City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, August 16th, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Room 110, Hamilton City Hall

Present: David Hart Dyke  Dorienne Cushman  Mary Lou Dickson
        Michael Caruso  Linda Hughes  Angela Pastorius
        Peter Hutton  Rena Marie Cornelius  Ron Joice

Regrets: Joel Begin  Laurie Nielsen

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
              Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
              Florence Busnello, Policy Analyst, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
              Matt Leiss, Public
              Christopher Pyke, Public
              Bernard Stout, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from July 19th, 2006

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the July 19th, 2006 meeting.

A request was made that the minutes be corrected as follows:

3 a) A motion regarding the member appointment letter be changed to read “send letter to the
    SWMMP Steering Committee”.

5 a) The following statement to be added to the minutes and to read “Not much demand for
    pedestrian access to the transfer stations may be due to the fact that nothing had been
    previously offered”.

The minutes were approved as amended.
(Moved by Peter Hutton, seconded by Dorienne Cushman)

An inquiry was made into staff’s response to the Task Force request to have the AMO Paper
approved for submission to the Minister of Environment from the City of Hamilton. Staff advised
that this had not yet been completed. Comments submitted on the proposed reforms to the EAA and EPA
legislation will cover the same topics as the AMO Paper.

A request was made that the proposed reforms to the EAA and EPA should be addressed at this
meeting. These will be addressed under Other Business.

2. New Member Appointments

The Chair requested a motion to go in camera to discuss new member appointment.

(Moved by Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Mike Caruso).

A motion was made to move out of camera.
(Moved by Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Rena Marie Cornelius).

A motion was made to recommend to the SWMMP Steering Committee and Council the appointment
of Karin Maja Larsen and Daniel Rodrigues to the Waste Reduction Task Force.
(moved by Ron Joice, seconded by Rena Marie Cornelius)
The Chair announced the selection of the new Task Force members to the public attendees.

A motion was made that the document presented be accepted as the general guidelines for new member selections.

(Moved by Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Mike Caruso). One dissent was put forth on this motion by Peter Hutton.

3. Administrative Items

None

4. Standing Agenda Items

None

a) Sub-Committee Updates

No updates were provided from the sub-committees.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

No updates were provided from the GLCC as there was no meeting scheduled in the past month.

5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives

a) Waste Diversion Facilities Update (MRF Retrofit, CRC’s, CCF/Green Cart)

CCF

Staff reported on the operations at the CCF and announced that the first batch of finished compost has been produced and tested as Class A. This is a positive sign that residents understand the program and are setting out clean organic material.

An update was provided on the tonnage of SSO received - 10,000 tonnes was received at the CCF by the end of July which is above the budgeted amount for 2006.

Staff reported that missed deliveries and broken carts are being addressed by staff on a case-by-case basis.

An inquiry was made into pet waste testing at the CCF. Staff informed members that testing is ongoing with no results determined to date. Staff will provide an update once the results are known.

MRF Retrofit & CRC’s

Staff provided an update on the MRF retrofit as well as the construction and operation of the Community Recycling Centres (CRC’s). This included an update on the progress of construction at the Kenora CRC. The new CRC brochure was distributed with staff outlining the changes made to the brochure this year.

An inquiry was made about having a representative from Collections provide an update on the plans for the MRF retrofit. Staff will follow up with Collections about providing information to this member.

Discussion took place on the process of accepting or refusing items at the reuse centre. Staff explained how Community Living Hamilton operates and informed members that items that are difficult to resell may not be accepted from time to time.

A comment was made on the reuse potential of spools used for electrical wiring and other construction/mechanical type wastes. Staff provided a response. A member noted that there is often a deposit charged on these items and therefore they can be returned to retailers for a refund.

b) Green Cart Program

Staff provided an update on the Green Cart Program. An inquiry was made into whether leaf & yard waste is being tracked if it isn’t collected when it’s over the bag limit. Staff responded that the information is tracked.
A question arose whether the statistics will be used to plan next year’s leaf & yard program. Staff indicated they will be addressing changes to the leaf & yard program under Staff Updates on Other Waste Issues.

c) WastePlan

Staff provided an update on WastePlan and indicated that a proposal was received last week from a consultant. A decision on the proposal will be made shortly.

An inquiry was made into the impact of the proposed provincial EA changes on WastePlan’s decision regarding the preferred disposal technology. Staff reported that the decision to delay until October was made before the proposed reforms had been announced by the Province. Staff added it is likely that any facility initiated through WastePlan would not be exempt due to the size limitations for technologies included in the proposed regulatory changes.

6. Staff Updates on Other Waste Issues

a) Paper Green Cart Liner Bags

Discussion took place on the availability of green cart paper liner bags. Staff provided an overview of the discussions planned with bag manufacturers, particularly the availability of having a less expensive bag made available.

A public member inquired as to whether the biodegradable/cornstarch bags would be permitted in the Green Cart program. Staff provided an overview of the “no plastics or anything that looks like plastic” policy adopted by the City.

Discussion took place on the need for paper liners to be used in the green cart. Experiences were shared on the use of other low cost paper options instead of buying paper bags. Staff added that they also promote the use of free paper products to inquiring residents.

b) Leaf & Yard Waste Collection Schedule

Staff provided an overview of the planned changes to the Leaf & Yard Waste collection program for 2007. The proposal included 26 weeks (13 bi-weekly cycles) of leaf & yard waste collection (7 cycles in the spring, 6 in the fall). In between the leaf & yard collection weeks, the City will offer call-in bulk collection. A request was made for the new leaf & yard waste schedule to be put in writing. Staff indicated that the schedule will be prepared in an information update to Council. A question arose as to how the schedule for 2007 will be different from the leaf & yard service offered this year. Staff indicated it will be a doubling of service. An inquiry was made as to the need for an outreach campaign to make sure the change is communicated to residents. Staff indicated this will be addressed through the calendar and by other advertising means.

A question arose as to providing alternating bulk and L&Y collection every other week. Staff indicated that during the summer months, L&Y is not as prevalent and options still exist through the green cart program to have L&Y collected all year long. Staff also indicated that some individual consideration has been given to residents in certain circumstances in order to mitigate the problem. Staff added that the proposed schedule would make it easier for the staff at the Call Centre.

A suggestion was made on the need to make the green cart and leaf & yard symbols easier to discern on the 2007 waste collection calendar.

c) Recycling Collection Program

Staff provided an update on the recent Council report and the recommended changes to the recycling collection program. An RFP needs to be prepared in the fall in order to meet the March 2008 end of the existing contract. An inquiry was made into the rationale for ending the contract in March 2008. Staff responded that this was a result in part by dissatisfaction with the current service provider and the potential switch to a 50/50 public/private split for recycling collection services.
A request was made that biodiesel and electric vehicles be considered in the RFP for new recycling collection vehicles.

A question arose about the recent Hamilton Spectator column which stated that an extra $1.3 million cost has been incurred by the City related to the recycling collection contract. Staff stated they will have to review the report further in order to accurately respond to this.

d) Clear Bags for Waste Collection

This item is deferred to the September meeting to allow time for discussion on the EA reforms proposed by the Province.

7. Other Business

Proposed Amendments to EAA & EPA Waste Regulations

The information session to be held by the MOE on August 22nd will be available either by webcast or will be open to Task Force members to attend in person.

Staff are scheduled to bring forward the proposed reforms to PWIE in September. The Chair asked for members to comment on the proposed regulatory changes.

Discussion took place on the proposed regulations and how it relates to the Liberty Energy proposal. Staff clarified that the Liberty Energy proposal will not be affected by these regulatory amendments.

A comment was made on the potential impacts of these regulatory changes in relation to the AMO Integrated Waste Management Strategy paper and in relation to the SWMMP and its goals.

Discussion took place on the piecemeal nature of the proposed regulatory reforms and the need for a more integrated waste management system advocated in the AMO Paper. Staff stated the need to balance a critique of the reforms with the need to support that the MOE has actually made efforts to improve existing waste management regulations.

A request was made for the AMO response paper to be re-circulated and adapted in reference to the new EA reforms proposed by the MOE.

Staff provided an overview of recent papers released by the AMO in relation to recycling and their recommendations submitted to the MOE. An inquiry was made into the availability of these AMO documents. Staff advised that the AMO website and the July Council minutes contain pertinent information on these issues.

A request was made for the Steering Committee meeting agenda to be provided sooner.

An inquiry was made into the attendance of staff at the 2006 AMO conference. Staff indicated that no one will be in attendance as the main focus of this years meeting was not waste management related.

Discussion took place on what the next steps will be for the Task Force members to comment on the EAA & EPA regulatory reforms in relation to the AMO paper.

8. Public Discussion

A request was made for information on the City’s glass recycling program. An overview of the difficulties of glass recycling was provided. Discussion took place on other types of recyclables and their commodity prices.

An inquiry was made into the use of plastic bag taxes in other areas and its applicability for Hamilton.

An inquiry was made into organic wastes being disposed of in the garbage at recent City run festivals. Staff noted that this issue is being considered and staff are planning to address it in the future.

A request was made for a letter to be drafted calling on festival organizers to provided more waste diversion opportunities at their festivals. Staff reported that this is already in place.
An inquiry was made into the presence of a new City of Hamilton brownfield redevelopment program. Staff indicated that a program has been in place for sometime but will look into whether there have been any recent changes.

A comment was made about fireplace burning and the presence of hazardous materials being burned in residential homes and that the public need to be made aware of the dangers of this activity.

A comment was made about the burning of garbage outdoors and its presence in rural areas. Staff responded that there are burning restrictions in all urban areas of the City.

An inquiry was made into the recent fire at a styrofoam storage facility in Ontario and what the City does in relation to its styrofoam storage. Staff indicated that the City stores it at the MRF, but does not stockpile that much styrofoam at any one time.

A request was made for a procedure to be established for the Task Force to write and submit letters. Staff advised that they will follow up with the Clerk's Office, but believe that any letters have to be approved by Council. A suggestion was made to have letters appended to staff reports in order for the process to be more expedient. An inquiry was made into the possibility of the Steering Committee being permitted to approve last minute documents/letters and not have to put these through for Council approval. It was noted that the opportunity for individual comment is available to all Task Force members. Staff outlined the procedure needed to be undertaken in order for this new procedure to be accepted by the SWMMP Steering Committee.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Ron Joice and seconded by Mike Caruso that the meeting be adjourned.

Copies to: All present
Regrets
SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List
Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works Department
Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Lisa Barroso, Debbie Gargano