

NIAGARA REGION
WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WMAC)
Niagara Regional Headquarters, 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold
Meeting of Wednesday October 15, 2008
MEETING 10-2008

Meeting Notes

Present:

Committee Members

Doug Symington
Frank Adamson
Colin Macfarlane
John Bacher
Dean Cruikshank
Heather Verrier
Ronald Scott
David Hall
Peter Howes
Albert Witteveen

Absent:

None

Regrets:

Ken Baigent
Gracia Janes
Kevin Diamond
Joan Cunnington
Bryant Prosser
Art Federow

Niagara Region Staff

Andy Pollock
Lydia Torbicki
Brad Whitelaw
Cheryl Crawley

1. Introduction of New Waste Management Services Director – Andy Pollock

The Chair introduced the new Director of Waste Management, Andy Pollock to the WMAC meeting, and welcomed him to Niagara Region.

2. Welcome to New Members

The Chair also welcomed two new members to the WMAC, Joan Cunnington and Bryant Prosser. Unfortunately, neither was able to attend this meeting and sent their regrets.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion:	That the agenda be approved.	
Moved by:	Frank Adamson	
Seconded by:	David Hall	Carried.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2008

Motion:	That the minutes of the August 12, 2008 meeting be approved.	
Moved by:	Albert Witteveen	
Seconded by:	Peter Howes	Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Staff mentioned a typo in the minutes which were sent electronically to members and that revised copies had been re-sent via email. Hard copies were also available at the meeting.

6. Staff Directions

Staff addressed the first two items regarding the Environmental Tax and the 3 R's toll free phone number. These two items will be brought to the committee at the December 9 meeting.

Staff gave an overview of the third item, multi-residential recycling. A PowerPoint presentation given by the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) to the AMRC on September 25/08 had been included in the WMAC meeting package. Multi-residential recycling is governed by the MOE under regulation 103/94. The MOE is currently conducting inspections of ICI&I properties, and is also working with municipalities to discuss ways to support programs.

7. Reports

- **WMPSC Memo - Waste Management Level of Service Study**

The Chair gave an overview of the WMPSC recommendations. The Chair referred members to the September 4 memo from the Director which proposed four different collection options. The Director described the tender process and the basis for deferring the decision. The Director also mentioned other municipalities which have implemented every other week waste collection. This process will provide Council with sufficient information to make a decision on the collection options. The Chair requested a discussion from the members and a vote. Several questions were raised:

A member suggested reinforcing the committee's support of every other week waste collection.

A member mentioned that a 'hard line' approach needs to be taken if we want to meet our target of 65% diversion by 2012. The cost savings of every other week collection should be a factor.

A member requested staff contact Halton to see what the public opinion feedback has been on every other week waste collection. Staff mentioned that the benefit to waiting until March 2009 for a decision on every other week waste collection was that data from Niagara's Green Bin Relaunch, along with Durham and Halton Regions' programs will be available. Markham had excellent results with the switch to every other week waste collection.

A member mentioned the anticipated concern with odour from every other week waste collection in Britain, but it did not materialize. Public apprehension needs to be quelled.

A member suggested that if a resident's garbage has odour, there is food waste in the garbage and they are not following the waste by-law. Staff also mentioned Halton has made provisions for residents to drop off diapers at a depot at no charge, in order to deal with any potential diaper odours.

A member asked if blue and grey boxes are picked up weekly, will they be co-mingled. Staff responded that no, blue and grey box material will be kept separate, possibly in split vehicles. Staff also mentioned that single stream has advantages and disadvantages. There are less trucks on the road but challenges with

processing and possibly greater contamination.

A member stated that they strongly support every other week waste collection and a strong message needs to be sent.

A member mentioned that educating the public beforehand has worked in other locations.

Motion: “In order to build the case for every other week waste collection as the WMAC’s preferred direction, based on other proven international and national success, in order to achieve 65% waste diversion and reduce costs, WMAC supports the recommended implementation strategy for the Level of Service options”.

Moved by: Frank Adamson

Seconded by: Peter Howes

Carried.

- **PWA 89-2008 Proposed Amendments to the Solid Waste Bylaw No. 145-1999**

Staff gave an overview of the report. This new by-law is meant to replace the old one. It was necessary to identify “no plastic” in organics, simplify the language and complete general housekeeping items. The intent of the by-law is meant for habitual non-compliance residents.

A member asked if the by-law was meant for repeat offenders. Staff responded that the purpose of the by-law is to ensure compliance.

- **PWA 90-2008 Extension of Contract 2002-T-46 with Modern Corporation/Sheldrick Sanitation Ltd.**

Staff explained that the contract has been extended due to delays with the Level of Service and Rate Study approval process.

A member mentioned that they would like to see bids from several contractors. Staff agreed that this would provide for a competitive process.

A member asked if there would be a provision to prevent the contractor from ending the contract before the end of the contract. Staff responded yes, a performance bond would be put in place.

A member asked if a Request for Proposal (RFP) could be used instead of a tender process. Staff responded that either option could work, however some investigation will occur in order to select the method that will result in the best Regional contract.

A member asked if the Clear Bag Pilot would be included in contract. Staff responded yes, flexibility would be built in to the contract.

A member asked why the contract is seven years. Staff responded that typically truck amortization is seven years and the contractor will base their quote on this.

Motion: To Receive reports PWA 89-2008 and PWA 90-2008.

Moved by: John Bacher

Seconded by: Albert Witteveen

Carried.

8. Information Items

a) **New Niagara Region email address and website address changes:**

www.niagararegion.ca

Staff explained new website for Niagara Region. It is a simplified, easy to remember address which was implemented on September 30, 2008.

b) **Waste Diversion Program for Used Tires - Ministers Letter**

Staff explained Ministers letter to WDO requesting Tire Stewardship program. There are currently stockpiles of tires in the province and this program will help to address this problem. There is technology to recycle the tires and burning them is not part of the program. The plan is for industry to pay for the tire recycling through a stewardship program. There may be a fee when consumers purchase tires but it will go to a dedicated fund.

A member mentioned some of the products from recycled tires include cow mats, playground surfaces and sports field surfaces.

A member asked about recovery of materials. Staff mentioned there are some technologies out there but they are not ready yet.

c) **Ministry of the Environment Multi-Unit Residential Sector 3Rs Inspections PowerPoint**

Further to the information previously discussed, approximately one third of multi residential properties in Niagara Region receive recycling services. The Level of Service and Rate Study 'Options Identified for Further Consideration' identifies extending recycling to multi-residential properties in phase II. The next steps are that the MOE is working with municipalities to inspect properties. The Region has provided a list of multi-residential properties to the MOE and the Regulation 103/94 will be considered when drafting contract for waste collection.

A member asked about enforcement for multi-residential buildings? Staff responded that the City of Toronto has extensive multi-residential recycling with educational items such as proper signage, bin labelling, etc. to ensure participation in recycling and organics programs. Landlords/owners are relied on first for enforcement (i.e. to ensure residents are participating) along with spot checks or audits that Regional staff would complete, if a Regional multi-res service was provided.

A member asked if taxes currently were used for multi-residential recycling? Staff responded that fees include a range of waste management services; disposal, administration, planning, etc.

9. Other Business

A member asked why the province does not take the lead with waste management? Staff responded that the responsibility for waste management programs largely rests at the municipal level. However, recently the province has taken positive steps by introducing programs such as the Municipal Household and Special Waste (MHSW), Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) as well as the recent introduction of the Tire Recycling program plan request.

10. Next Meeting: December 9, 2008, 7 - 9 p.m., Niagara Region Headquarters Building, Campbell West, Committee Room # 3

11. Adjournment

Motion: **To Adjourn.**

Moved by: **John Bacher**

Seconded by: **Peter Howes**

Carried.