MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #09-07
Wednesday, October 13th, 2007
Mountain Community Recycling Centre
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Emil Prpic, Supervisor of Waste Processing, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Colin Vidler, Supervisor of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Colleen Clark, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor Chad Collins
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division

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

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting from September 6th, 2007
The minutes were adopted as presented.
(moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson). CARRIED

3. Diversion Options & Landfill Capacity
The staff report on Diversion Options and Landfill Capacity is scheduled to go to the November 5th, 2007 Public Works Committee. Staff is recommending moving to a one (1) container limit in April 2008 with amnesty periods (up to 3 containers) after holidays. This would have the greatest effect on diversion. Research shows a two (2) container limit would result in approximately 4% diversion while a one (1) container limit would result in 8% diversion. Staff are recommending a phased-in enforcement strategy which would allow residents to get used to the idea of one (1) container. Staff will consider exemptions for families with small children and those with medical needs. After discussions with By-law staff the suggestion was for the addition of a 0.5 FTE instead of the original 1 FTE they thought they would need.

Councillor Powers felt a one (1) container limit will not be supported by Council, even with a phased-in enforcement strategy. Councillor Pearson asked what will get us to 65% diversion. Staff responded that the multi-res diversion strategy and other diversion programs are what will get us to 55%. The remaining 10% diversion will need to come from tweaking our existing programs. Beth Goodger assured the committee that Waste Management would continue with their customer service throughout the transition to a one (1) container limit. Beth Goodger explained staffs’ reasoning behind their recommendation. The plan is easier for residents to understand and for the City to communicate. The phased-in enforcement strategy would also give residents the time to get used to a one (1) container limit. Peter Hutton of the WRTF stated that they would lobby for staffs’ recommendation to be accepted by Council. Councillor Powers
suggested that staff present the report at the November 19th Public Works Committee meeting and in the mean time meet with each Councillor individually to discuss the reasons behind the recommendations. Councillor Pearson agreed with this suggestion. Staff will discuss the report and recommendations with members of Council prior to presenting the report at the November 19th Public Works Committee.

4. Community Recycling Centre Operations

Emil Prpic reported that we have recently constructed bunkers for shingles, cardboard and metal for commercial users of the Transfer Stations. Commercial users will have to pay to dispose of these items but it is the cost of doing business. Staff can look at differential rates for recyclable materials in the future; however paying the gate rate for use of the site should not affect diversion as commercial users have to follow site rules if they wish to continue to use the site. Craig Murdoch and Emil Prpic handed out the legislation from the Occupational Health and Safety Act regarding guardrails and explained why the City needed to have them at our facilities. Craig Murdoch explained that we had an incident with an operator at the site and the Ministry of Labour was involved. The requirement for the railings was a necessity. The Region of Halton is looking at the requirement for them and the Region of Niagara is installing them now. For some of the waste types, we have installed swing gates over some bins so residents can utilize a trailer and waste can be shovelled into the bin easier. The Dundas and Mountain sites have been retrofitted while Kenora was designed with them. Councillor Powers asked why we do not charge commercial entities for tipping of leaf and yard waste. Craig Murdoch reported that staff is working on a report to Council regarding this matter. Affidavits are available to commercial vehicles once per month for residential use. Councillor Powers has a list of people who would be interested. Councillor Powers suggested that a roundtable review the diversion practices and the types of materials diverted at the CRCs. Beth Goodger said this could be done with the WRTF. Craig Murdoch offered to take the Steering Committee on a tour of the facility after the meeting. Peter Hutton mentioned that the WRTF would be interested in a tour of a CRC. Councillor Pearson inquired as to whether staff know for sure that diverted materials are actually recycled. Craig Murdoch responded that we audit Thompson Metals on a yearly basis and they are required to inform the City of their end markets. Councillor Powers asked if there was any way the computer monitor cages at the Dundas CRC could be relocated closer to the electronics bin. Emil Prpic replied that he would look into it and feels there is no reason why this can't be done.

5. Community Partnership Program - Tipping Fee Grants

Discussion took place regarding tipping fee grants to charities. The current funding level is $16,430 and is shared between five (5) non-profit agencies. The charities have been lobbying for an increase. The charities are doing good work in the community and understand the issues regarding disposal. Community Living Hamilton does not get a grant for tipping fees at our facilities. Within the subsidy the non-profit agencies are getting an equivalent grant of $77,000 for disposal of Garbage because they are getting a preferred tipping rate of $22.40 per tonne. The full gate rate is $110 per tonne. Carman Bian of Community Services wants to know if the City can increase funding rates. She wanted staff to look at increasing the grant by $15,000 in funding which impacts Waste Management by $55,000 in the Waste Budget. Councillor Powers sits on the Grants sub-committee and explained that agencies apply for the amount of grant they want and that grants cannot exceed 40% of their categorized costs. The Steering Committee is in support of diversion programs and the continuation of charging the charities after they have exceeded their grant, thereby encouraging diversion.

Beth Goodger reported that Marty Hazel of the Building and Licensing Department will report by next month’s meeting on used clothing donation bins.
6. 2008 Recycling Program Review Implementation

- 6.1 - Contract with National Waste Services Inc.
  Contract has been signed and is still in negotiations regarding the extra leaf & yard containers. Staff will report back.

- 6.2 - Container Line Installation
  Approved by Council

- 6.3 - MRF Retrofit Project
  Moving along well and should be completed by February/March 2008.

7. Halton Region and Simcoe County RFPs for Composting and Recyclable Capacities

Beth Goodger updated the committee that we were successful in obtaining organic material from Halton Region for processing at the CCF. In addition to this, we have been informed unofficially that Simcoe County will be sending their material to us too. We haven't received official notification from Simcoe County on their organics but a media release stated that their organics will be coming to Hamilton.

Beth Goodger informed the committee that we had a meeting with Halton, Peel, Durham and Niagara regarding compostable bags and feel we will be able to add them to our program in the near future. The municipalities will work together with industry and manufacturers to influence the type of compostable bags available in the marketplace. Peel had discussions with the Grocery Industry Council and they are willing to de-stock unacceptable bags from their shelves. Staff reported that the compostable bags last from three (3) to five (5) days before they start breaking down for the thinnest bags and the thick bags can last much longer. Councillor Powers stated that Haldimand County wants to have discussions with us over the next month or so with regards to organics. Beth Goodger informed the committee that we will have to watch our organics capacity once Halton and Simcoe County’s organics are up and running. The additional organics will have positive benefits with regard to budget and staff would like to see at least some of the money go into a reserve for equipment replacement due to accelerated depreciation. An example of this would be the organic loaders which will need to be replaced sooner than expected as a result of handling the increased tonnage.

8. Proposed Collection Day Changes

Staff reported that Councillor McHattie requested they look into changing Westdale from Monday collection. There are issues with businesses in Westdale being closed on a Monday as well as students putting waste at the curb on a Friday for Monday collection. Other municipalities with Universities also have these problems. To accommodate the change of day would affect approximately 15,000 households. The cost to make the change would be approximately $25,000 and another $10,000 for maps and routes. We have no funding source at this time to cover this request and no efficiencies if we undertook the change as well. Councillor McHattie does not know the cost at this time. By-law has been utilized; however it is very difficult to track down owners of triplex’s and duplexes. By-law also looks at other property standards for these properties. Staffs’ concern is that other areas will want changes as well. Staff will report back to Councillor McHattie and let him know the costs. Councillors Pearson and Powers feel that the collection day changes should not be considered.

National Waste Services has asked staff to look at proposed day changes for approximately 27,000 households because of efficiencies in routing. They will pay any costs for the requested changes should the City agree to the request. The proposal is to change Ancaster and Stoney Creek to a two (2) day collection from a four (4) day collection. After National discusses the proposal in-house and comes to a decision staff will report back to the committee.
9.  Glenbrook Landfill Operations Update
Things are progressing well on the landfill gas collection system. Work has begun on re-vegetating the slopes. The permanent flare has been received and Craig Murdoch informed the committee of a photo-op being planned for the arrival of the landfill gas engines. Staff will inform the committee when this is to take place.

10. Waste Reduction Task Force Update
ReMM presented to the WRTF on our recycling markets at their September meeting. Peter Hutton reported that a lot of discussion has taken place with the Task Force as to expanding the blue box program and as a result of the presentation by ReMM it was felt we should optimize what we are collecting now. Pat Parker stated that Hamilton has one of the broadest blue box programs in the province.

The Task Force is taking part in a conference at Mohawk College for high school students.

Peter Hutton stated that the Task Force has reaffirmed their support of the multi-res diversion strategy and container limits and have a motion to support this. The Task Force has asked that their motion be attached to the staff report to Council.

New members of the Task Force are concerned that things are moving too slowly. They are frustrated regarding the multi-res strategy and diversion report not moving fast enough. Councillor Pearson suggested that staff could give an overview presentation on the timeframes involved for Waste Management.

11. Outstanding Action Items
None at this time.

12. Other Business
Councillor Powers would like an update of our recyclable revenues and budget forecast. Beth Goodger reported that we are getting less fibre and with the Canadian dollar at par it is affecting revenues. We are projecting a negative variance of $900,000.

The CCF Birthday party was a huge success with over 500 people in attendance. Blue Box Man made an appearance and we distributed water bottles and City water as well as apples from Bennett’s markets. The Education room is completed and was very well received. People were very impressed. Next year we would like to showcase the MRF.

October 20th will be the second birthday of the MCRC. A fall event is being planned to celebrate this.

The City of Hamilton won the Reader’s Choice awards for best in Rubbish Removal. The official notification will take place on October 25th, 2007.

Next week we are receiving three (3) international awards from SWANA. On November 15 th the awards will be presented to staff at the Council meeting.

Councillor Powers asked if we had video tours of the CCF on DVD. Craig Murdoch stated that we did and he will forward six (6) copies to Councillor Powers.

The Canadian Energy from Waste Coalition would like to make a presentation to this committee at the November meeting. The Coalition is an industry advocacy group. The Committee agreed to allow a fifteen (15) minute presentation at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Beth Goodger informed the committee that a report is coming to Public Works Committee on landfill regulations. Staff supports the changes to the regulation and asked that any projects in the works be exempted from the regulation and be eligible for greenhouse gas credits.
Craig Murdoch reported that we are looking into the possibility that we can get greenhouse gas credits for the CCF operations. We will be working on this in conjunction with the Composting Council of Canada.

Staff will provide an update on the multi-res strategy at the next meeting. Distribution has begun in small buildings in Westdale and Dundas.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. (moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson). CARRIED

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2007 in the Boardroom of the Central Composting Facility