part in a Student Environmental Event at Mohawk College. Councillor Powers would like to include the WRTF minutes in our meetings. Staff will include these for the next meeting.

11. Outstanding Action Items

Item A - Waste Management Requirements for Public Housing. Staff is working with Chris Murray’s group on the multi-res roll-out and therefore this item can be removed from the Outstanding Action Items list. Motion to remove Item A from the Outstanding Action Items list was made by Councillor Powers and seconded by Councillor Ferguson. CARRIED

12. Other Business

Craig Murdoch distributed a report that is going to Public Works on November 19th outlining the Central Composting Facility - Disposition of Financial Benefit from Marketing Available Capacity. The report recommends that 50% of the financial benefits from the sale of excess capacity be placed in a reserve for the replacement of equipment. The other 50% would be used to offset the Waste Management Division operating expenses.

Craig Murdoch reported that there were some odour complaints at the CCF earlier this year but it was discovered that this was likely from the York organics composting trial because it became anaerobic inside the plastic bags. Due to the complaints, a series of changes have been made to address any potential future problems. Some changes that have been implemented include: curing compost piles are now turned in the morning at 5 a.m. and not during normal working hours; air curtains have been installed on the receiving doors to prevent odours from leaving the building and an odour neutralizing system has been installed in the curing building by the operator.

Councillor Ferguson asked about end markets for the compost. Craig reported that we have never had a situation where we had compost that we could not sell. Leaf and yard waste compost was provided to the Red Hill Valley Project (100 tonnes), Parks (300 tonnes), bulk give away events (124
tonnes) and 4,250 bags of compost. Councillor Ferguson would like to see the compost events open before the published time to reduce line-ups on the roadways.

Councillor Powers inquired about the capacity of the CCF and if we will be at capacity once we receive Halton’s organics. Craig Murdoch stated that we would be at capacity but that there are possibilities for the future for expansion of the facility.

Councillor Powers inquired about the use of compostable bags. Beth Goodger responded that we are planning to roll-out with the new calendar based on the success of the Compostable Plastic Bag Initiative with Halton, Niagara, Peel and Durham Regions. Councillor Powers asked for a synopsis on the initiative and plans by November 30th for an AMO meeting.

Craig Murdoch requested Councillor Pearson mention in her Stoney Creek News article that the Kenora Transfer Station is open for business. Councillor Ferguson inquired about a column for Ancaster residents regarding waste for his newsletter. Craig Murdoch will provide assistance.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th. A location has not been set. Councillor Ferguson requested that the meeting begin earlier.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m. Motion moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillors Ferguson. CARRIED