City of Hamilton
Public Works Department
WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEETING MINUTES

Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

Monday, May 28th, 2007
Glanbrook Landfill Meeting Room
4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

MEMBERS: Allan Freeman, Chair
Andy Fevez
Sheila May
Mike Caruso (WRTF)
Brook Ryan
Councillor Dave Mitchell

WASTE MANAGEMENT, CITY OF HAMILTON
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal
Fabiano Gondim, Supervisor of Landfills
Frank Falcone, Project Manager, Landfills

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORPORATION:
Ron Wright (Resource)

GLANBROOK GAZETTE: Jerry Smith

REGRETS: Beth Goodger
Joanne Placko
Annie Michaud
Reid Cleland

Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

ITEM ACTION

1. Landfill Gas Project Update

Craig Murdoch and Fabiano Gondim updated the GLCC on the construction progress of the landfill gas project. To date, the first 6 rows of horizontal collection trenches on the north end have been installed and the Contractor is currently installing the condensate trap CT4. The header pipes have been fused and are ready to be installed around the perimeter of the landfill.

Craig also provided an overview on how the landfill gas project would work. Craig said the electricity generation would begin in early 2008. Craig also indicated that Dillon Consulting is responsible for ensuring work is completed according to the plans and specifications. The project engineers are Conestoga Rovers and Associates (CRA) and they are responsible for design, engineering and quality control.

Sheila May asked why there is a difference between the plans that were submitted to the MOE a couple of years ago and the plans that the Contractor is currently constructing. Craig indicated that those previous plans were completed by Dillon Consulting and were preliminary drawings for the purpose of approvals and tendering. The current design is part of the Design, Build, Operate and Maintenance contract.
ITEM ACTION

and CRA has reviewed the design to best capture gas and control odours.

The landfill gas project currently being built is to collect landfill gas from Stages 1 and 2 only. When Stage 3 is developed, the landfill gas project will be expanded to collect landfill gas from Stage 3 as well. The design of the gas collection system for Stage 3 will be completed when this Stage development advances.

2. Odour Control

The GLCC asked staff why we have had some recent odours complaints.

One of the possible reasons for recent landfill odours was due to one of the blowers on the portable flare was down, therefore the flare was working at half capacity for a couple of days causing landfill gas pressure build up within the landfill and more gas was released, causing odours. Fabiano Gondim indicated that the blower has now been replaced. The City has asked Comcor (operators of the temporary flare and blowers) to have an extra blower on standby on site to immediately replace any blower that fails and they have agreed. Comcor visits the site on a regular basis to do routine checks and are on call when the City notices anything wrong with the temporary flare system.

The fence line odour neutralizer system works more efficiently when winds blow from South or Southwest. The wind changed direction and speed every hour on May 27th, resulting in some odour complaints.

Frank Falcone said that the City has just begun operating the odour fence neutralizer system over the past two weeks and it will require some time to tweak the system for the most effective operational frequency.

It was explained that another possible source of the odour came from the contractor that was installing the gas collection system. They had left some exposed waste on the top of the landfill over the past weekend. The contractor has been directed to cover this waste immediately. The City has also directed the contractor to stop any new excavation on waste until the Contractor gets a portable odour suppression system on site to effectively mitigate odours. They expect to receive the odour suppression system by the end of the week.

Brook Ryan feels that the contractor (CRA) should be removed from the job if they cannot properly install the gas collection system without causing odours for the neighbours. Craig indicated he will take this issue up with Toromont Cat as they have sub-contracted CRA to design and install the system. Craig did indicate however if this was to be done, it could potentially delay this project up to a year.

The City has a staff on site from Monday to Friday to monitor odours and to take immediate actions to minimize odours. Andy Fevez feels that the City should have constant monitoring of the landfill excavation for odours by a person on site at all times. He feels this should include night time and weekends too to ensure the City can take immediate action instead of waiting for resident complaints. Craig indicated the City will review this recommendation.
Allan Freeman wanted the engineer that is responsible to certify the landfill gas project, to monitor and inspect the site more closely to avoid similar situations in the future.

All trench work in Stage 2 will be completed by the end of June and then work will move north to Phase 1. The installation of horizontal trenches will be completed by the end of August 2007.

Brook Ryan feels the property taxes of affected residences should be reduced due to the nuisance the landfill is causing. Brook would like this to be brought to Council for consideration or at least the suggestion to reduce the taxes of the houses that are affected by the landfill. Brook feels that the houses on Hall Road should not pay the same taxes at the rest of the community due to them living next to the landfill. Councillor Mitchell indicated that in order to reduce taxes residents have to go through the Ontario Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and says that the location of the landfill should already be factored into the taxes based on what the houses sell for in the area (their taxable value). In this case they have not taken into account that the odour has never been this bad in the past 20 years. Councillor Mitchell said that for the one year period of the construction he feels the taxes should be reduced but doubts if this would be accepted. The request to reduce the taxes would have to go MPAC and the application would have to be submitted by the residents. Councillor Mitchell said that the group of 51 houses could ask for this reduction in taxes and his office could support this. He feels that Council would support this because although it would not be their decision to reduce the taxes it would be the decision of the MPAC.

3. **Air Purifier Units Update**

Craig Murdoch updated the Committee that the Recommendation Report went to the Public Works Committee today, May 28th and the recommendation was approved to proceed to Council.

Councillor Mitchell mentioned that 51 units had been approved by the Public Works Committee for purchase and will go to Council for approval on May 30th.

Craig Murdoch said the odour study completed by our consultant identified 41 houses potentially affected by landfill odours through odour modeling. In addition, 10 other property owners were also added to the list as previously identified through discussion with the GLCC.

The City put out a request for information for the air purifiers. The company that was selected can reach the lowest levels of hydrogen sulphide (the odours component of landfill gas) of any company that submitted information. This particular company can reach levels as low as 3.0 parts per billion. Craig Murdoch outlined that according to the US EPA, most people can not detect hydrogen sulphide levels lower than 5.0 parts per billion, however particularly sensitive individuals can detect hydrogen sulphide as low as 0.5 parts per billion.

The company selected by the City makes units for industrial applications to handle strong odours. The recommendation report will go to Council on May 30th and on May 31st the city will be sending notices to the 51 homeowners to let them know their eligibility for the air purifiers and will
also enclose a waiver stating that they can not claim electricity or filter replacements from the City. It will also state that the eligible residents will keep ownership for the air purifier units. The letter to residents will also provide details about an open house to happen on the following week. At the open house the manufacturer will demonstrate the unit and the homeowners will be asked to bring their waivers with them so the City can order the units.

- Each air purifier unit costs approximately $1,600 and treat up to 1,000 square feet. The unit is portable and can be placed wherever the homeowner feels it would be most useful.

- The City can process the Purchase Order for the air purifier units as soon as Council directs staff to buy the units.

- The City made clear that the vendor was selected because it submitted a bid showing the most promising unit to help mitigate odours. The City does not guarantee that the air purifier units will totally eliminate landfill odours.

4. **Letter to Residents about Odour Control**

   - The City delivered a letter to the homeowners today updating them on the construction schedule of the landfill gas project and the efforts to mitigate landfill odours. A copy of this letter was emailed to the GLCC and hard copies were also handed out.

5. **Alternative Soils Update**

   - The City has submitted the application to import soils for daily cover and the MOE Approvals Branch has expedited the application process. The MOE has sent the City a letter commenting on the application and requested that the City send additional information. One condition in the letter was the requirement that the City only accept soil from the City’s approved service area, which is the City of Hamilton. To expedite the process the City has agreed to this condition but feel that we may not find sufficient amounts of soils that we need if we are restricted to this area. In the future, the City will pursue to expand the service area so we can improve the likelihood of obtaining soils. Another condition that the MOE is requiring is that we provide stormwater management control and submit an application under the Ontario Water Resources Act since we would change the water flow to the retention ponds. We have talked to the MOE stating that all imported soil will be stockpiled on the existing waste footprint and will not impact existing retention ponds, and therefore no application under the Ontario Waster Resources Act would be required. MOE agreed with the City.

   - Sheila May requested that the City look into local developments to find a source of soil. Sheila indicated Glanbrook Farms would be a good source. Frank Falcone mentioned that they have already hauled soil on site in the past and are aware of our needs. Frank also indicated that the City is constantly looking for sources and has contacted developers, contractors, geotechnical firms and City’s Planning Department. Frank is currently looking at a source of about 15,000 cubic meters of soil.

   - Councillor Mitchell mentioned that there was a potential source of fill off of Binbrook Road beside the Presbyterian Church. The City will look into that source.
6. **Status of Leachate Mound**

Frank Falcone handed out plans showing the leachate levels and indicated that the plans have been updated to incorporate all new wells that have been drilled and also show the existing contours.

Frank Falcone stated that the leachate levels were more or less the same as at the last meeting with the exception of LM8. LM8A was drilled right beside LM8 as the City suspected there was a problem with the readings from LM8. The leachate level in the new well LM8A has dropped 2.5 metres indicating that there is a problem with LM8 as was initially suspected.

The levels of the new monitoring wells LM6A and LM7, which are not part of the drawing cross sections, indicate that the leachate level is between 2 and 5 meters from the base of the landfill.

The levels in the vicinity of LM2 and LM4 are showing much higher than the rest of the wells. City staff suspects that they appear to be higher than the remaining wells because of some landfill gas pressure. The gas holds the leachate perched above isolated areas of gas. If we remove the suspect area around LM4 and LM2 and extrapolate the leachate levels from all remaining wells, this will reduce the overall leachate level to around 4 to 5 meters above the base of the landfill. We should keep in mind that it is difficult to calculate an overall average of leachate over the entire site because each cell acts like an individual tub as there are berms around each cell.

City staff informed the Committee that currently there are no seeps at the landfill.

7. **Pond Data**

Frank Falcone handed out the recent pond data and mentioned that we have released Pond 5 while Pond 3 has not passed the MOE criteria and we are currently pumping Pond 3 into the leachate collection system.

With the remediation of seeps, the GLCC noted that all ponds have passed the MOE criteria, except for pond 3, showing a substantial improvement in water quality and overall landfill management.

8. **Waste Reduction Task Force Update**

Mike Caruso updated the committee on the Waste Reduction Task Force issues.

The Region of Niagara is negotiating with Integrated Municipal Services (IMS) for 100,000 tonnes per year of landfill space for the next 20 years; this has diminished their drive to look at alternative disposal options such as EFW.

Councillor Mitchell stated that the City will be looking at its options and how to move forward with Niagara, another partner or on our own. He indicated that the work done to date has been very important and is still valuable to the City of Hamilton.
9. **New Business**

Brook Ryan wants to see if green carts can be used in multiple residential dwellings. Sheila May asked to see if the City can use the Orchard Park retirement apartment in Glanbrook as a test dwelling to use small green carts. Craig Murdoch said he will pass this request to Pat Parker for consideration.

**NEXT MEETING – August 27th, 2007**

Minutes prepared by Frank Falcone, reviewed by Fabiano Gondim and approved by the GLCC members.