MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #09-09
Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane, Room 206
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Emil Prpic, Supervisor of Waste Processing
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division

Regrets:
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division

1. Adoption of Agenda

Item 4.3 Diversion Options, as presented in the original agenda was removed in order to complete the costing. This presentation will take place during the October meeting.

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson:

The agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on August 12, 2009

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Pearson:

The minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes

Staff mentioned that the outstanding action items would need to be discussed.

4. Diversion Program Updates

4.1 Multi-Residential Diversion Implementation

Staff reported that 80% of all buildings and 59% of all units (representing about 30,000 of the 53,000 units) in the City have received the organics program. Currently working on Phase 3 of the roll out in which 51% of buildings, and 53% of units have been completed. Distribution has moved from the A zones to the B zones. There are 70 buildings left in the lower City (zone A1) to be completed this fall. These are a combination of buildings - not willing to participate, are under construction, or pose accessibility constraints at this time. Roll out staff has changed due to students returning to school and new students coming on board.
The rollout is on target for completion at years end. Any buildings not on service at this time can be phased in with the roll out to commercial buildings.

4.2 Financing Strategy

Continuing on from August’s SWMMP meeting, staff presented the “Sustainable Financing Study Options 2009” for further discussion. This is to follow-up on a 2007 Council direction for staff to review and to evaluate the potential of a user pay or utility-based system and to report back in 2009 once garbage container limits have been reduced.

The financing strategy was also discussed in detail during August’s Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) meeting. The WRTF met again two weeks later on September 2, 2009 and passed the following motion:

Whereas the one container limit will be implemented effective April 2010 and enforced excepting the provision for special considerations and the current “grace periods”, and whereas all waste management costs are included on the tax bill, the WRTF is resolved that Council be requested to not implement a PAYT system now. The recommendation to implement a PAYT system will be reviewed again within a timeframe to be determined by staff.

That said, the WRTF is resolved that a PAYT system should include the following:

1. Expanded educational communications with the focus on encouraging residents to set out garbage only when necessary, and less than once per week if possible in preparation for potential implementation of bi-weekly garbage collection in 2013;
2. Any and all changes to the collection services be assigned with goal/review dates to ensure diversion targets & budget considerations are being achieved;
3. Create a bonus/reward system recognizing residents who set out less than the minimum number of allowable containers (similar to the existing “Gold Box Program”);
4. Review current enforcement measures and by-laws, with the intent to increase fines, and/or penalties for non-compliance;
5. Increase fees at the CRCs with the intent of discouraging users opting for disposal versus diversion options; and,
6. That any PAYT options contain measures in place to protect those who are financially challenged.

Members agreed that they would like to pursue Option 1. Status Quo without offering six tags; therefore, staying the course. The distribution of the six tags (which would give residents the option to use them at any time) was discussed and determined not to be in high demand from residents. Consequently, it was determined that the reasoning behind the enhanced service and the associated cost to provide such service is not justified.

Motion by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

5. Planning Study of Land Use Controls Adjacent to the Glanbrook Landfill (GLF) Site

Staff gave a presentation pertaining to the use of lands surrounding the Glanbrook Landfill Site. Main points from the presentation include:

- Reasons for the study – lifespan of the landfill lifespan; protection from future development,
- The study area - three km radius surrounding the GLF,
- Land use – existing, proposed, and planned,
- Existing provincial policy concerning land use planning,
- City of Hamilton policy – the GLF is designated “utilities” in the rural official plan, expansions and new landfills require an official plan amendment, study area is agricultural and has
policies to protect permitted agricultural uses, Glanbrook zoning by-law provides for supportive zones and regulations,

- Municipal policy of Adjacent Municipalities (Haldimand County, Niagara and West Lincoln) and other Municipal Policy examples,
- Management and Evaluation Options,
- Recommendation – the recommended preferred means by which the City could manage the development of incompatible land uses in proximity to the GLF,

Include an appendix to the City’s and County’s zoning by-laws that would illustrate an “area of potential influence” around the Landfill based on the City’s review of the study area and technical information as a precaution to potential purchasers of property as well as for the staff review of prospective development proposals.

Committee enquired as to why we do not consider registry on title of lands in close proximity to the landfill, similar to West Lincoln designation of “Area of Possible Influence” which identifies lands within 500m of a landfill site. West Lincoln requires such lands to be registered on title notifying new lots within the area of the location of the landfill. Staff responded that they would ask the City’s Legal division to comment on the option for registering new lots on title. This item is tabled for discussion at the September 21st Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the information be received and supported.

CARRIED

6. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

The WRTF reported that three task force positions are coming up for renewal this fall.

It was mentioned that while vacationing in Salt Lake City it became evident that Hamilton is substantially more advanced in diversion initiatives. Salt Lake City is only now providing residents with curbside recycling. Staff mentioned that Saskatoon is only now developing a curbside blue box collection program.

7. Operations Update

7.1. Transfer Station Renovations

Transfer Station (TS) tipping floors are being rebuilt: the Kenora TS was completed at the end of August; work is now being done at the Mountain TS and should be completed by September 21st. The Dundas TS is scheduled after this. All TS renovations should be completed by mid October.

Waste from residents that were flooded is being accepted at all transfer stations. All is proceeding well.

The Waste Management division (and Operations and Maintenance) has registered for the tire take back program which began September 1st. We are expecting between 15 and 20 thousand in reimbursement funding for 2009 and about $40,000.00 in 2010. The City currently receives 0.88 cents per tire.

Renovations to the office building at the Glanbrook LF will begin September 14th and will be completed by November 27th. The contract was awarded to Bestco Construction.

7.2. Collections Activities

The Festival and Special Event report will go to the Public Works Committee on November 16th, 2009. Waste Management staff is working with Culture and Recreation staff to implement a user fee to replace lost or damaged waste containers or to apply charges if diverted materials were so badly contaminated that they had to be landfilled. This will eliminate the $1,000.00 required deposit which is difficult for smaller events to raise. As well, Waste Management is looking into offering services through the Community Partnership Program, as suggested by Councillor Collins. Any changes regarding Festivals and Special Events will come into effect in 2011.
An Information Report: “Status of Solid Waste Management Master Plan, Options for Increasing Diversion and Landfill Capacity” will be going to the September 15th Public Works Committee. The report provides a follow-up regarding staffing, advises that the two temporary Customer Service Coordinator positions will be extended for an additional 30 month period.

Committee enquired as to the current recycling commodity prices. Staff responded that most commodities are starting to slowly increase, while others remain stagnant.

Committee raised the issue of a resident being told they had to wait seven weeks for a replacement green cart that was broken during collection. Staff will follow up on the green cart delivery timeframe. As well, staff is to confirm when the green cart distribution trailer that will rotate between the three Community Recycling Centres will be operational. Currently, 700 carts are delivered monthly by modified staff.

8. Outstanding Action Items

Both listed issues: “Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection” and “Waste Management Services for Festival & Special Events” will be discussed at next months meeting.

Single Stream Recycling will be added to the Outstanding Action Items list.

9. Other Business

Staff will send an email to Council members about the September 26 Open House at the Resource Recovery Centre. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Committee mentioned that the scheduled January 13, 2010 meeting will need to be rescheduled as there is a budget meeting that day.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in room 206 of the Hamilton Convention Centre.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Motion by Councillor Collins, Seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED
Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Collections, Waste Management Division