



MINUTES

3-2007

JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, August 9, 2007

9:00 a.m. – Noon

**Saltfleet Room, Stoney Creek Municipal Centre
777 Highway No. 8, Stoney Creek**

Attendance:

Hamilton Contingent:

Councillor Margaret McCarthy

Councillor David Mitchell

Councillor Russ Powers

David Hart Dyke, Chairperson, Waste Reduction Task Force

Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works Department

Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department

Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Public Works Department

Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department

Wendy Venance, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department

Andrea Ciparis, Administrative Assistant

Niagara Contingent:

Councillor Brian Baty

Councillor Judy Casselman

Councillor Goulbourne

Doug Symington, Chair, Waste Management Advisory Committee

Dr. John Bacher, Vice-Chair, Waste Management Advisory Committee

Barry Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services, Public Works Department

Lydia Torbicki, Manager, Waste Management Services Division

Brad Whitelaw, Program Manager, Waste Management Services Division

Cheryl Crawley, Waste Management Services Coordinator, Waste Management Services Division

Janet Pilon, Deputy Clerk

Consultants:

David Merriman, MacViro Consultants Inc.

Janine Ralph, MacViro Consultants Inc.

Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Limited

Kerrie Skillen, Jacques Whitford Limited

Observers

Eric McGuinness, Hamilton Spectator

Tiffany Mayer, The Standard

Councillor Powers Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor Mitchell
Seconded by Mr. Hart Dyke

That the agenda for the August 9, 2007, Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group meeting, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

2. Joint Working Group Co-Chair (Niagara)

Councillor Powers advised the Working Group that Councillor Burroughs has stepped down as Co-Chair of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group, and that he would entertain a motion appointing Councillor Goulbourne as Co-Chair (Niagara).

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Mr. Symington

That Councillor Goulbourne be appointed as Co-Chair (Niagara) of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group.

Carried.

3. Resignation

Councillor Powers noted that he is in receipt of a letter from Councillor McMullan (June 25, 2007), resigning as a Committee member of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group as a result of time constraints.

Councillor Goulbourne advised the Working Group that the alternate, Councillor Puttick, would assume Councillor McMullan's place.

4. Delegations

None.

5. Approval of the Previous Minutes

Moved by Mr. Symington
Seconded by Dr. John Bacher

That the Minutes of the April 12, 2007, Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group meeting, be approved as amended by adding Doug Symington and Dr. John Bacher to the attendance.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Environmental Assessment (EA) Study

(a) Staff Overview Presentation: Report on the report “Addendum to Evaluation of “Alternatives To” and Selection of Preferred Disposal System”

The presentation provided the Working Group with the EA process and the phases that have been followed that have led to the steps to a preferred system “Alternatives to” which evaluated eight system alternatives. The Addendum report documents the activities and additional work that has been completed since March 2006; the developments outside of WastePlan that relate to the study and examines how this additional information and data potentially impacts on the recommended system. In terms of additional work and activities, staff noted that the Joint Working Group visited the Otter Lake Waste Management Facility in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which includes a stabilized landfill; consultants were retained to prepare a Stabilized Landfill Study to confirm the EA study assumptions used for systems 1A & 1B (MTB/Landfill) and there was also a review of the available industrial lands within the urban boundaries of Niagara and Hamilton.

Staff noted that new developments have arisen with Niagara Waste Systems (Walker Industries) landfill expansion approval; Niagara’s review of long term landfill utilization; new Provincial Regulation on Waste Management; consultant team review of Life Cycle Analysis tools; updated data on existing facility performance for system alternatives and updated municipal diversion rates.

A Sensitivity Analysis was completed to determine the degree to which the results of the evaluation of the Systems are reasonable considering the public review and new information and data that was gathered and the Systems evaluation would change if “improved assumptions” from the new information and data is used.

In conclusion, the original study assumptions and results remain valid, however, there are variables that could affect the outcome, variables around finding suitably sized parcels of land, free of constraints in urban / industrial areas is found for a stabilized landfill site; availability of an industrial use of heat (steam or hot water) close by the site of a thermal treatment facility; markets for refuse derived fuel (RDF) are established in Ontario and Niagara’s negotiations with Niagara Waste Systems for disposal capacity.

(b) Sensitivity Analysis

Janine Ralph provided the Joint Working Group with a presentation respecting the Sensitivity Analysis that was completed.

As noted in the previous presentation the Sensitivity Analysis was completed to determine the degree to which the results of the evaluation of the Systems are reasonable considering the public review and new information and data that was gathered and the Systems evaluation would change if “improved assumptions” from the new information and data is used.

The analysis of four of the eight systems provided the consultants with improved system assumptions as follows: the at-source diversion improved to 70% over planning period; improved Life Cycle Analysis model used (Municipal Solid Waste Decision Support Tool); System 1, Mechanical-Biological Treatment (MBT) produces highly stabilized residues, uses land in urban/industrial setting for stabilized landfill, notes impacts if Class B compost recovered; System 2 b), Best Available Technology emission control, recovery of heat and electrical energy, portion of bottom ash used as aggregate; System 2 c), MBT generates Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) marketed as substitute fuel for industrial processes and System 3 b), Niagara uses Niagara Waste Systems site, Hamilton uses new landfill capacity.

Ms. Ralph provided the Joint Working Group with a comparison of the improved systems as per Natural criteria: Environmental burden at a global or macro-environmental scale (emission to Air and Water); Consumption / Preservation of non-renewable environmental resources; Potential for destruction or disruption of sensitive terrestrial and/or aquatic habitats and Potential to increase disposal diversion rate and/or make best use of residual (post-diversion) waste materials; Social / Cultural criteria: Potential for land use conflicts from siting of facilities required for systems; Technical criteria: Technical risks associated with waste management system; Economic / Financial criteria: Net system costs per tonne of waste managed – in a system context and Sensitivity of system costs and affordability to external financial influences; Legal criteria: Legal/contractual risks associated with waste management system.

The presentation provided the Joint Working Group with graphs depicting the air emissions of Net Annual Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) to Air; Net Annual Emissions of Smog Precursors to Air; Net Annual Emissions of Heavy Metals to Air and Net Annual GigaJoules of Energy Generated from the four systems illustrating the differences taking into consideration for the original assumption and the improved assumptions.

The Joint Working Group was advised that the consultants did not discriminate between light and heavy industrial land. Staff will seek clarification and report on whether a stabilized landfill would be an acceptable use on employment lands. They will also note and identify the parcels and amount of industrial land in Niagara and Hamilton.

Staff distributed CDs containing the Addendum to: Evaluation of “Alternatives To” and Selection of Preferred Disposal System – Appendices to those in attendance, noting that the CDs containing the public comments will be forwarded the members in the very near future.

(c) Staff Report on ‘Addendum to the Draft Report on the Evaluation of “Alternatives To” and Selection of Preferred Disposal System’ and Next Steps

The Joint Working Group asked staff to continue research possible RDF markets, elaborate on what these markets are and arrange site visits to these facilities and the type of sites for System 2 c).

Staff was also asked to review the Joint Working Group’s mandate and propose changes where necessary within the nine month recess.

Moved by Councillor McCarthy
Seconded by Mr. Symington

That the recommendations of the staff report respecting the Report on ‘*Addendum to the Draft Report on the Evaluation of “Alternatives To” and Selection of Preferred Disposal System*’ and Next Steps, be approved as **amended**;

That the *Addendum to the Draft Report on the Evaluation of “Alternatives To” and Selection of Preferred Disposal System*, dated July 20, 2007, be received.

That the WastePlan Environmental Assessment (EA) Study process recess for a period of nine (9) months to allow staff to follow up on matters of potential impact on future of the EA study **and in the interim if deemed appropriate the Co-Chairs can call a meeting**;

That the WastePlan Joint Working Group reconvene in May of 2008 to consider the next steps to be taken (time, date and location to be determine by staff);

That the WastePlan website be maintained through the recess by the City of Hamilton, at a cost to be shared by Niagara and Hamilton;

That the e-mail contact information be shared by Niagara and Hamilton staff;

That the consulting arrangement with MacViro be concluded; any future work to be determined through an appropriate purchasing process; and

That ongoing progress reports continue to be provided to the members of the Joint Working Group during the recess.

Carried

8. Waste Management Initiatives

(a) Provincial Policy Statement on Waste Management Planning

The policy statement focuses on long-term, integrated planning for the provision of waste management services and systems. Staff noted that the provincial and federal legislation, policies and support for waste prevention are too weak and not well defined.

Similarly, private sector responsibility in terms of Extended Producer Responsibility and Design for the Environment need to be clearly defined. Niagara and Hamilton have forwarding their comments to the province.

(b) WDO Updates

(i) MHSW (Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste) Diversion Plan

Staff highlighted components of the plan and noted targets will be outlined and assessed annually.

Niagara and Hamilton have provided comments on how the plan could be improved.

(ii) Amendments to the WDA

Staff noted that municipalities now have an opportunity to comment on the Waste Diversion Act, comments respecting changes to program development and conformity with waste programs.

There are some changes that would ensure that industry is responding appropriately in reducing the amount of packaging; dispute resolution; proper appeal process; fair and equitable governance.

(iii) Waste Electronics

The Ministry of the Environment has charged the waste electronics industry with developing a plan by February 2008, that will have industry take full responsibility for electronics in the waste stream, which will be 100% funding by industry.

There is a lot of activity at the provincial level and it is important to keep at it, as the efforts from the past have been making a difference.

The Waste Task Force meets every two weeks and they are very busy staying on top of these issues.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Co-Chairs.