

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 9, 2009**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Deb Cardiff, Patricia Crowley, Jeanne Himmelein, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Aud Wierenga, Bill Schwartz

Absent: Kathy Buckham, Leroy Crabtree, Tom Pederson

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Heather Nichols

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review/Approval of Minutes	Dan M. made motion to approve August minutes. Pat K. Supported.	Motion passed with oral vote	
3. EH Updates	<p>Deb C. gave EH updates</p> <p><u>H2K</u> – we are still waiting to hear if the grant has been received.</p> <p><u>Drug Collection</u> – The last EPA funded drug collection will be September 19th at Loy Norrix from 9 to 1. There is a supply of handouts, if members would like to take a pad or two to pass out. EH will be putting together a coalition in the community to see what it would take to make this a year round service.</p> <p><u>Body Art</u> - Fees were passed by the BOC at the September 1st meeting. The fees will be \$155.00 for the annual inspection and one follow up visit. Plan reviews and Informal hearings will be charged at \$66.00 per hour. Temporary Licenses and any additional visits (over the 2 per year) will be charged at \$50.00 per hour. EH will be hosting a Body Art Training in Conference Room D, on September 10th. The sessions will be conducted by MDCH, one session is for local public health officials, and the other session will be for Body Art Owners. It is a free seminar.</p>		
4. Honey Bees	<p>Dr. Larry Connor, an entomologist and publisher with Wicwas Press, whose focus is honey bees gave a presentation on honey bee activity in southwest Michigan. There is a bee keeping organization in Kalamazoo, it set up approximately one year ago. It is called the Kalamazoo Bee Club. It is basically a group of small scale bee keepers, many with one to ten colonies apiece. Traditionally southwest Michigan has been a good area to keep bees, due to the fact that we have an agricultural base. The smaller scale keepers are bringing in bees from outside areas. There are 230 names on the email list. They are supported by fund raising for speakers. They meet on a regular basis at the Comstock Community Center or the Kalamazoo Nature Center. A colony of bees is one nest of bees; they are usually in a box. A well managed colony can be kept in urban areas. They are not a nuisance if they are well cared for. The nature of the bees is to fly up and out. The current movement is to get away from restrictions on colonies. The</p>		

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	<p>public can help the bee keepers by planting white clover and leaving fields to go to natural selection. There are problems with urban pesticide use in some parts of the country; however it does not appear to be a problem in this area. Bees stay alive all winter long. Swarming is the reproductive phase of the colony. 40-60% leaves the hive each spring. They go to a temporary location, where they will stay from a few hours to a few days, and will then choose a permanent place for a new colony. Bee Colony Collapse has many factors which may be contributing to the disease. They range from a potential nutritional problem, drought, and possibly a class of pesticides which may be making bees more susceptible to getting a bacterial fungus or virus. Beekeepers have found success if they go to a very nutritious food program with lots of sugars, avoid pesticides and changing the frames of the boxes every 2-3 years. If members would like additional information they can contact Mr. Connor at ljconnor@aol.com or wicwas.com.</p>		
<p>5. Member Comments</p>	<p>Aud Wierenga – Green Drinks are on the 4th Tuesday of the Month, 9/22/09 at Charlie Fosters at 5:30. Speaker will be from Re-Power America. Chambers Environmental Council meeting mentioned that a new regulation on renovation repair and painting will be in effect on April 22, 2010. Those contractors who work on houses built prior to 1978 will have to be certified in lead abatement techniques. That deadline is fast approaching and they are trying to get more training sessions available. The US Green Building Council, a 3rd party certifier of green buildings in the US is trying to get a local branch started here in Kalamazoo. The kick off meeting is 9/22 at the State Theatre downtown. It is an informational luncheon meeting. This would be a branch of the Grand Rapids Chapter. Also the Chambers Environmental Council is looking to booster their numbers, so feel free to attend a meeting and see what they have to offer.</p> <p>Patricia Crowley – The drain office has completed mapping the storm water basins in the county.</p> <p>Carolyn Rutland – EPA is having a public information meeting at the Radisson at 6:30 9/10/09 presenting different options for remediation at the Allied Paper Site. The Western Bronco Bash is the 1st Friday of each term, EH table may want to consider putting up a table there in the future.</p> <p>Phosphorous Ordinance – the City Environmental Concerns Committee has been looking at this. The City attorney has prepared an ordinance for phosphorous load in the river. The City is waiting for something to happen at the county level. Deb responded that the County Attorney will not pass an ordinance that can not be enforced. Margaret mentioned that EHAC had a committee looked into this, and the more they looked it became less clear as to the sources of the phosphorous causing an enforcement issue. Pat</p>		

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	<p>mentioned that it was mentioned at a Kalamazoo County Environmental Concerns committee meeting that the biggest load is coming from leaves and grass clippings that homeowners are putting on the side of the road and then goes into storm drains. Margaret mentioned that the way to approach this is through education; however the draw back for that approach is cost prohibitions due to funding issues. Pat mentioned that the issue is the storm water permits, which everyone has. Carolyn mentioned that the city of Ann Arbor passed an ordinance last year, and has seen a significant improvement. Real change will come when the state gets more serious. Allegan County and the City of Battle Creek have also passed ordinances. This has encouraged the City of Kalamazoo.</p> <p>Dawn – the H2K meeting is one week from Thursday, September 17th. Also there is an Alzheimer’s Memory Walk September 19th at Bronson Park, registration is at 9:00, and the walk begins at 10:00.</p> <p>Margaret –City of Portage have referred something to the Austin Lake Governmental Board concerning an aeration project. The same process has been used in Willow Lake and Sherman Lake, and has met with success. They want to see if it will work in a very small portion of Austin Lake.</p>		