Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Councillor Chad Collins
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
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division

1. Adoption of Agenda
The agenda was approved as presented. (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Powers) CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting from January 21st, 2009
The minutes were approved as presented. (Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Collins) CARRIED

3. Reduction of Plastic Shopping Bags Discussion
During January’s Steering Committee meeting, staff gave an update on the reduction in the use of plastic shopping bags as a follow-up to direction from Council related to PW087155 in November 2007 and Information Report PW07155A in March 2008. Recommendations for consideration (at January’s meeting) included continuing to collect and process plastic shopping bags in the Blue Box Program, not taking any action to ban plastic shopping bags at this time and a possible reusable bag giveaway in conjunction with local food banks. The Committee agreed in January to review the staff findings and consider at a subsequent meeting.

Since the January meeting, the Ontario Plastic Bag Reduction Task Force Annual Report was released in February 2009 and indicates that there was a 6.2% reduction in the use of plastic shopping bags from 2006 to 2007. Staff advised that it isn’t urgent that the City take further action in this area, given the City’s on-going efforts to promote product stewardship at the provincial level, improvements being shown by the voluntary program, capture rate of plastic shopping bags in the City’s recycling program (36% in 2008) and the fact that plastic bags represent a small percentage (~1%) of the overall waste managed by the City. Staff are preparing a report for the April 6th Public Works Committee based on this information and approach. It was recognized that the Waste Reduction Task Force continues to support a ban on plastic shopping bags and this was again supported through a motion at their February 18th meeting.
Staff noted that there is an increase of non-recyclable shopping bags in use (e.g. biodegradable) and this is a concern to recycling markets. The Committee discussed the need to educate businesses and the public on which types of plastic are recyclable.

The Committee was in agreement that given the evolution of extended producer responsibility in Ontario, actions by industry and the City’s current priority on reaching a one (1) container limit for garbage that restrictions on the use of plastic shopping bags do not need to be considered by the City at this time.

The staff report recommendations will be revised appropriately to reflect the discussions.

(Moved to receive the presentation by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Pearson) CARRIED

4. Updated Waste Management By-Law

Staff gave a presentation on the updated version of By-Law 05-190 (enacted in 2005) to clarify the updated version, prior to taking a report to Public Works Committee on March 23, 2009. The changes described are minor and in no way affect the intent of the By-Law as originally approved by Council.

There have been a number of program and service changes in the delivery of Waste Management services to Hamilton residents since 2005 which have been approved by Council (elimination of white goods, container limits, leaf and yard waste collected in the Green Cart Program). The updated By-Law clearly reflects these changes to help staff, members of the public and the Courts interpret the By-Law.

The substantive changes were indicated, and a handout indicating a chronology of events which have occurred since 2005 was distributed.

(Moved to receive the presentation by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Collins) CARRIED

5. Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) Update

Peter Hutton announced that next month would be the last Steering Committee meeting that he will be attending and that another WRTF member will be attending in his place.

Dan Rodrigues is the newly elected Chair of the WRTF. Anton Volcansek is the Vice-Chair and will move into the Chair position the following year. The WRTF is moving towards having the Chair serve for only one (1) year.


Staff provided an update on various legislative amendments that are in progress including:

Waste Diversion Act Amendments - Comments are being received by the Ministry of Environment until April 1, 2009. The City submitted its comments in November (Report PW08146).

Blue Box Program Amendments - Due to the short commenting period, staff comments were submitted to the province on February 27, 2009. The proposed changes call for increased producer responsibility with industry becoming fully responsible for recycling programs. Although the City has supported the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility, there are a number of concerns about the impact on integrated waste management systems operated by municipalities such as maintaining service levels for residents, customer service, program education, and how existing contracts and materials recycling facilities will be addressed.

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) - Two discussion papers have been released by the CCME for consultation: Towards a Proposed Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility and Towards a Proposed Canada-Wide Action Strategy for Sustainable Packaging (a nation-wide program for EPR which includes a sustainable packaging initiative). Since municipalities have been lobbying the federal government for many years about packaging legislation and regulations, it is important that the opportunity to comment be taken. A report will be prepared for the May 4th Public
Works Committee so that the City’s comments can be submitted by the May 29, 2009 comment deadline.

**Used Tire Program Plan** - The program plan has been released on the EBR, with a commending deadline of March 26th. Staff will be reviewing potential impacts on the City’s Community Recycling Centres.

**Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE)** - Program requirements to accept Phase 1 materials have been released and most municipalities including Hamilton will have difficulties in meeting the storage and shipping requirements at recycling centres. The City would not be eligible for funding for the materials if they are not collected in the prescribed manner. Staff will be reviewing options and will report back at a future meeting.

**Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW)** - The deadline for the consolidated MHSW (all phases) Program Plan to be submitted to the Minister of Environment is July 31, 2009. A revised plan has been released for comment, with a deadline of March 16, 2009. The City has a funding agreement in place for the Phase 1 materials and the funding submission for Q3 of 2008 has been submitted.

7. **Operations Update**

7.1 **Transfer Station & Disposal Review**

An Information Report is coming forward to the March 23rd Public Works Committee concerning Value Added options with potential operational savings relating to the 2010 Transfer Station and Disposal contracts. The contracts have been executed and the negotiations resulted in a savings of $12,000 per year.

7.2 **Recycling Program Revenues**

Commodity prices showed a slight improvement in February at approximately $50 per tonne basket of goods price. The good news is that all commodities are moving to end markets.

Staff reported that there has been a substantial reduction in glass tonnage since the LCBO began taking back containers in the beginning of 2008. Canada Fibers Ltd. (CFL), the City’s recycling processor, had requested compensation for this loss of revenue. Staff has negotiated an arrangement with CFL and will be providing an update to Committee at the April meeting and reporting to the Public Works Committee in May.

Composting capacity was discussed, further to a Toronto Star article on March 1st that indicated green bin waste was being shipped to the United States. The Committee suggested that a letter to the editor be sent by the Committee Chair to the Spectator and other newspapers to provide an update that all recyclables and compost from Hamilton’s diversion programs are being marketed. Staff will work with the Committee Chair to prepare a letter.

8. **Outstanding Action Items**

Item a) Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection was deferred for discussion at the April Committee meeting.

Item b) Waste Management Services for Festivals & Special Events was deferred for discussion at the April Committee meeting.

9. **Other Business**

The Committee asked what is being done to update and inform the public on the change in the garbage limits.

A mailer was sent out the first week of February to explain the garbage program changes. City staff (Councillor Administrative Assistants, Municipal Service staff, Customer Contact Centre staff, and the Waste Management division) received training on the upcoming changes. The annual waste collection
calendar was mailed on March 2\textsuperscript{nd} and all changes and information have been posted on the City’s website.

Committee members requested that an Information Update be sent out and that a media release is done.

The Committee asked about the compost giveaways to the public. Staff commented that this year all events will be bulk giveaways in May. Dates and locations of the events will be emailed to the Steering Committee.

Staff provided an update on the Multi-Residential Diversion Program roll-out. Delivery is taking place in Phase 3 buildings. The goal is to complete delivery to all Phase 3 buildings in Zones A2 and A3 by the end of March. The next area for delivery is Zone A1.

Staff announced that we will be supporting Tim Horton’s with the April 16\textsuperscript{th} screening of the movie Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home at the Stoney Creek Silver City. The event is geared to high school students. This is an award winning documentary by Andrew Nisker promoting better choices when purchasing goods and implementing the 3R’s.

The Internal Audit of the Central Composting Facility contract has been completed. The contract includes the Certificates of Approval (CofAs) for the facility. The audit findings will be provided to the Audit and Administration (A&A) Committee once compliance with the Certificates of Approval has been reviewed by Legal Services. An Internal Audit will continue to review CofAs that are contained in contracts; however, they report the results to Legal before they are included in the final report that goes to the A&A Committee.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 9\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane, Room 203.

Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members
Gerry Davis, Acting General Manager, Public Works
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager, Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Disposal, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Collections, Waste Management Division
## APPENDIX A - OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Date Action Initiated</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection</td>
<td>Further discussion scheduled for March 11, 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<td>b)</td>
<td>Waste Management Services for Festivals &amp; Special Events</td>
<td>Budget Steering Committee 09-001, Item D 6.(b) - Feb 24/09 CoW</td>
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PP/rm