



Community Advisory Panel  
**MINUTES**  
May 8, 2008  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Dofasco – First Floor, Conference Room E

**Present:** Jessica Aird, Martha Allan, Carolyn Barnes, Dwayne Alexander Brown, Mike Brown, Mark Dunn, Henri Kori, Karen Logan, Dale Millar, Lorna Moreau, Andy Sebestyen, Shawn Selway, Jim Stirling, Sandra Rogers, Larry Rose, Pat Thiessen, Brian Young.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

**2. Review Past Minutes:**

There were no changes to the minutes. Carolyn proposed acceptance, Lorna seconded. They are posted on the website.

**3. City of Hamilton – Spills Procedures: Dale Millar**

Dale provided an overview of the sewer system in Hamilton and explanation of the sewer use by-law. The Wastewater Treatment Plant system is in place to protect the environment and operates in compliance with provincial regulations under a Certificate of Approval. Dale's department enforces the sewer use by-law through a number of processes; by inspecting discharges; sampling for compliance; enforcement action and negotiating Sewer Use Agreements. If the department finds an infraction a Notice of Violation or Letter of Information is sent to the offender with a response required within 2 weeks and the company is monitored. If nothing is done or a second violation occurs a stronger notice is sent out. After the third violation the company can be charged and fined (corporations can be fined up to \$50,000 for a first infraction and \$100,000 for any subsequent offences).

Companies that can not meet the by-law can negotiate over strength agreements with the city for certain parameters including biochemical oxygen demand, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, suspended solids, phosphorous, phenol and oil and grease. There are approximately 40 agreements currently in place that generate over \$1.8 million dollars in revenue for the city. Companies that take in lake water for their process and discharge to the city sewer system must negotiate a Sewer Surcharge Agreement. There are approximately 22 agreements in place in Hamilton that generate over \$1.5 million dollars of revenue for the city. Compliance Agreements for non-treatable parameters such as metals and chlorides can be negotiated for a defined time while the company works to come into compliance. There is currently 1 agreement in place. There are currently no Chloride Discharge Agreements in place in Hamilton.

If there has been a spill to the sewer or it has the potential to enter the sewer the company or individual must notify the city and the MOE. A spill report must be submitted within 5<sup>[b1]</sup> days with a complete report due within 30 days.

Companies within the city are classified according to risk – low risk (e.g., warehouses etc.) medium risk (e.g., metal fabricators with a good history of management systems) and high risk (e.g, metal plating with no proper systems in place) and are monitored at a frequency according to the risk. Testing is done regularly to ensure companies are complying with the by-laws and the wastewater treatment plant is tested both daily and weekly to ensure compliance with provincial guidelines. In 2007 193 spills were reported and of those 111 were investigated. Where the source of the spill can be identified the city will backcharge any cleanup costs to the offender. However, often offenders do not report spills and when investigations cannot identify the source, cleanup costs then fall on the city.

The The Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan is currently looking at established water quality targets to determine if they are achievable. This will ultimately affect City plans for managing and treating sewer discharges.

#### **4. Roundtable**

There was a general discussion on how people came to know about and attend these meetings and why they come. There were a number of reasons how including – attended the open house at the Centre Mall, read about the meetings in the HIEA newsletter, invited by another member and wanting to meet with company representatives. Some of the reasons why – major concern about fallout; opportunity to vent about issues; opportunity to identify and learn about the issues; opportunity to challenge and support HIEA member companies; become better informed – education about the companies and their processes; find out who to contact; and what is being done about issues, how, when and why.

Dust has a major impact on communities and transit/transportation patterns are an important factor. It was suggested that we should look into having a presentation on this topic.

Dwayne reminded everyone about the Hamilton Commuter Challenge which takes place the first week of June. This is a province wide challenge – cities competing with each other to tally the most points. For information check the website – [www.commuterchallenge.ca](http://www.commuterchallenge.ca) or through the city of Hamilton's website:

<http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/cityandgovernment/citydepartments/publicworks/capitalplanning/commuter+challenge+week.htm>

#### **5. Next CAP Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday June 12, 2008  
**Place:** Columbian Chemicals Plant tour

*Reported by Karen Logan*