Present:

Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Acting Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Project Manager Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Councillor Chad Collins
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
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 November 12, 2008

The minutes were adopted as presented. (Moved to receive by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

3. 2008 Year in Review

A presentation reviewing Waste Management’s 2008 accomplishments, progress toward 65% diversion and planned communications for 2009 was given by staff.

Beth Goodger outlined the 2008 accomplishments for the Waste Management Division. Progress toward 65% waste diversion continues on several fronts. The curbside monitoring pilot which has been tracking set-outs from two (2) different routes per day (A and B zones) on a rotating basis indicates that 85% of properties are setting out one (1) container, 9.3% set out two (2) containers, 4% set out three (3) containers and 1.6% set out four (4) or more containers.

The transition to the new recycling collection service provider has gone well. Councillor Powers remarked that the true test is the number of complaints received. Calls are logged and tracked through Hansen. Beth Goodger stated that there has been a decrease in the number of complaints forwarded to her.

The new joint Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) contract with Halton Region (March 2008) will yield a one (1) million dollar savings over the life of the contract (to 2013). Councillor Powers inquired about the closure to the public of the Lottridge depot. Craig Murdoch explained that it went very well. A security guard was placed at the site every Saturday for eight (8) weeks following the closure. Any public that arrived at the Lottridge site to dispose of HHW were directed to the Kenora Community Recycling Centre (CRC) which is less than 10 kms away. As well, a banner placed at the entrance of the Lottridge site directed residents to the closest hazardous waste depot. Councillor Powers asked about the need for the HHW mobile events. Craig Murdoch said the events were not well attended with eighty-five (85) cars attending the first event and
sixty (60) cars attending the second. No one arrived by foot or bike as was expected. It appears that mobile events are likely not needed in 2009.

Anne Winning presented tonnage/diversion rates up to the 3rd quarter of the year. We are on track to meet our target of 40% diversion for the overall integrated system that includes CRC’s, residential municipal and commercial sectors. In addition, the diversion rate representing the residential sector should comfortably hit 45% as expected by year end.

It does not appear that the one (1) container limit has had a great impact on our diversion numbers. The expectation is that the “One” campaign and subsequent 1+1 enforcement in April 2009 should have a positive result. We estimate that it will have the biggest single impact on increasing diversion. Councillor Pearson commented that there wasn’t much of a difference between 2007 and 2008 diversion numbers. Anne Winning responded that there have not been a great deal of changes in any programs this year, but nevertheless we have exceeded our budgeted tonnages numbers for diversion in 2008.

Councillor Powers asked about the contamination rate of Halton and Simcoe’s organics. Craig Murdoch answered that Simcoe has an 8 to 10% contamination rate, while Halton has a 7 to 8% contamination rate. Hamilton averages about 3.5% contamination; however, we include Leaf and Yard Waste (L&YW) with our organic collection and this lowers the contamination rate. If L&YW was not included, our contamination rate would be about the same as Halton’s at 7 to 8%.

There has been a slight increase in the amount of waste received at the CRCs from the residential sector as well as the commercial sector, the latter being chargeable.

Dennis Guy spoke about the Communications Strategy for 2009 and explained that from a promotional point of view, we are going straight to the one (1) container limit so residents get it into their minds that it is a one (1) bag limit. It is becoming more evident that residents listen to their family, friends and neighbours for advice and education. The barrier does not appear to be the lack of knowledge concerning acceptable items but rather how to get the acceptable items to where they need to go. The new communication campaign focuses on real people (recognizable as a neighbour, friend, family, etc.) telling their story, from their perspective, explaining how they deal with their waste. The campaign is about regular people from all walks of life sharing information with each other, as opposed to the City of Hamilton telling people what to do.

In January, a 1 + 1 (clear bag) mailer will be delivered to residents announcing the garbage limit changes. This will help those who need the transition year to understand how the new limits work. The website will also be updated. Councillor Powers commented that some of the requests he receives requesting over limit garbage set-out do not appear to be justified while others seem sincere. It is expected that there will be more calls when the phase-in of the one (1) container limit (two [2] bags with the second bag being a clear one) takes effect in April 2009. Beth Goodger explained that an enforcement procedure is being established for Collection staff. Councillor Pearson said that she has heard some concerns about accommodating large families and group homes. Staff have been addressing these concerns when received and it is expected that the Special Consideration Policy will address the situation for most cases. Staff will be meeting with the Customer Service Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities in the New Year for preliminary consultation on the implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Customer Service Standard. The agricultural sector has been addressed. Councillor Pearson requested that Dennis Guy meet with Councillors and their assistants to explain the coming program changes. Councillor Powers expressed concern over the supply of clear plastic bags. Dennis responded that a list of stores that normally carry clear plastic bags could be generated as a reference.

Peter Hutton commented that members of the Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) need to tell residents how lucky they are that Hamilton has the programs that we have compared to other municipalities. WRTF members can communicate helpful hints to residents, such as: if the plastic can bend it goes in, if it doesn’t it doesn’t go in; if you can pop your finger trough the plastic it goes in; if it won’t go through it doesn’t go in.

Councillor Powers indicated that he relies on staff at the CRCs to tell him where everything goes at the CRC. He suggested that a display be developed or that bins be colour coded to make them more evident as there are a number of bins on-site and residents need to figure out which one to use. Peter Hutton agreed with Councillor Power’s suggestion that the bins be more obvious. Craig Murdoch explained that the Kenora
CRC bins are more obvious than the Dundas CRC bins since the elevation at the Dundas CRC affects the sight line. Staff will look at the effectiveness of information boards and colour coding.

Councillor Pearson said that she noticed new three (3) stream waste containers at the Convention Centre and that they looked really good. She added that it would be nice to get similar containers into Jackson Square. She inquired about how a school signs up for a tour at the CCF. Dennis said he would forward the information to her. He explained that transportation is provided to off-set cost since the learning room only accommodates thirty (30) students and a school bus can hold forty (40) plus students.

4. Transfer Station (TS) and Disposal Review

The contracts were awarded at the Council meeting on December 10th. The Landfill contract was awarded to Waste Management of Canada Corporation (WMCC) and the CRC/TS contract was awarded to BFI Canada Inc. Staff will be meeting with both companies to talk about the value added options and other ways to reduce costs. All possible options to allow for money savings will be considered.

Councillor Powers requested staff not to propose changes that will jeopardize advances made at the CRCs in terms of diversion rates or the quality of service provided to residents. Craig Murdoch agreed saying that the number of complaints received about the CRCs are down significantly when compared to six (6) years ago. He added that we are one of a few municipalities that do not charge for diversion. Most charge a fee for recycling in addition to garbage.

5. Green Cart/Leaf & Yard Waste Program Follow-Up Report

A staff follow-up report will be coming forward to the Public Works Committee budget meeting on January 16th. The follow-up report recommends no change to the L&Y Waste program collection frequency or to the types of materials collected, instead the report recommends that staff promote voluntary grasscycling to try and reduce the amount of grass in the green carts. This will help some of the collection concerns while a recommendation to invest $700,000.00 in the Central Composting Facility (CCF) to purchase/upgrade equipment will allow the CCF to handle the excessive amount of L&Y Waste received. Funding is already available in the capital budget. Overall, a minimal decrease in tonnages is expected with the promotion of grasscycling resulting in an operational budget savings of $5,000.00. Existing contracts with Halton and Simcoe will not be affected and the revenue stream from Simcoe will see the budget amount of $240,000.00 maintained.

6. Diversion Options Implementation Update

Staff reported that 8,285 (16%) multi-residential units [578 (57%) buildings] are now receiving weekly organics collection service. We are currently receiving IPL green carts at 1579 Burlington Street East (Materials Recycling Facility) as part of the green cart tender for the Multi Residential diversion program. Approximately 6,000 of the 15,000 total have been delivered to date. The majority of the carts are expected to be delivered prior to Christmas.

Fifty-six (56) commercial/residential units were identified as not receiving green cart service earlier this year, Forty (40) of these are now receiving weekly organics collection. Peter Hutton added that many of the mixed use (commercial/residential) units were delivered to during the single family residential green cart roll-out and that is why the outstanding numbers are so low.

Single family residential waste audits have been completed. One (1) of three (3) corporate facility audits have been completed as well. Audit reports concerning the aforementioned will be received in 2009.

Current diversion rates at the end of September were 43.6% for residential and 38.3% for integrated (commercial, residue, CRC, TS). (Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

7. Approval of New Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) Members

Staff advised that the WRTF have recommended a slate of new WRTF members, including: Trisha Branigan-Klner, Paula Hamilton, Elaine Jermy, Rose Killey and Gregory Kraatz. A brief biography for each was provided as a handout. A report to approve the new members will be going to the Public Works Committee in January.
Motion to receive the new WRTF members. (Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

Peter Hutton suggested that the application process for new WRTF members be reviewed before next year’s re-application because the process is overly long. Applications are submitted in October but members are not approved until January. New members cannot vote until they are approved. Councillor Powers said he would discuss this with Carolyn Biggs and review the new member procedure.

8. Operations Updates

The landfill gas to energy generators have now completed their commissioning phase and have passed. The engines are now running and generating revenue for Hamilton Renewable Power and the City of Hamilton. The revenue has been used to off-set Waste Management's operating budget.

The bike give-a-way was held on December 12th at Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Thirty (30) refurbished bikes that would otherwise go to landfill were given to the organization for distribution.

9. Outstanding Action Items

A request that the Resolution Deposit/Return System for Aluminum and Plastic Drink containers be removed from the Outstanding Action Items list. (Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

10. Other Business

Staff mentioned that the 2009 Operating Budget for the Waste Management Division is coming in below 2%.

11. Next Meeting: January 2009 - Location and date of the next SWMMP Steering committee to be made in co-ordination with Budget deliberation meetings.