ELM STREET LANDFILL SITE/COMPOST SITE
Public Liaison Committee (PLC)

Notes of Meeting
Wednesday August 2, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Port Colborne City Hall

Present:
- Dan O’Hara: Co-Chair, Welland
- Beatrice Greenizan: Welland
- Allan Labatt: Welland
- Diana Wiggins: Port Colborne
- Jim Larouche: City of Welland Councillor
- Pat Shore: Port Colborne
- Gary Bruno: Port Colborne Councilor
- Peter Kryger: Niagara Region
- Barry Friesen: Niagara Region
- Donna Eckhart-Oettinger (recorder): Niagara Region

Regrets: Edward Kaczmarczyk

1.0 Introductions
Introductions were made and it was announced that Drew Berketo has left the Region. Contact Barry Friesen with any concerns in the interim.

2.0 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – May 3, 2006 and July 5, 2006, and April 5, 2006

Motion: To approve minutes of May and July.
Moved by: G. Bruno
Seconded: A. Labatt
Carried

3.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes
i) Xmas trees were diverted to Walkers. Diverted doesn’t mean they were at Elm St. and then removed.

ii) Waste outside of south boundary of facility. MOE has made their requirements clear and the Region will provide specifics at the formal presentation in Sept. 2006.

iii) Question raised at May’s meeting by PLC: Region was to inquire if PLC could receive reports for comment before going to MOE so they could have input before submission.
Consultation process will continue, as required. Daily operations and ongoing initiatives must continue in order to meet timeframes. Regional Council does not see everything that goes to MOE prior to submission.
Time sensitive issues cannot be delayed. Submission requirements vary depending on MOE requirements and process needs to be followed, including public consultation. A formal presentation to the PLC in September is planned and the PLC will have opportunity to comment.
PLC asked if there is going to be opportunity for review without needing immediate decision or response. Normal formal public consultation period is 30-60 days. Decisions are based on the comments received. Not all current issues require public consultation.

PLC stated that things have improved since Barry Friesen arrived. Only surprise is the 6000 tonnes vs. 12000 tonnes issue. That application was started in November, prior to Barry’s arrival. Region is committed to consulting with the PLC.

PLC stated that the site tour was beneficial to understanding operations of compost facility.

4.0 Diversion of Organics from the Elm Street Composting Facility
Table (updated) was distributed with agenda package. Tonnage on site is below the limit, as contractor is being held to limits. 142 tonnes were diverted in July (report includes July 1-22) and diversion will continue to maintain operations within the limits. Questions regarding operations should be directed to the appropriate manager.

5.0 Waste Found Outside the Boundary at the Elm Street Landfill Site
Memo was distributed with agenda package providing summary of information to date. The Consultant could present at the September presentation. City of Port Colborne wants work done during the cold months to minimize odour problems. Time is important to submit for February approval as process is lengthy. Overview has been presented to PLC. It could cost $420,000 in tipping fees. If it’s not in the landfill, with raised contours, Elm St., or whatever landfill accepts it, will have to close earlier. Increasing the contours would not make a noticeable visible impact but save closing the landfill earlier without the additional cost. The material is there already and it is not new waste. Last February workers digging for water lines uncovered about 4500 tonnes and more recently another 1000 tonnes. Region is asking to include what is still to be moved and extend the contours to adjust and accommodate that total tonnes allowing the landfill to continue as planned and allowing for this adjustment. It wouldn’t be the entire site affected. It would be about .5 to 1 meter total increase across a portion of the site.

PLC asked if the submission to the MOE would be specific to 6000 tonnes. A drawing could be provided with at the presentation if it would be helpful.

PLC stated that if the whole facility would be increased by a half metre lift that would open the door to more so would something be attached to be site specific. Staff will ensure it is defined. MOE is very specific also. Region will apply after presentation to PLC in September and feedback will be possible, but will be required as soon as possible to expedite process with a February end date. UEM is the consulting firm.
PLC stated that the City of Port Colborne Council was pleased with the Region’s approach and taking responsibility and ownership of the problem. Region has saved the City a considerable sum of money.
PLC asked if it’s possible there is some of this waste on private property.

The plan is that any waste on city property will be deeded to the Region no private property is affected that is known. The affected area is surrounded by City property and industrial property. It was not found on the side where the agricultural land is. Ariel photos and test pits were made along the boundary until they didn’t find anymore to determine the extent of the waste buried outside the landfill.

PLC asked if the density compared to volume is different than fresh waste and would a comparison be possible. This can be addressed at the presentation. Soil was included in the weights, some decomposition had taken place and some was still taking place. Photographs and maps will be provided to PLC by Region.
PLC asked if it’s on a flood plain. A portion of the land to the west is on a flood plain but this area is not. Public database was consulted.

**Action: Region will contact Conservation Authority to confirm.**

6.0 **Verbal Update – Composting Facility RFP**
Issued recently. Mandatory bidders meeting is this Friday afternoon and closes Sept 12. Due diligence will follow. Site visits then take place. Formal process is taking place, therefore if it warrants an addendum, it is distributed to all bidders.

7.0 **Odour Complaints**
Tables were distributed with agenda package. Responses to complaints are still managed within an hour after receiving the complaint.

8.0 **Other Business**
Status of Certificate of Approval.
Summary requested by PLC and they are aware there is currently 2 applications, one for a backup generator and the second for the increase of tonnage. Letter, dated September, from Silvio Mucciarelli to the MOE was referenced. Silvio had emailed it to PLC along with a map when the waste was initially found in September and a quick response from the MOE was requested. Waste was first discovered at that time and extent was unknown. Landfilling the old waste under the normal daily limit would have taken a very long time and the Region wanted it landfilled as soon as possible to minimize odour issues. Values changed significantly from first excavation. What was buried in February when the problem was discovered, was done in excess of daily limit. MOE ordered the speedy removal to prevent odour problems.

The Region has received the resolution from the City of Port Colborne and it will go before Planning and Public Works Committee next Wednesday, and then to Regional Council the following week. The City of Welland’s response has not been formally received by the Region. Since September of last year the Region has managed to manage that site in accordance with the 6000 tonnes limit. Contractor has limited
activities, including bulking materials. Region has incurred minimal costs to date. Diverting is also taking place. Continued composting, not landfilling is the biggest concern. It is possible that the Region may continue to be able to do that on a long term basis if necessary. Formal report to PLC may be available next meeting. Organics are being composted. There is low participation in the organics program. Once we have a facility that is capable of operating without problems there will be a stronger push on participation. Backyard composting is a good alternative. A Report to Council is being prepared on green grass clippings and can be an agenda item for next meeting.

PLC asked if there were any amendments made on report RWDI report. Nothing received from MOE. Both councils have asked Region to drop amendment and will pursue MOE to deny the amendment. Region is expecting MOE response very shortly.

PLC asked if PWA 124, 2006 referenced in the memo is still confidential. Region will check with Clerks to see when it can be lifted.

Discussion took place on area gardeners’ statements on the results of using compost in their gardens. Compost is composed of different ingredients. By law, labels identifying ingredients and percentages of ingredients have to be provided by anyone selling compost. Complaints should be directed to CFIA, (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) which regulates the sale of compost. The Region does not guarantee the results of compost sold by its contractor.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Moved by: Jim Larouche
Seconded: Bea Greenizan
Carried