

MINUTES

SWMMP Steering Committee Meeting #03-11
Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West
Room 816
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Judi Partridge
Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Russ Powers
Pat Parker, Director of Support Services
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collections
Adam Watson, Policy/Program Analyst
Jim Sweetman, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:

Beth Goodger, Senior Director, Operations and Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services
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 February 9, 2010

Moved by Councillor Partridge, seconded by Councillor Powers:

That the minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes

Councillor Partridge stated that she had sent out a link to the SWMMP Review survey on her Ward E-news.

Councillor Powers informed staff that Public Works Committee requires the meeting minutes after each meeting. Staff indicated that a new internal process is in place to ensure that the minutes come forward in a timelier manner.

4. SWMMP Review Update

Staff provided information on the results of the January 24 public workshop and the findings that have been compiled. The newly proposed guiding principles with a new focus on waste reduction was presented. The updated guiding principles were based on the input provided from the workshop and survey participants.

Councillor Powers inquired into the Councillor Workshop. Staff stated that it is being planned for June and staff is working with Clerk's to get it scheduled. Staff indicated that by that time there will be more substantial information available on system options to review and discuss with Council.

A request was made to send the workbooks from the first public workshop to the each Councillor to have them complete and send back.

Staff outlined the SWMMP Review project milestones and noted that information updates will follow each one. An Information Update on the Principles, Goals and Objectives will be coming forward shortly.

Staff will send out a tentative invite to the three Councillors for the April 28th workshop and make sure the WRTF is invited to participate in the June Councillor Workshop as well.

5. Diversion Programs

No updates were provided under this item.

6. Collection System Review

Staff provided an update on the work being done on the Collection System Review. Information on the options being considered include single vs. two stream recycling, public vs. private collection, weekly vs. bi-weekly garbage collection and the co-collection of materials.

An inquiry was made about changes to existing container limits. Staff responded that in a biweekly garbage scenario, collection of two garbage bags every two weeks would be proposed.

Staff provided an overview of the report being prepared and Councillor Powers suggested an Information Report be sent out on what options are being proposed; this would keep Council apprised and still provide an opportunity for them to provide feedback at that time. This could help narrow the focus of options to be considered in the RFP which is what the objective of this exercise was.

Councillor Partridge stated that Council will want to know the full system costs for each of the options considered in order to make an informed decision.

Jim Sweetman commented that a full system cost presentation is needed to see what the overall costs would be and stressed that larger considerations, such as favouring options that provide more living wage jobs, should be included. Staff replied that the full system presentation will be undertaken and some initial analysis on these issues has been done. Councillor Powers indicated that a living wage policy is in place for the City, so this will be built into the RFP for any private contracts as well.

Staff indicated that some of the barriers to implementing bi-weekly garbage collection, such as diapers, could be addressed through the Special Considerations Policy.

Discussion took place on some of the advantages and disadvantages associated with two and single stream recycling and bi-weekly garbage collection in terms of diversion. Staff noted that a significant increase in diversion can be realized, especially through bi-weekly garbage collection.

A motion was made for staff to come forward with an Information Report for the Collection System Review. The purpose of the report will be to focus the options to be considered in the collection system RFP. This report would be included on the Public Works Committee agenda as a consent item.

Moved by Councillor Powers, Seconded by Councillor Partridge

CARRIED

7. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Jim Sweetman provided an update on the February meeting. Information was provided on the WRTF position on the bi-weekly garbage topic and the WRTF is prepared to do a delegation to PW Committee at the appropriate time. The WRTF sees no need to adjust the service level at this time from a diversion perspective, but feels that the potential cost savings to the City make it worth considering. It was also their position that the residents that require a higher service level can be accommodated through the Special Considerations policy.

Discussion took place on how the different collection system options would impact the ability to keep grass out of the CCF. Staff provided information on a variety of collection system options.

Jim Sweetman expressed appreciation to Dennis Guy on his assistance in helping him with an upcoming Environment Hamilton event.

Jim Sweetman clarified some of the misunderstanding around garbage pooling in Dundas that was discussed at Public Works Committee. None of the residents were trying to work around the one bag limit.

8. Federal/Provincial Legislation and Regulations Update

Staff provided an update on the MHSW Program and the Stewardship Ontario proposal to alter the existing funding arrangements. Staff explained that Phase 1 materials will continue to be covered by the stewards, but they are proposing not to be involved with any Phase 2 and 3 materials. They are also proposing regional service contracts that municipalities do not agree with this proposal as it may result in reduced service levels. Staff indicated that these proposals would potentially increase overall costs for the municipalities. The proposed deadline for these changes is July 1st, 2011 and this has been deemed unacceptable as municipalities feel it is too soon to properly assess the proposed changes. Discussion took place on the rationale for these changes and staff offered some ideas on why this is occurring. Staff will continue to report back on any issues as they come forward.

9. Operations Update

9.1 Community Outreach

Staff presented the new resident handbook with the yard waste calendar insert and provided a timeline for its mail distribution, as well as the Information Update to Council explaining the rationale for moving to the large font and handbook format. Councillor Pearson congratulated all staff on their work on the handbook.

9.2 Disposal Activities

No updates were provided under this item.

9.2 Collection Activities

No updates were provided under this item.

10. Outstanding Action Items

Staff indicated that they are still looking into a tour of a single-stream recycling facility for the Steering Committee members.

11. Other Business

Councillor Pearson inquired into a rumour she heard that the organics collected at City Hall are going into the garbage. Staff indicated that Facilities is working on this arrangement and there's a

chance that the program may have lapsed since City Hall has been re-opened. The Councillor stressed that this should be addressed and that the program needs to be put in place in all the large meeting rooms at City Hall as well.

Councillor Pearson raised the issue of kitty litter and is hoping that this is still being considered as a diversion option. She noted that one of her constituents informed her that a product claiming to be bio-degradable is on the market and this is confusing to residents.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:25am

Moved by Councillor Powers, seconded by Councillor Partridge

CARRIED

12. Next Meeting: April 13, 2011, City Hall Room 718, 10:00 am

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

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