City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, October 18th, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Mountain Community Recycling Centre, Upper Ottawa St. & Kilbride Rd.

Present: David Hart Dyke Mary Lou Dickson Laurie Nielsen
Michael Caruso Linda Hughes Angela Pastorius
Ron Joice Joel Begin Doriene Cushman
Dan Rodrigues

Regrets: Peter Hutton Karin Maja Larsen

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management, City of Hamilton
Gillian Caddick, Public
Dave Taylor, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from September 20th, 2006

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the September 20th, 2006 meeting.

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

The statement on page 2 - “Mary Lou commented…‘the word ‘would’ be replaced with ‘might’” in relation to the CRC brochure.

The minutes should have included discussion on the lack of presence of new members.

The minutes were approved as amended.

(Moved by Linda Hughes, seconded by Doriene Cushman)

2. Administrative Items

New Member Selection Subcommittee

The Chair announced that Rena Cornelius has submitted her resignation from the Waste Reduction Task Force. A request was made for volunteers for the New Member Recruitment Selection sub-committee. Angela Pastorius, Mike Caruso and Dan Rodrigues submitted their names to be on the sub-committee. A request was made for a motion to accept. Doriene Cushman put forth the motion, seconded by Laurie Nielsen. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion took place on the requested changes to the Task Force application. Staff noted these suggestions and will incorporate them into the new application form.

The issue of conflict of interest and ineligibility of applicants under contract with Waste Management was raised, and it was noted that the issue will be raised at the next Steering Committee meeting.

A request was made for staff to supply the minutes earlier. Staff indicated it will provide the minutes earlier in order to allow for feedback prior to the Task Force meetings.

3. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Business & Government Sub-committee
An update was provided on plans for a grocery store program focusing on reducing the use of plastic checkout bags. Recent efforts at reaching individual stores around the City through a letter writing campaign were described.

**Education Sub-committee**

An update was provided on an upcoming separate school board environmental conference. The conference’s “eco-schools” theme and activities focused on improving waste diversion activities in schools.

**b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)**

This group has not met since the last meeting so no updates were provided.

**4. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives**

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

a) **CRC’s**

Staff announced that the one year anniversary event is to be held October 21st at the Mountain CRC. Staff outlined the upcoming PSA which will run on the CRC and the data which will be available related to waste diversion at the facility in the past year.

The issue of painted wood not being accepted at the Dundas CRC was raised. Staff indicated the problem was experienced by others and is now being addressed through changing the CRC brochures and signage at the facilities. Staff provided an explanation that painted and pressure treated wood is not accepted. An inquiry was made into alternative disposal options. Staff said they weren’t aware of anything. A request was made to evaluate whether we should have a scrap wood program. Staff indicated that we do receive a large quantity of “clean” wood but would take this issue back to the Disposal group to evaluate.

Staff discussed the Reward & Recognition Program and noted that a media event would be arranged when the first cheque was issued. Comments were made from Task Force members supporting the implementation of this program.

b) **MRF Retrofit**

Blair Smith provided an update on the redesign, site plan application and building permit. Work will likely start at the beginning of the new year. The schedule of both internal and external works was outlined. An inquiry was made into the presence of asbestos. Staff indicated that it is present and outlined the mitigation work that will take place.

The potential for a green roof was discussed, but it was stated that it will not be a part of the initial retrofit as it is presently cost prohibitive. It was noted that the building structure will be built to accommodate the weight of a green roof if it is feasible in the future. Other energy-efficiency features such as LEED certification, local radiant heating plans and efficient lighting options were discussed.

c) **Recycling Program Presentation**

Staff outlined the presentation that was given to PWIE on Monday, October 16th. Staff provided information on the end of the HRL contract and the resulting issues that need to be addressed as a result of this. Details were provided on the RFP process and the main issues that are being addressed (50/50 public/private split; two-stream vs. single-stream recycling; four (4) day collection schedule).

An inquiry was made into whether the four (4) day collection schedule was offered elsewhere. Staff indicated that several Ontario municipalities have gone to a 4-day schedule.

Staff reported that an unsolicited proposal was received for single stream recycling submitted by the City’s existing contractor. There was a PWIE motion which called on staff to review this proposal. This motion still needs to be approved by Council. An inquiry was made as to the usefulness of unsolicited proposals compared to an RFP process. Staff explained that a suitable and acceptable
proposal would result in the RFP process being unnecessary, and with the complexity of several other purchasing processes, the reduction of one would be helpful.

A call for a motion to receive the presentation and reports for information was made. It was decided that this motion would be re-scheduled until after members have reviewed it.

An inquiry was made into the potential for biodiesel/hybrid technology to be used in the new collection vehicles. Staff explained that work that has be done on this and indicated that the new vehicles already run on 15% biodiesel.

An inquiry was made into the possibility of bi-weekly collection. Staff indicated that there are limitations on this due to the current B-zone collection contract and that the present changes only relate to the recycling program, not garbage collection. However this would be considered in future collection system reviews.

Staff indicated that there are some significant reductions in emissions due to the switch to a four (4) day collection schedule. It was noted that the four (4) day schedule would provide employee health benefits due to the extra day of rest for collectors who undergo strenuous labour. Discussion took place on how these potential collection program changes would affect residents.

An inquiry was made into the reduced revenues that would result due to the co-mingling of fibres with containers in single stream systems. Staff addressed this issue by stating that revenue is fairly unaffected as the current fibre revenues are based on single stream processing. An article from a July issue of the Hamilton Spectator stated that Hamilton’s revenue was down due to contamination of paper material with other materials as a result of the single stream collection operated by other municipalities. Staff indicated that there is no separate revenue system for single stream and two stream collection and so Hamilton is currently penalized for the sorting practices of other municipalities.

An inquiry was made on the effect the new LCBO deposit return system will have on the City’s recycling program. Staff indicated this would have to be incorporated into the future recycling program projections.

d) Green Cart Program & CCF

Staff provided an update on the Green Cart program, noting that increased glass contamination has been noticed lately. New communication will be developed to address this issue before it affects compost quality.

The issue of battery contamination was raised with a discussion on the existing rechargeable battery recycling program, and the possibilities of dealing with regular batteries in the same manner.

The use of a magnet or sticker to be placed on the Green Cart to address contamination problems was suggested. Staff said this will be passed along to Outreach staff.

e) WastePlan

Staff provided an update on the recent meeting with the Niagara-Hamilton Joint Working Group and outlined the efforts being considered to condense the existing timeline in order to expedite the EA study process. The potential for use of the proposed Halton Energy From Waste (EFW) facility was discussed, but staff noted that the Halton disposal option is outside the scope of the ToR of the existing WastePlan EA.

An inquiry was made into the Halton EA process related to the proposed EFW facility. Staff indicated that the approval for the EFW facility was acquired when they got the EA approval for their landfill in the 1980’s. Therefore their approval process will be greatly accelerated in comparison to WastePlan in that they only require EPA approval (Certificate of Approval).

An inquiry was made on the capacity at the CCF and what is to be used by the City. Staff indicated that the City plans to use the full capacity in time, but plans to sell some capacity in the interim. An inquiry was made into the possibility of receiving commercial waste as a revenue source. Staff noted...
this is not planned at the present time. An inquiry was made into whether the City has been approached by other parties about using some of this excess capacity. Staff indicated that some municipalities have been in contact, but the City’s organics program is still new, so it is still early for marketing this to other parties.

An inquiry was made into whether the testing of pet waste and diapers had been completed at the CCF. Staff indicted the testing was still underway and no results had been obtained yet.

5. Staff Updates on Other Waste Issues

A question was raised regarding the term “shelf-talkers” used in the Steering Committee minutes. Staff provided a description of a shelf-talker.

Discussion took place on some issues still outstanding related to acceptable Green Cart liner bags and the response by staff to residents on these inquiries.

An inquiry was made into the status of recycling programs in public schools. Staff reported there has been no progress and outlined some of the conflicting recycling programs currently offered at public schools.

6. Other Business

An inquiry was made into the awarding of the Public Board recycling contract. Staff indicated they did not know about this.

A hot mat craft made of reused paper was shown to the Task Force. These are being sold through the store “10000 Villages” and were available at the Mennonite Church sale.

An inquiry was made into the cost of the Annual Report. Staff replied that they will provide the information at the next meeting.

The text for a motion promoting the adoption of a one container limit was provided to all members. Discussion took place on the wording of the motion. Staff informed the members how this motion will likely be presented to Council.

The motion was put forth as follows:

“The Waste Reduction Task Force asks that City Council move quickly to implement a one-container per week limit for garbage. This measure would have a significant impact on the lifespan of the Glanbrook Landfill, and would encourage residents to make the most efficient use of the Green Cart and Blue Box diversion programs.”

(Moved by Ron Joice and seconded by Mary Lou Dickson) The motion passed unanimously.

Staff indicated that the motion would be raised with Council in the report back on the success of the Green Cart program, expected early in 2007.

7. Public Discussion

A request was made for the meetings to be better advertised to the public, specifically at the location on the night of the meeting. Staff will look into posting signs to better publicize the meetings.

Discussion took place on the limitations of recycling some products, specifically non-rechargeable batteries. A comment was made on the increased presence of non-recyclable consumer items and the need for people to change their purchasing behaviour. It was noted that Extended Producer Responsibility programs are being pursued at the Provincial level which should facilitate increased battery and other HHW recycling in the province.

An inquiry was made into the potential role of the Task Force in the design of the user pay system. Staff indicated that any work on research and design of the program is welcomed by staff.

A request was made for the Task Force members to be provided information on current waste processing costs in order for them to do any work on container limits.
8. **Adjournment**

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

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Mike Caruso and seconded by Joel Begin 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