

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

April 14, 2010

Present: Jeff Balkema, Francis Bell, Patricia Crowley, Leroy Crabtree, Jeannie Himmelein, Patrick Krause, Daniel Moyle, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Kirsten Rimes, Mike Wetzel, Aud Wierenga, Sue Foune and Bill Hughes

Absent: Kathleen Buckham, Greg Nichols, Tom Pederson and Carolyn Rutland

Environmental Health: Deborah Cardiff, Jennifer Kosak, Jeff Reicherts, Carolyn Hobbs-Kreiger, Vern Johnson, Heather Nicholas and Kim Finkbeiner

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	No Comments		
2. Approval of Minutes	Pat moved to accept as submitted, all supported		
3. EH Update	<p>Deb presented information regarding non-potable water permitting to the Board – Committee of the Whole. There were some questions and concerns by some commissioners and as a result she was asked to put together a meeting with industry that would be regulated by the permitting of irrigation wells for farming operations. Ann Niewenhuis and Jeannie will make sure she gets the right players at the table. Ann is attending the Farm Bureau meeting and she will try to solicit a couple of people to participate. Deb anticipates that there will be no more than two meetings necessary. Ann and Jeff will be participating as commissioners and Jeannie, Pat C and Carolyn R. will be a voice for EHAC along with Deb and Kim Finkbeiner. They will then bring the information back to the board.</p> <p>We were made aware of a grant opportunity from the DNRE – it is a coliform indicator project that we applied for last year. Dr. Sylvia Rosbach was interested in partnering with us and some grad students to do some work in the Kalamazoo watershed. It would entail collecting water samples and identifying the type of coliform bacteria and</p>		

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	<p>to start a coliform indicator library..</p> <p>We had the first medication collection as part of HHW collection operations. Deb showed a poster that has been updated with all the collection dates for the year. This collection was a huge success – of the 291 households 174 brought medications, 403 lbs of regular medications and 23 lbs of controlled substances were collected – about 100,000 pills collected.</p> <p>We are in the process of interviewing for Nancy Brzowski’s position – we had 385 applications and should have a decision by next week.</p>		
<p>4. Urban Deer Management</p> <p>Ryan Colliton, Stewardship Field Director, Kalamazoo Nature Center</p>	<p>Ryan said he is going to speak on their deer management program and how they implemented it and the lessons they learned. In 1999 they were working in conjunction with the state parks in Indiana and they realized that they were putting up a lot of fences and losing a lot of species that at one time were very stable on their property. The Indiana Dept of Natural Resources suggested that they look into the amount of deer that they had on their property. They then contracted the DNR to do a fly over of their property which is about 1100 acres and on the first year they had 118 deer which is 68 deer per square mile. The recommendation for the Kalamazoo County area for deer from the DNR is about 19-24 per square mile. They then decided to implement their deer management program. The non-lethal method for the Nature center was very cost prohibitive. They then decided to go ahead with lethal measures which at first was bow and arrow, shot gun and muzzle loading. They had many protestors and even death threats but they did continue - they harvested 64 deer the first year. The second year the numbers went up to 184 deer per square mile and 70 deer taken. The third year there were 215 deer and they took</p>		

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	<p>64. The fourth year it was down so 120 deer per square mile. By year six they were about 50 deer per square mile and they decided 3 hunts per square year was too much so they eliminated the bow hunting. By year seven they were down to 38 deer, 30 year eight and 34 deer by year nine which is this year. They will probably not have a hunt next year and will start to come up with more methods to monitor the impact that deer are having on the Nature Center by measuring how much vegetative growth they have versus area where the deer are able to roam freely.</p> <p>The results have been a lower deer herd which is what they wanted. The nature center is surrounded by agriculture but it is still in a semi natural state. The lessons learned – they believe it was a success. They have tried to make it as much as a community effort as they could but there are some neighbors who just don't agree with it. It has never been their focus to eliminate the deer. They are seeing fewer deer – bigger deer both male and female. They learned that if you are going to do removal of deer in any fashion you need to monitor your results. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact Ryan at the Nature Center.</p>		
5. Member Comments	<p>Aud - The Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Event on April 21st. There will be a green info structure program on April 26th at the Fetzer Center. Green drinks on the 27th – the speaker will be Dave Worick and he will be speaking on bike to work day. Also a bonus green drinks – WMU is doing a manufacturing symposium on May 5 and 6 at Martells.</p> <p>Beginning October 1, 2010 they are going to a passport system for State Park Stickers and you will be able to purchase them for \$10.00 when you renew your state license plate.</p>		

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	Fran – Ben Yost will be at the May 4 th committee of the whole meeting to speak on phosphorous.		