MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #02-10
Hamilton City Centre, 77 James Street North, Room 320B
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collections
Karen Devantier, Acting Supervisor of Support Services
Rūta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Support Services

Regrets:
Councillor Chad Collins
Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force

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

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson:
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on January 12, 2010

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson:
That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes
There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Diversion Program Updates

4.1 Community Outreach: ONE Container Limit Communications Strategy
Staff explained to committee that all curbside households received a “ONE Container Limit” postcard during the third week of January. This postcard explains the garbage limit changes coming April 5, 2010. Front line City staff (Municipal Service Centres, City Contact Centre, Council Administrative Assistants as well as Waste Management customer service staff) received training before the mailing, i.e., saw and discussed the post card that was sent to residents, recounted the Special Consideration policy and reviewed a draft copy of the new Leaf and Yard schedule which will be mailed to residents mid-March. Based on 2008 set out data it is known that 85% of households already only set out one container of
garbage weekly, while 10% of households set out two containers of garbage weekly. Staff said new set out data would be collected in April.

An internal working group including Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) staff has been created to respond to situations such as roadside dumping that may occur with the start of the ONE container limit. City roads and parks staff has been alerted to a possible increase in dumping which may occur.

Kitty litter may be a problematic garbage item because of its weight. Garbage weight cannot exceed 23 kg. Illegal duplexes, triplexes, etc. may also create some confusion since this type of property will be limited to one container of garbage until it is recognized as a two or three family home, etc. at which point garbage limits will be recognized as one container per unit. Committee mentioned that the new Official Plan automatically permits two families per home as a result of intensification initiatives.

4.2 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff reported that they are finalizing the Green Cart roll out. Seventy buildings from Phase 3 are still outstanding for one of two reasons – outright refusal or staff is unable to contact the owner. The latter is more common as these buildings tend to be smaller apartments without on site superintendents and/or owners that live out of town. Staff will compile a list of buildings unwilling to participate in the Green Cart program and present this to Council in March.

Committee asked if unwilling buildings have been advised in a friendly manner that their participation in diversion programs is mandatory. Staff assured committee that they have advised building managers/owners that they must participate in the Green Cart program. Approximately 85% of multi-residential units have available service; however, this does not necessarily mean they are participating. Committee asked if there has been a marked increase in diversion. Staff responded that we have not seen a substantial increase yet; however; most of the larger buildings were not on the program until the last quarter of 2009 so it is still early. The diversion percentage increased to 47% in 2009. There is an approximate 30% capture rate at multi-res buildings and it is evident that multi-residential diversion is tracking lower than curbside diversion. Garbage landfilled in 2009 has decreased by about 7%, this includes accounting for growth. Staff will bring statistics to the March steering committee meeting as well as finalized numbers for 2009.

5. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

Staff has submitted positions concerning the Waste Diversion Act (WDA) review as well as the changes to compost classification to the Ministry of the Environment, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO). There are some differences with the comments provided however they are complimentary. The Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) indicated that members had similar comments as well.

Committee remarked that there had been good discussion with AMO since they represent all communities – small to large. We do not want to lose what has already been established and if the level of service is lost or taken away, municipalities will need to be compensated. Committee commented that it has worked well having AMO at the table because the City of Hamilton has been able to make certain that the City’s concerns are addressed. Toronto was also at the table with the RPWCO although Toronto is not a member of AMO.

6. Waste Reduction Task Force Update (WRTF)

(Staff gave an update on behalf of the WRTF.) Peter Hutton has been elected Chair of the WRTF and Jim Sweetman has been elected Vice-Chair for 2010. Dan Rodrigues was the Chair and now moves to the position of Past Chair. Michelle Morris is a new member of the WRTF as of January 2010.

7. Operations Update

7.1. Disposal Activities

Staff reported that the operation of the Transfer Stations (TSs) and Glanbrook Landfill is doing very well with the new contractors.
Concerning recycling, staff reported that the market for #6 plastic (polystyrene - clamshells and expanded foam) is closing. The Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Alliance (CPRA) is closing its Mississauga plant and will only be operating out of Port Hope. In 2009, the City of Hamilton baled and shipped 10 tonnes of #6 plastic from the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Although the tonnage is small, #6 plastic is an extremely light material so volume is large. 10 tonnes generated earnings of approximately $600.00; however, the volume withheld from the landfill translates to an important savings of landfill space. We are currently stockpiling #6 plastics at the MRF and have already stored 12 bales; however, the MRF’s Certificate of Approval only allows material to be stored at the MRF for up to 90 days. Many municipalities do not accept #6 plastic; however, those that do, provide this service to the majority of Ontario’s population. It was recommended by Committee that staff look into the densification of this product on-site which will reduce the cost of shipping and the amount of on-site storage space. Recycled densified foam is used to produce crown moulding and other finished carpentry products. The future of #6 products is uncertain. If changes to the Waste Diversion Act propose that this material should no longer be collected in the blue box and under EPR, it will be up to the producers to determine what to do with the packaging. Staff suggested that there may be space at the MRF for a densifier which is capable of baling material to about 10% of the current bale volume/mass. This could reduce transportation costs. Staff will report back with a business case regarding possible densification of polystyrene.

The final earnings from recyclables are not yet available; however, we do know that it is better than the $2.67 million projected but unfortunately much lower than the $6.0 million in the budget.

The City sign for the Central Composting Facility (CCF) is being considered. Staff is currently looking at a design that will be visible from the upper tier of the Burlington Street overpass. Committee suggested that if the sign cannot be seen at night, then staff should consider putting a gooseneck light over the sign instead of it being back lit; however, this may draw attention to the site and cause security issues.

Committee asked about the current compost price. We are currently trying to develop farmer markets and striving to convince farmers that they don’t need to purchase and use chemical fertilizers on their fields. A past experiment demonstrated that a wheat field using compost as a top dressing produced a bountiful crop. Compost can be used as a two inch top dress, if more is used it will need to be tilled in. The worms do work the compost down through the pre-existing soil. The CCF is successfully receiving organics from other municipalities such as Halton, Simcoe, Waterloo and Brant County.

7.2. Collections Activities

Staff explained that there seems to be a rush on the use of Blue Carts instead of Blue Boxes as a result of a recent newspaper article about a resident using an oversized blue cart and it being stickered (OOPS), hence not collected. Discussion is ongoing regarding the use of larger containers, blue boxes with lids, etc. At this time, it is not feasible to change the system; however, this can be considered during the system review leading up to the 2013 collection contract renewals.

The Request for Proposal for the construction of the new collections office at the MRF has been issued. The construction completion date is scheduled for July; however, due to the age of the building, contingencies for unexpected delays are planned.

8. Outstanding Action Items

9. Other Business

Staff discussed a recent episode of the popular television program “Undercover Boss” during which Larry O’Donnell, President and C.O.O. of Waste Management Incorporated worked as a litter picker (from which he was fired), a collection operator, cleaned toilets, worked the MRF line and at the landfill.

Staff advised committee that the Request for Proposal will be issued shortly for a consultant to undertake the review of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan. It is likely that the Master Plan Review process could take up to eighteen months to complete.

The meeting schedule will need to be reviewed since it indicates three conflicting dates in July, August, and September.
Staff will deliver a presentation concerning the integration of an Energy-from-Waste facility into the City’s waste management system at an upcoming meeting.

**Motion by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson:**

That all information presented and discussed be received.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 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 Ferguson:**

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
- Pat Parker, Director of Support Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
- Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services, Operations and Waste Management Division
- Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations, Operations and Waste Management Division
- Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs, Operations and Waste Management Division
- Anne Winning, Supervisor of Program Development, Operations and Waste Management Division