

**GFL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday December 6, 2021

***DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC MEETING TOOK PLACE VIA TEAMS MEETING***

6:30 pm

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members:** Sarah Solter (SS), *Community Representative*  
Chris Hagg (CH), *Community Representative*  
Jeff Isowa (JI), *Community Representative*  
Councillor Brad Clark (BC), *City of Hamilton, City Representative*  
Councillor Maria Pearson (MP), *City of Hamilton, City Representative*  
Vince Ramelli (VR), *Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board*  
Michael Durst (MD), *Supervisor, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*  
Lorenzo Alfano (LA), *GFL Environmental, Regional Operations Manager*

**Regrets:** Stephen Burt (SB), *District Manager, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*  
Cam Galindo (CG), *Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board*

**Assisted By:** Kim Bailey

**1. Welcome, Advice on Public Delegations for Consideration**

Sarah Solter welcomed the committee and introduced the two newest community members, Jeff Isowa and Chris Hagg. Sarah asked each CLC member to introduce themselves to the guests in the audience. Sarah reminded the committee of the mandate of the CLC before the meeting gets started.

No requests for public delegations at this time.

No additions or deletions to the agenda at this time.

**2. Matters Arising from September 2021 Meeting**

The issue of finding candidates was discussed at the September meeting. Since then interviews took place two new community members have been welcomed to the committee.

### 3. Site Update:

#### **Quarterly Update of Operational Activities at the Landfill:**

Site activity has been busy over the past 3 months. Current incoming volumes are from regular baseline customers (primarily AMD) and construction event volumes.

We are conducting several phases of construction, which include:

- Material relocation
- Landfill capping
- Cell/liner construction
- Berm construction

#### **Review of Monitoring: Particulate Matter (PM10)**

September 2021 – 5 MECP 1 HR average exceedances and 0 daily average exceedances

- Exceedances due to construction new PM10 station construction

October 2021 – 1 MECP 1 HR average exceedances and 0 daily average exceedances

- Exceedances due to facility activity, fugitive dust from onsite construction

November 2021 – 3 MECP 1 HR average exceedances and 0 daily average exceedances

- Exceedances due to facility activity, fugitive dust from onsite construction and offsite construction north of the landfill.

#### **Review of Complaints:**

During the period of September through November 5, complaints were received:

- Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> all related to old waste relocation.
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, potential source was rain water in the tipping area that had accumulated over the past few weeks (over 200mm of rain during that time)
- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> from Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, odour related to old waste relocation
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, source unknown

Jeff Isowa asked where stagnant water goes when it is pumped. Mr. Alfano responded the water goes into the leachate system then to the holding pond and from there to the City Water Treatment plant.

#### **Status of Applications Pending with the MECP:**

No applications pending.

## **Heritage Green Community Trust Activities Update:**

The Trust has just approved a grant to the Hamilton Conservation Foundation in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 for the Saltfleet Wetland Restoration Project. The Trust will be accepting scholarship applications starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **4. New Business:**

Mr. Isowa asked why additional berms located on Centennial Parkway been created closer to the road. Mr. Alfano explained the berms are being moved forward to open up the buffer zone as part of the evolution of the landfill. This will allow for the office and other infrastructure to be moved to the buffer zones.

Both Mr. Hagg and Mr. Isowa inquired about the monitoring station located on Green Mountain Road W. Curious as to how one station can pick up winds from all over the site with one station. Mr. Alfano explained the monitoring station has an open receptor that is open to the entire area. During the Environmental Process it was the MECP that had recommended to put the current station closest to the nearest residential area.

Mr. Hagg asked how citizens would go about putting in a formal complaint. Mr. Alfano explained there are several ways with the best being to have them call our 1-800 number posted on the facility signs. Councillor Pearson reiterated the importance of getting the complaints in as soon as possible in order to investigate exactly the cause. If it is days later it is very difficult to pinpoint the cause once the odour has dissipated. Mr. Alfano also added data collected from the weather station is very accurate and in real time but if, we are made aware immediately we can dispatch staff to investigate. Mr. Isowa commented that since the increase in height of the landfill does the data you collect increase the percentage of particulate in the air. Mr. Alfano explained there have not been many episodes as it is all based on managing the location. If the area is dusty, we place water down. We have water trucks on site, we sweep and clean the roads and scrape any residue off the roads.

Mr. Isowa asked a question regarding accessing information on material the site receives with an explanation of non-hazardous material and groundwater monitoring. Mr. Alfano explained this is a non-hazardous solid industrial waste facility. All material is pre-tested and pre-approved before coming into the site. Nothing comes into the site without pre-approval and scheduled. The data can be found in the site's Annual Report, which is a public document and can be found on the site's website.

Michael Durst explained all waste coming into the landfill is required to go through a toxicity leachate test. Mr. Isowa asked would this test ensures the water percolating through the waste won't leach out any kind of materials above a level the Ministry would consider hazardous? Mr. Durst responded, "Yes all of those". The landfill has a large monitoring network of groundwater wells that are tested regularly. The information is provided to the MECP in the Annual Reports. The Ministry has their groundwater hydrogeologists review the reports every few years or so depending on the history of the reviews. The local officers would also see these reports to

review to ensure there is nothing out of the ordinary. Mr. Durst reiterated to his recollection there have not been any issues with the landfill. As for issues at the steel mills, the Ministry has dedicated officers that handle Arcelor Mittal.

### **Review Operational Guidelines for the CLC:**

Sarah Solter explained the reason for reviewing the Operational Guidelines is to clarify how the CLC operates and what the procedures are for handling meetings. Sarah suggested this issue be added to the March Meeting Agenda in order to give the new members a chance to review the document.

### **5. Determination of Agenda Items for March 2022 CLC Meeting:**

- Review Operation Guidelines for the CLC
- Explanation from MECP on the placement of the PM10 Monitoring Station
- Advertising for CLC Members
- Email Address for concerns and questions to go directly to the CLC members.

At the end of the meeting, Sarah opened up the floor to questions from guests. Sarah acknowledge an email from Mr. Wes Connor with questions he had for the committee, which Terrapure had already responded too. Sarah summarized Mr. Connor's concerns:

1. Concern on finding new applicants for the CLC. He feels that in order for the CLC to stay compliant they need to advertise in the Hamilton Spectator, local section. Sarah explained that it was not done because it is beyond the scope of where applicants are chosen. Mr. Connor is not making a complaint rather a point. Councillor Pearson suggested they have the CLC Administrator review the matter and report to the CLC at the next meeting.
2. The next concern was regarding community members joining the meetings while they are held virtually must register with the Administrator before receiving the call in information. Prior to COVID people could just show, up to the meeting without contacting the Administrator ahead of time. Why can't you post the information on the website?
3. Mr. Connor's next concern is that community members should be able to direct their concerns directly to the CLC without having to go through the Administrator first. He is not looking for personal emails of the community members but there should be a way to set something up to do so. Mr. Connor asked the MECP how other CLC's handle this situation. Do they force a community member to go the company then to the CLC? Mr. Durst explained with the CLC's he has attended, if members of the public have concerns they would attend the meeting and bring up their questions in the open question period. Any concerns you might have with the landfill can always be addressed through the MECP as well as attending meetings and asking questions. Mr. Connor would like to see an email address for the community to post questions or concerns that would go directly to the CLC site and trickle to the community members who could then determine what to do with them. Sarah asked if Mr. Connor was worried about some form of editing being done between Terrapure and the

CLC. Mr. Connor replied "Absolutely" he is also worried that it would prevent people from taking action; it would be much easier if their concerns or questions could go directly to the CLC members. Sarah confirmed that Mr. Connor sent his concerns to the MECP as well as the City Councillors, which in turn have made their way to the community members.

4. The last concern Mr. Connor has is he feels the landfill has taken in more waste by the end of 2020 than what they are approved. Mr. Connor feels that the company should update the CLC once a year on where they are in regards to fill ratio and years of life left at the site. Mr. Alfano reiterated that the Annual Report comes out each year at the end of June and the CLC members are given the link to access the report, as it is a public document. The company also gives to each member a copy of the Highlights Report, which gives a condensed version of the Annual Report and is a public document as well. Councillor Clark commented the CLC committee does receive a copy of the Annual Report on a USB but at the CLC meeting, the information is shared in a summary (Highlights Report) where questions and concerns are discussed back and forth with the company at that particular time. This takes place each year after the Annual Report is finalized.

Mr. Dave Strecker had a few questions/comment for the committee:

1. Mr. Strecker agrees with Mr. Connor on an email address for the community to reach out to the CLC members without going through the company first.
2. The current leachate discharge into the Mistywood area over near Mount Albion is there any plans to discharge into the new sewer on Highway 20 and if so when will that take place? Mr. Alfano replied there are no plans at this time to do so.
3. Mr. Strecker added a point about the air monitoring station that used to be on the south side near Branthaven Drive, it has been decommissioned for a number of years. Without a monitor on the south side, how can the company pick up particulate matter blowing towards the Penny Lane area?
4. Mr. Strecker's last question for the committee is there is supposed to be four community members plus an alternate. There are only three at this time, are you going to implement the fourth and the alternate? If so when and if not why? Sarah asked if anyone would like to answer this question. She commented the committee voted to accept two of the three candidates that were interviewed. Councillor Clark replied looking for members is almost prospecting trying to find a community member. Councillor Clark agreed with Mr. Strecker the committee should try to get a full allotment of the CLC membership moving forward.

Councillor Clark commented on the matter of an email address directly to the CLC members. He has concerns about sending or sharing private personal email addresses of non-elected officials, specifically CLC members. If a generic email address could be created, the community could send their concerns or questions through that manner with copies going to the MECP and the Company. This will ensure the CLC members are seeing what is coming into the company.

**6. Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

**Next meeting:** Monday March 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Due to COVID-19 where/how the meeting will be held will be determined in February.