1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 15th, 2007 Meeting

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the August 15th, 2007 meeting.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Mary Lou Dickson)

2. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Business & Government

An update was provided by the sub-committee. Two (2) products had been identified by one member as having excessive and non-recyclable packaging and the company CEO will be sent a letter from the Task Force. A request was made for members to provide the name and contact information of the CEO for any company they want to send a letter to.

It was announced that a session related to the environment will be held at McMaster with local high school students on November 8th, 2007. It was requested that any interested members can participate in the event and offer any ideas on how the Task Force could engage the students.

Multi-Residential, Institutional & Commercial Waste

No update was provided by the sub-committee. Staff provided an update on the superintendent workshop planned for September 26th and the upcoming roll-out of carts to small buildings.

Education & Communication Sub-Committee

No update was provided by the sub-committee.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

An update was provided by the Task Force delegate to the GLCC. It was stated that a meeting was held August 27th, and that the public landfill tour and open house went well. It was announced that the landfill
gas collection system installation is proceeding well and a local builder is going to donate dirt for landfill cover. Also it was updated that all the air purifiers have been distributed to homes and that odour problems have been reduced.

c) Steering Committee Update

The Task Force delegate to the Steering Committee stated that he was not in attendance at the September meeting.

Staff announced that they presented on diversion options and the Task Force workshop results. It was stated that staff recommendations to the Steering Committee were somewhat inline with the recommendations put forth by the Task Force. It was announced that the report from staff will be coming forward to Public Works Committee in early November and the delay was needed for staff to have some extra time to complete the report which was delayed due to other business.

Discussion on the two (2) year phase-in of container limits took place. A member stated that the City needs to go to a one (1) container limit faster, but was concerned it would coincide with an election. Staff clarified the timing of moving to a one (1) container limit wouldn’t be in conflict with an election. It was clarified that this limit would be mandatory, not optional.

3. Recycling Program Update

a) Containers Recycling Update

Atul Nanda from Recycling Materials Marketing (ReMM) provided a presentation on their work with marketing the City of Hamilton containers recycling stream.

The major components of the presentation were:

- Revenues, marketed materials, and end markets for recycled materials
- Industry trends in recycling were outlined (i.e. increased PET consumption, decreased newspaper use)
- Details on the new LCBO glass deposit system were discussed
- New recycled product markets and future markets were outlined

An inquiry was made into potential recycling markets for items we currently accept at our CRCs but are not currently marketing. It was noted that ReMM is currently not contracted to market materials collected at the CRC’s, but there are probably marketable materials there.

A question was asked on what could be done to increase waste diversion. It was indicated that audits to determine what materials are going into the landfill is necessary and then looking for markets for these materials.

An inquiry was made on how things would change if we went to single stream. It was stated that diversion has been observed to increase and that revenues can increase under single stream, but it is not conclusive. It was noted that newer single stream facilities are doing better at sorting so there is a greater possibility to realize equal revenues per tonne compared to dual stream processing.

An inquiry was made as to whether there are markets that will pay more for the higher quality product. A response was provided which indicated this is affected by many factors.

A question was asked as to what ReMM would like to see collected by the City for them to market. The response was some IC&I metal wastes, but also increased amounts multi-residential recyclables and any other waste stream containing aluminium.

Discussion took place on what recycling numbers for tubs and lids were acceptable in the blue box program. It was clarified that numbers 2, 4, and 5 were accepted.

An inquiry was made on a specific plastic coated HDPE bottle to see if it could be recycled. A response was provided.

A question was asked on what citizens could do to improve the marketable quality of our recycled materials. The response was that this would be better answered by our MRF operator in the next presentation.
b) Fibres Recycling Update

Jake Westerhof from Canada Fibers Ltd. made a presentation on fibre recycling markets and the operation of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

The major presentation items were:

- Background provided on recycling in Ontario and on the history of Canada Fibres Ltd. and its partnership with the City of Hamilton
- Global markets for fibres outlined and the effect of the Chinese paper market on the recycling industry
- The future outlook for the Canadian fibre market
- Problems facing the domestic paper producers

An inquiry was made as to whether paper cups could be better utilized if they could be washed and put in the blue box. The response was that they should not be placed in the recycling stream as they are often contaminated and are made of polycoat which increases processing difficulty.

An inquiry was made as to whether the cups collected in the blue box could be brought to the CCF. The response was that the MRF residue is sent to landfill.

An inquiry was made on the difference in the diversion of recyclables achieved from one versus two stream recycling programs. It was responded that, in Canada Fibres experience, single-stream recycling provides increased capture of recyclables and that the increased capture levels offset any reduced commodity prices received due to higher contamination levels of single-stream processing.

A question was asked on what would be easiest to be added to the blue box for Canada Fibers to process and market. The response was that Ontario is currently a net importer of recycled fibre and it would be good to promote the capture of existing fibres rather than bring in new types of acceptable materials.

An inquiry was made on the recent one million dollar increased projection in recycling commodities revenue from Council. Staff provided a response and noted that budget and political pressures had an influence.

Information was provided on the potential for optical sorting to improve the sorting and revenues and the potential for it to allow for a greater amount of acceptable materials in the blue box program.

c) MRF Retrofit

Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection made a presentation on the current status of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) retrofit. He provided background information on the MRF retrofit process and outlined what will be undertaken.

The upgrade of the container processing line was outlined.

The different phases of the retrofit were outlined.

A question was asked about the amount of remaining space at the site. Staff responded that about 45% of the site remains unused and that there is no current plan on what to do with the remaining space.

A question was asked on the potential for moving to single stream processing in the future. Staff indicated that they will plan for this in the future and it will likely help waste diversion. Staff indicated that nothing will be done on the site that will limit the ability of the MRF to process single stream recycling.

5. Waste Reduction Task Force Motion on Priorities

The WRTF recommendation on diversion options was read aloud by the Chair. The recommendation is as follows:

“After careful consideration, the Waste Reduction Task Force has concluded that if the City is to achieve 65% diversion from landfill even two years behind the Solid Waste Management Master Plan schedule, four areas of concern must be given high priority. Prompt action in these areas coupled with technological advance can prolong the life of Glanbrook Landfill significantly, and in so doing save the City millions of dollars. Failure to act promptly now, while we still have options, will have a significant financial, environmental and political cost.”
Resolved: The Waste Reduction Task Force asks Council through the Public Works Committee to immediately take all necessary steps to provide Waste Management Division with the tools to reach 65% diversion from landfill by 2010 or sooner. The highest priority should be given to three areas:

1. Implementation of the Green Cart program in all multi-residential housing units in the City by 2010 at the very latest. The Task Force does not believe a 65% diversion target can be reached without significant advances in this area.

2. A non-voluntary one container limit for garbage should be imposed immediately. Since the introduction of the Green Cart Program, an overwhelming majority of households are already close to this standard, and special arrangements can easily overcome individual and seasonal challenges.

3. It is time to implement the "progressively rigorous" enforcement of relevant by-laws called for in Recommendation 8 of the SWMMP. The Task Force has long advocated that enforcement of waste management by-laws should be conducted in a reasonable and sensitive manner. However, the current situation could best be described as "all carrot, no stick."

4. As an integral part of the efforts in these and other areas, residents should be reminded at every opportunity that reduction is a key component to all waste management strategies, and one that requires no special equipment, expertise or expense."

A motion was put forward that this recommendation be approved as stated and that staff forward this recommendation to Public Works Committee at their November meeting.

The motion passed unanimously. (Moved by Peter Hutton, seconded by Dave Hart Dyke)

6. Other Business

a) Information Update on Provincial Initiatives

Staff provided a copy of an Information Update summarizing the City’s response to the new initiatives announced by the Province relating to waste management. It was stated that any questions and comments can be discussed at the October meeting.

Staff presented a media release on Hamilton being awarded the contract for processing organics from Halton Region for four (4) years. Discussion on the impact of this on the City’s waste management programs will be held at a future meeting.

Staff announced the complete closure of City Hall and the relocation of offices to the City Centre. It was also announced that the City Centre organics program has been launched for all the relocated offices.

Discussion took place on the current meeting location and an alternative option was suggested by a Task Force member. The Fortino’s community room on Main Street West was requested to be looked into. Staff will follow-up with both of these venues on available meeting space.

The Liberty Energy project open house was announced for September 20th at the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology.

A McMaster student’s battery recycling initiative was announced.

Staff announced the CCF open house on September 29th and indicated it was open to all residents.

It was announced that Waste Reduction Week is in October and a Task Force member will look into it for activities for their students.

A request was made for increased advertising on acceptable Blue Box items.

A request was made for information on the organics collection pilot undertaken at the Winona Peach Festival to be provided at the next meeting. Staff indicated they will report on this.

7. Public Discussion

No business was discussed under this item.
8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Dundas Lion's Community Centre, 10 Market Street South, Dundas.

Moved by Jim Sweetman and seconded by Dan Rodrigues 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 Ida Bedioui, Lisa Barroso