

## MINUTES

**SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #01-12**  
**Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West**  
**Room 830**  
**Wednesday January 11, 2012**  
**12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillor Judi Partridge  
Councillor Maria Pearson  
Councillor Russ Powers  
Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations & Waste Management Division  
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services  
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services  
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager Policy and Programs  
Adam Watson, Program Analyst  
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force

**Regrets:**

Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Powers:**

*That the agenda be approved.*

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting on December 11, 2011**

**Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Powers:**

*That the minutes be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

Councillor Partridge thanked staff for the presentation on the SWMMP Review provided to the Flamborough Community Council in December.

As requested at the December meeting, staff provided Councillors with a list of Gold Box winners for the past 2 months. These updates will continue to be provided. Councillor Partridge inquired into how a resident can sign up to win a Gold Box. Staff provided information.

**4. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Review Update**

Staff provided an update on the current status of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan Review. The detailed system analysis has been completed and the report has been distributed through the project distribution list and posted on the project website at <http://www.hamiltonwastereview.ca/>.

An Information Report on the Draft SWMMP Review Final Report will be coming forward to the January 16<sup>th</sup> Public Works Committee meeting. The purpose of the Information Report is for Council to receive the draft report and to advise that further public consultation will be undertaken to gather

feedback from Council and residents. The final SWMMP report is expected to come to Public Works Committee in April.

## **5. Collection System Review Update**

Staff stated that Councillor presentations are currently taking place prior to the January 16th Public Works Committee meeting. Staff stated they anticipate considerable debate on the container limits for the recommended bi-weekly system. It is recognized that the proposed six container limit is not supported by WRTF and some Councillors, but this system offers a simpler process that will allow for the elimination of the Special Considerations Policy. It was also stated that a higher container limit has not been found to lead to increases in garbage rates in other municipalities that have gone to bi-weekly collection. Further explanation of the recommended system was provided.

Councillor Partridge inquired into when the presentation going to be on the PW Committee meeting agenda as she plans to attend to support the Flamborough Community Council delegation on this matter. Some timing information was provided.

Councillor Powers inquired into what impacts could be realized from a potential reduction in the tipping fee at the CRCs. Staff responded that they are working on assembling some information to be provided back to Council. Discussion took place on whether it was possible to determine how many vehicles are just coming in to these facilities with only one bag of garbage. Staff will undertake some data collection to gather some numbers on this. Staff is also investigating Hansen records on residents calling in with complaints on CRC garbage fees, and they appear to be a very low number.

Councillor Partridge raised the issue of whether the illegal dumping is actually linked to the transfer station fees and whether dropping the fees would have any impact on dumping behaviour. Staff provided some information on this.

Jim Sweetman provided an update on the WRTF position on these issues. They do not feel that improvements to the dumping issue can be definitively linked to the garbage container limit and would prefer to have more data collection to verify that these potential system changes will address the dumping problem. Staff responded that the WRTF can do a delegation to present this position. Councillors Pearson and Powers expressed their views on the container limits and their support for bi-weekly collection, but also the potential obstacles they see happening when going to a bi-weekly system.

Councillor Partridge requested that the deadlines for a Council decision on the Collection System Review be provided at the PW Committee meeting. Staff will include this in the presentation.

Councillor Partridge asked whether there will be cost savings for eliminating the Special Considerations Policy. Staff indicated that there will be savings in staff time that will be reallocated to other projects.

Councillor Partridge expressed concern that the introduction of bi-weekly collection could contribute to additional dumping as people don't want to hang onto their garbage for two weeks.

Discussion took place on the misconception in the public that the switch to bi-weekly will be for recycling and organics and not just for garbage collection. Staff indicated that communication with residents will have to be very clear that this will affect garbage collection frequency only.

## **6. Staff Presentation on Future Committee Structure**

Staff provided a presentation on the existing committees and potential changes to these committees once the new SWMMP is passed.

Staff outlined various committee models that could be possible, including the committee structure proposed by the WRTF at their December 2011 meeting.

Staff put forward their suggested approach for the new committee structure, which would be a single combined waste sub-committee comprised of both Councillors and residents, supported by staff, with recruitment done through the City Clerk's Office as part of the Volunteer Sub-Committee process for each term of Council. The potential advantages of the proposed committee were outlined and comparisons were made to the other committee structure options. Staff is not recommending the establishment of an annual waste management conference at this time as was proposed by the WRTF, based on past experience which took a significant amount of resources and staff time to implement. Discussion took place on the advantages of creating a larger community forum for waste management issues to be discussed.

Jim Sweetman commented that he felt the WRTF would be supportive of staff's proposed committee structure.

Councillor Partridge reiterated support for not holding an annual conference and proposed that the Community Councils continue to be utilized as an avenue for keeping the public engaged on waste management issues.

A motion was made to support the future SWMMP committee structure proposed by staff.

**Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Pearson**

**CARRIED**

## **7. Waste Reduction Task Force Update**

Jim Sweetman provided a brief update indicating that the WRTF is planning to put forward a delegation at the January 16<sup>th</sup> PW Committee meeting on the Collection System Review.

## **8. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update**

Staff provided an update on the MHSW program. Staff provided a memorandum for committee members as an update on the program and its history. The funding arrangements and the discrepancy in the payments not being provided to the city were explained.

Staff indicated that a new contract has been put forward by Stewardship Ontario for Phase 2 of the program. AMO and other municipal organizations joined together and approached the province; they are working with SO and are making progress in addressing the problems with the program. Staff will receive an update this month and will then make a decision on whether the new contract will be signed. Staff provided information on the proposed new program arrangements and the potential implications for the City.

Councillor Pearson expressed concern that these contracts could cause operational problems if contractors who are losing money walk away from doing the work.

Staff explained the previous contractual arrangement they undertook with Halton to achieve cost savings as this may be something that is pursued in the future to help minimize costs for this program.

Councillor Partridge asked for clarification on whether the new MHSW contracts will address the potential gap in funding that has been occurring. Staff responded that they don't know the contents of the new contracts yet. Staff provided some information on the amount of the 2011 budget shortfall due to the lack of payments from SO.

Councillor Powers inquired on what the differential would be in the contracts and what types of costs would the City potentially have to cover. Staff provided an explanation on how the budgeting on these matters is undertaken and whether there would be a contractual liability in case of a shortfall.

Jim Sweetman inquired into the structure of SO and how this issue around the MHSW program has arisen. Staff responded with information on the structure and provided explanation on the current financial problems facing the MHSW program.

Staff will continue to update the committee on this matter and Councillor Powers indicated that he will have an update from AMO on this later in the month.

## **8. Operations Update**

### **8.1 Community Outreach**

Discussion took place on the planning for the 2012 calendar insert and the plans for incorporating information on the twelve additional garbage amnesty days into this document.

### **8.2 Disposal Activities**

Staff distributed an update on the MRF revenues for 2011 and discussed the actual results compared to the 2011 budgeted amounts. It was stated that 2011 will be the highest year for recycling revenues in ten years. This information will come forward in the 2012 PW Budget Submission.

Councillor Powers inquired into the current relations with our recycling broker given the pending change in provider for 2013. Staff indicated that discussions have taken place with them, they continue to do the work and there are no outstanding issues.

### **8.3 Collections Activities**

No updates were provided under this item.

## **9. Outstanding Action Items**

No business was brought up under this item.

## **10. Other Business**

No business was brought up under this item.

A motion was made to receive all presentations from the meeting.

**Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Pearson**

**CARRIED**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Pearson**

**CARRIED**

## **11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM, Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main St W, Room 433**

### Distribution List:

SWMMP Steering Committee Members

Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works

Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division

Pat Parker, Director of Support Services, Operations and Waste Management Division

Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services, Operations and Waste Management Division

Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations, Operations and Waste Management Division

Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs, Operations and Waste Management Division

Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force