MINUTES
SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #01-08
Wednesday, January 16th, 2008
Hamilton City Centre, 320 B
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Present:
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor Russ Powers
Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Al Dore, Manager of Parks & Cemeteries, Operation and Maintenance Division
Colleen Clark, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force Member

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

1. Adoption of Agenda
The Agenda was adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Ferguson). CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting from December 11th, 2007
The minutes were adopted as presented (moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Powers). CARRIED

3. Parks Recycling Pilot Project
Al Dore updated the Committee on the Parks Recycling Pilot which ran in 25 Parks in 2005 and 28 Parks in 2006/2007. While the pilot was successful it was deemed unaffordable last year (2007) and in 2008 as well. Beth Goodger stated that staff wanted to make sure that this committee and Council was aware of both the Pilot and the recommended enhancement were both deemed unaffordable for 2008 before going into budget deliberations. To fully implement the recommended 2008 program expansion to an additional 143 permitted Park locations would cost $585,000 in capital (collection vehicles and recycling container purchases) and $279,000 in annual operating expense. Al Dore explained that the current trucks for collection of garbage have only one compartment and are not equipped to separate the three streams. It takes approximately 1:11 seconds to collect each of these recycling containers which relates to a 6 day a week collection schedule and therefore overtime costs would be incurred. Operations and Maintenance can reintroduce a report for budget deliberation to outline the costs involved for the continued pilot and expansion program. Councillor Powers asked about continuing status quo in Pilot parks and the cost involved in that. Al Dore reported that it would cost about $48,000. Councillor Powers will raise the issue at Public Works committee tomorrow regarding maintaining the pilot locations for the 2008 budget. The larger parks have staff located at the parks and the groundskeepers can collect recyclables as part of their daily job. The curbside recycling collection vehicle makes a stop at these locations to pick up recyclables. Only 3 – 4 locations receive this service as they generate enough recyclables to warrant the stop. A waste audit showed that the contamination rates were high in the Parks recycling. The recommendation based on the audits recommended an education program in order to decrease contamination. Councillor Powers asked that staff bring forward a report for the 2008 Budget to maintain the pilot program.
Councillor Ferguson asked about the possibility of adding one recycling container in each park at the road side or entrance that can be picked up by the normal recycling collection vehicles when the collect in the area. Councillor Pearson stated that she can see problems with containers only being placed at the entrances to parks as an alternative to the recommended enhancement with only once a week pick up, especially if they are only collected once per week. They would fill up and litter would blow around the park. Peter Hutton reported that the WRTF would like to see a program done correctly and across the City. The WRTF will look into the matter further.

**Motion:** Recycling in Parks to be continued in the 28 parks it is currently offered in the Pilot program and that staff look into other options for the remaining parks. Staff will prepare a report for costings and alternatives for other parks. Moved by Councillor Powers and seconded by Councillor Ferguson. CARRIED

4. Waste Services for Festivals and Special Events

Blair Smith presented to the committee on Waste Services at Festivals and Special Events. Blair outlined the costs involved in offering waste services at festivals and special events. Councillor Pearson asked about whether staff had contacted the Winona Peach Festival group regarding purchasing food containers that are recyclable or compostable. Peter Hutton responded that a member of the WRTF is on the Peach Festival committee and that the message has been passed on to them through this member. Different funding models where described to the group. Councillor Pearson would like more information on this program and would like to know how some of the festivals are running their garbage and recycling now. Blair asked the committee to confirm the level of service for festivals and special events and budget requirements. Councillor Ferguson would like to see some examples of festivals. Councillor Powers would also like to see some examples and have staff report back on this. Additionally Councillors Ferguson and Powers would like to see one time events having a high level of food waste as eligible events. Councillor Ferguson stated that he was happy that staff was bringing this forward well in advance of the 2009 budget.

5. Recycling Contractor Transition Plan

Staff reported that the transition with regards to the City’s recycling contractor is moving along however there are some problems with Halton Recycling. Staff is working with Halton Recycling to mitigate the problems. National’s trucks are starting to be delivered. National will be doing city wide recycling collection as of April 2008. Councillor Ferguson stated that he has not had any calls with regards to garbage/recycling in the last 5-6 months. Beth stated that we will let the committee know if we have any further problems. Internal audit is currently performing an audit on the Waste Management of Canada Corp. (WMCC) Contract because it will be timely for the upcoming RFP’s. They did not complete an audit on the recycling contract given the pending end of this contract in the next three months. Internal audit have just completed an audit of the Transfer Station revenue last year. Staff will report back with the findings on the WMCC contract.

6. Transfer and Disposal Station Review Update

The Transfer and Disposal Station review is underway and staff are continuing to work on this. The Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC) requested that the City extend the contract with WMCC but staff will be reporting at a future Public Works committee that we do not recommend going that way. There is no measurable benefit to extend that contract. The current contract does not deal with current issues and doesn’t provide the level of control that would benefit the operations of the landfill. Additionally the contract didn’t contemplate the closure of SWARU or the construction of Community Recycling Stations. Therefore it really needs to be updated. The GLCC are recommending that the landfill operations extend, however the contract with WMCC also includes the operation of the Transfer Stations as well all transfer of material to the landfill. Staff will report back to the committee as they move through the process. Councillor Powers stated that he would like to see the CRC’s being better utilized.
7. **Diversion Options Implementation Update**

Beth Goodger reported that staff is gearing up for the new calendars. Compostable bag samples are going to be handed out to residents and the new calendar will notify residents that they will be able to use them in the Green Cart Program starting in April 2008. A tender has been issued for sample compostable liner bags. Staff have received inquires regarding biodegradable shopping bags and their use in the green cart and staff is suggesting to residents that they be placed in the garbage stream and not used in the green cart. If they end up in the blue box, they will contaminate the plastic bags and will limit or destroy the marketability of plastic film bags.

8. **Glanbrook Landfill Operations Update**

This item has been deferred to next months meeting.

9. **Waste Reduction Task Force Update**

Peter Hutton update the Committee and informed them that a report is going forward at the February 4th, 2008 Public Works Committee regarding the appointment of new members of the WRTF. These new members will be excellent additions to the committee. Councillor Ferguson asked about how residents get on the committee. Staff responded that interested parties apply and are chosen based on different zones and affiliations. There were 12 applicants for the positions available.

**Motion:** The committee accepts the nominations to the Waste Reduction Task Force. Moved by Councillor Powers and seconded by Councillor Ferguson. CARRIED

10. **Other Business**

Beth Goodger reported that the 2008 Waste budget is at a 0.9% increase. A report has been written to remove the 0.5 FTE that was asked for in the initial budget submission. Staff are also working on the closure of the HOTZ depot on Lottridge Street as the Kenora CRC is up and running. This will result in a cost savings by transferring those services to the Kenora CRC. So the budget will be lower than the 0.9% increase for 2008. Councillor Pearson asked about statistics on the usage of the Lottridge site. The committee felt that the question will be asked so it would be prudent to have the information ready. Beth Goodger also reported that Waste Management is receiving an award for the Kenora and Dundas CRC’s from the Ontario Public Works association.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm

12. **Next Meeting:** February 13th, 2008, Room 320B, Hamilton City Centre.