

**Humberstone Landfill Site
Public Liaison Committee (PLC)**

**Notes of Meeting
Wednesday January 25, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.
City of Welland Civic Square Rooms 108 & 109, Welland**

Present:	Andre Larabie	Chair, PLC
	Daryl Wakunick	Resident, PLC Member
	Connie Zalwasky	Resident, PLC Member
	Larry Sturman	Resident, PLC Member
	Silvio Mucciarelli	Niagara Region
	Jamie Kristjanson	Niagara Region
	Andrew Winters	Niagara Region
	Barry Friesen	Niagara Region

Regrets: D. Goulbourne

1.0 Introductions

Introductions and welcome to Barry Friesen, Director Waste Management Services, Region of Niagara and the Port Colborne Public Liaison Committee.

2.0 Approval of Notes of Meeting October 6, 2005

Motion:	That the notes of the October 6, 2005 meeting be approved.
Moved by:	J. Larouche
Seconded By:	C. Zalwasky

CARRIED

Niagara Hamilton WastePlan – Preferred Waste Disposal System

Barry Friesen provided background information on the Niagara Hamilton WastePlan Joint Study as prepared by MacViro and Jacques Whitford and distributed copies of the executive summary. Over the last couple of years with the landfills reaching capacity, the City of Hamilton and Niagara Region have been looking for long term solutions and formed a joint working group including elected representatives. It was determined to target 65% diversion and they established criteria, not limited to just cost but to include environmental issues, social issues (location) and types of disposal. Technologies examined included landfill and thermal options. Between the two areas 151,000 tonnes annually would be processed. The preferred technology was announced on December 8, 2005. A 60 day public consultation began with comments being accepted until February 6, 2006.

All public libraries in the Region have a copy of the full report. Information is also available on the website www.wasteplan.ca and a CD version is also available. Public meetings have already been held in Hamilton and Thorold with presentations of comments from the public. The next stage of this is an option to manage it. Whatever the final option is, it will take many years to put in place with

all the approvals and decisions that are required. Implementation by 2013 is the target date and moving forward is important to meet this target.

Discussion followed:

The Hamilton incinerator experienced trouble with the air emission equipment, and it was shut down due to cost of maintenance and repairs.

It is better to reduce, reuse and recycle than to burn everything. A thermal facility would be sized to handle the residual waste quantity.

Question from the audience - is that 65% just at the curb?

Province is committed to 60% - Ministry has not defined whether it is residential curbside collected or including ICI. All municipalities in Ontario are concerned about the diversion percentage and what it's based on. In thermal processing it would still be weighed tonnage. In the waste management field volume is considered in planning and engineering and to really calculate diversion it must be weighed.

Discussions on Sweden's program and The David Suzuki foundation in Canada followed.

Recyclables are going to the landfill now, not everything is getting recycled. Up to 10% goes to the landfill for disposal.

Stabilized landfill was described.

Current diversion rates - Region was at 47% in 2004 and Hamilton, without an organics program, at 28%. We are looking at the big picture for end market use. Plastic is a big one. 2 bottles create energy to make one. There is more benefit in keeping it as plastic, keeping the plastic material alive and in use as long as possible. Plastic comes from gasoline. There are also hundreds of jobs in the area that are created by recycling. A new glass grinding program produces a product that is going on the open market to be used as sandblasting product.

Discussion: Incinerators at the Region of Peel and American ReFuel in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ours would have to be different due to the diversion program impact. Thermal facilities have a 20-25 year design life before major repairs are required. With incineration there would still be a landfill to accept fly ash, and it would require a secure landfill due to the heavy metals content.

Discussion on paper recycling:

One of the things we are currently looking is to buy recycled paper to ensure what we're buying is environmentally friendly and make us far more sustainable.

Discussion on sorting garbage (commercial/business owners not recycling)

We have initiated bag limits to reduce the number of bags at the curb. The Region only collects from residential units not commercial.

Discussion on cost of thermal: The cost is in the detailed report and ranges between \$68 to \$102/tonnes; land filling is around \$70-80/tonne.

Question: How many more kicks at the proposal will take place, will it start again when location has to be determined?

There are probably 6 options of thermal processes. High temperature burn will be used as indicated in the report. Once sites are available more input will be expected and full public consultation process will take place. It's been hard for the Joint Working Group to get public comments. Because it's going to be between 2 regions, it likely will be a public/private venture as it will be a \$100 million dollars plant.

Discussion: The process following the consultant's report is to hold public meetings to maintain the public's rights during the process. We have to go through it to know the kind of garbage and treatment options. We've got a challenge with landfill capacity. That's why these groups are so important. The Joint Working Group is anxious to move ahead.

Discussion: Pollution reaching the groundwater and could there be a super landfill? Continued land filling is not working, we must move ahead.

3.0 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

The issue of cost/household has come up at the last couple of meetings. The 2005 spreadsheet was provided showing charges to each municipality. It has been previously distributed to the Committee. Cost is based on properties/household served, disposal costs, UDR tonnage, waste collected and disposed, and enhanced collection. When the City of Welland inquired, in 2005, why they are charged more, follow up information was provided to City staff showing 2003 and 2004 tonnages. The UDR tonnage is the total tonnage of waste hauled into the landfill site by city trucks, residents and curbside collection contractor. Tonnages were compared to other municipalities. Welland hauled road sweepings to the landfill site which increased the tonnage. Curbside collection tonnage is consistent with previous years.

A new database program is now in place to track vehicle licence plates to verify address of vehicle owner to determine if the owner lives in Welland or in another Municipality.

Discussion and questions on the accounting practice followed. The Waste Management Division is currently doing a service level review and comments will be taken into consideration. When the Region took over waste management, the

Municipality's former practices were maintained and we are now moving towards a uniform method.

Niagara Falls and St. Catharines residential self-haul waste is not included in UDR tonnage because residents take their household waste to the Walker drop-off depot (privately operated). Residential tonnages received by Walkers are not included in the UDR tonnage. 2006 numbers are not available as the budget process is ongoing. Collection costs are based on per household. All information will be provided to the City of Welland; however it will take time to establish the new database.

All of the Regions' contractor's collection vehicles going to Humberstone travel along Regional Roads. The only collection trucks using city roads are those used to collect curbside waste in Welland.

The Region will be following the same formula for 2006. The Region has moved towards a uniform system to charge by household. Collection contracts are spread across the entire Region for the base level of service.

Discussion – landfill closure costs. Currently nine sites are closed and five are open. The Region is required to include an amount in the Financial Statements for maintenance of closed landfill sites. Pages from financial statements were distributed to the PLC. This committee wants to bring this up with the Ministry of the Environment.

The Region is not mandated to maintain reserve funds. Region doesn't have separate reserves for all sites. Capital budget is a 10-year forecast and identifies closure costs.

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs of Niagara-on-the-Lake stated he will bring the PLC comments to the Region's audit committee meeting.

PLC Committee requested reports be distributed a week in advance of future meetings. During the April – October 2005 period, staff were under an extreme amount of pressure due to the vacancy of two positions, director and manager. Information will come in a more timely basis in the future.

Committee discussed use of \$6,000 to hire experts for testing PCB's at the landfill site. Discussion followed on requesting from a consultant an action plan, a work plan and an estimate of cost. A copy of the November 1987 report prepared for Stelco by Proctor and Redfern on the decommissioning of the lagoons located at the landfill site was discussed by committee.

Motion: PLC shall obtain a quote for an independent PCB report from an independent consultant based on November 1987 report prepared for Stelco by Proctor and Redfern on the landfill site and the PCB cell.

Moved by: D. Wakunick
Seconded by: C. Zalwasky

CARRIED

Discussion followed: Region offered to prepare RFP and set terms of reference and contact Dr. Salter on their behalf. PLC wants to deal with Dr. Salter directly.

Action: Regional staff will prepare a document for the committee before the next meeting to get a quote to hire a consultant, for the investigation of PCB's at the landfill site.

Discussion followed on sampling procedures and costs. Drilling will be involved and will be costly. At least 20 wells are present. Wells could be tested. No tests have been conducted for PCB's. Well sampling is performed twice per year.

Motion: That the wells be sampled for PCB's in spring.
Moved by: L. Sturman
Seconded By: D. Wakunick

CARRIED

Discussion: St George's Park testing done there and results. Beryllium was part of heavy metal tested. Samples were contaminated from gloves used while sampling. Testing at the same time of year is standard practice.

Action: A member of PLC to be present during testing.

4. Final Report Evaluation of Bird populations

Report by LGL (consultant), distributed with revisions after last meeting, recommends a program be implemented as needed. Report will be sent to the Planning and Public Works Committee. Committee was in agreement.

5. Final Report Operations Review

Report was distributed as final. Report will go to Planning and Public Works Committee.

Question: Does the MOE allow extra soil piled at landfill to go over contours. Stockpiles have to be removed once landfill is closed. Stockpiling is a normal practice during landfill operations.

6.0 Landfill Utilization Strategy

Copy of report was distributed on Monday for tonight's meeting. Committee would like reports before meetings to allow time to read. This is the same draft report received by all municipalities. When comments are received a final report will be distributed to PLC.

Discussion: The Elm Street PLC members, who were present, suggested a thorough review before agreeing as their group agreed to report without full understanding. Some felt the PowerPoint presentation was not consistent with the report and Elm Street group has issue with the lift referred to in the PowerPoint presentation. Discrepancies should be identified rather than assumed. An additional dedicated meeting in mid February (before Feb. 10) could be arranged to deal with this issue only. Comments are already being received, however it is possible to extend the timeframe for receiving comments.

Any amendments to the final contours would have to be approved by MOE. All PLC's groups are reviewing and may form one larger group as all communities are affected.

Action: Include Landfill Utilization Strategy in the Agenda of the next meeting.

7.0 Other Business

Odour has been noticed in the low area (filled with water) at St. George's Park. When it thaws would like to see the Region investigate.

Action: Region will investigate odours when weather permits.

Other odour issues were discussed. Residents are encouraged to call in complaints so they can be investigated in a timely manner, there is an after hours number.

Discussion: Residents have observed that during curbside collection, organic material is being thrown in the garbage truck. Routes are designed to collect and fill both sides at once for efficiency. The driver can call in a second truck to pick up organics if necessary. Service level review will address this issue. Residents are encouraged to call the office and report these incidents when seen.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion:	To Adjourn (9:55 pm)
Moved by:	L. Sturman
Seconded by:	C. Zalwasky

CARRIED