

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
December 9, 2009

Present: Fran Bell, Leroy Crabtree, Pat Crowley, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Pederson, Kirsten Rimes, Carolyn Rutland, Aud Wierenga, Tom Schwartz

Absent: Jeff Balkema, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jeanne Himmelein

Environmental Health: Tom Dewhirst, Heather Nicholas, Vern Johnson, Kim Finkbeiner, Jeff Reicherts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review / Approval Minutes	L. Crabtree moved to approve as written. P. Krause supported.	Minutes approved via oral vote.	
3. EH Program Updates	<p>Meth: Kim Finkbeiner reported that we currently have 65 sites that are open and in the process of being cleaned. To date we have had 146 meth busts in Kalamazoo County. When law enforcement officials fax out information to the MDCH at the state, they assume it gets forwarded to local offices. Unfortunately the MDCH position that coordinated this has been eliminated, so the information is not forwarded to our office. We have a discrepancy between the known number of busts (146) we have received in Kalamazoo County and the number the State has received (191) from local law enforcement. The State is putting together training for DHS personnel in relation to the Drug Endangered Children Protocol. We are hopeful that one of these sessions will be held in Kalamazoo. The EH Department is also looking at resuming the Regional Kalamazoo County Methamphetamine Task Force. This was strongly supported by EHAC members. It was suggested that the department look at putting together public service announcements regarding the safety and/or removal of finding the used one pot bottles along the roadside. These can be volatile, and since numerous groups and people engage in daily attempts to keep the roadsides clean of debris, they need to be advised/warned as to what to look for, and what to avoid.</p> <p>H2K: Vern Johnson presented this update for Jennifer Kosak. For the lead program, 4800 children were tested for lead levels, we have had 20 children who were found to have levels above 10 micrograms. 14 homes have had abatement done for remediation. State monies were not available for 2009 to help low income families with these costs, by offering low interest loans, etc. We expect grant monies will be available for 2010, however, the level of funding is not known at this time. Last year we found private companies going out and buying homes, and rehabilitating them for sale or rental properties. This year that number has decreased due to the economy.</p> <p>Healthy Homes: Jennifer is being sponsored by NEHA to attend training in January focusing on mold and radon. January is Radon Action Month. We will be giving out 250 Radon test kits. We will be keeping track of the addresses, so we can put together a GIS map of where the hot spots are and the results. We are looking at a potential partnership with the dealing with kids with asthma. We have been approached by a local physician who deals with treating children with asthma. The doctor would identify the children and we would go in and do 40-50 visits per year to assess the children's homes to identify asthma triggers, and work with parents to minimize these triggers. We are working with the physician to write a grant to get funding for this project.</p> <p>Groundwater: KL Landfill update. Pfizer installed additional water mains on North 1st Street, South of West Main, and also on West Main. We have done additional sampling on Chadds</p>		

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	<p>Ford Way, which were clean, Van Kal was also clean; however, Wickford did have some detections, but not above the limits. The Douglas Orchard site has been hooked up to the water main, and all homes have been connected. The 2010 Contract from the DEQ has been received, and we have added six houses in Fulton for testing. This is due to a leaking storage tank. We may also pick up some sites (60) in Van Buren County, near Mattawan. We may do this because Van Buren refused their contract this year, so the state has asked if we would be interested in doing this for 100% reimbursement. The arsenic project is continuing to be developed, and hope to be able to do field tests in the Spring.</p> <p>Type II: Carolyn held 5 classes during the year for certified drinking water operators. All were very successful. The department received 5 construction permits for Type II facilities, 1 new and 4 replacement. 33 Sanitary Surveys were done this year. These are required every 3-5 years.</p> <p>Surface Water: We conducted 8 months of monitoring at 10 sites on Augusta Creek up to Barry County, Prairieville Creek, and Little Long Lake where it connects to Gull Lake, for bacteria. They also received a small grant earlier this year for source tracking to send samples to MSU to the lab for DNA Typing. In June and October of this past year we collected 5 consecutive weeks, we collected samples at two locations in Augusta Creek and Prairieville Creek. These were delivered to the lab in East Lansing, we have yet to see the report on that, but when it is received, it will be shared with EHAC.</p> <p>HHW: The townships have had to allocate more monies for HHW this year due to increased volume. Participation has increased 63% over the past five years. Incoming materials have increased 51% over the past five years. Costs have remained flat, which has helped our ability to keep the costs down. Main materials collected are TV's, computers, oil, paint, pesticides. There are budget constraints due to our success, but the upside is that people are embracing recycling. There has been a 50% increase in the last couple of years regarding the recycling of compact fluorescent lights. Medication Collections- grant has ended. The county is convening a task force in January 2010, with Portage Police, KDPS, Bronson Hospital, Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo Substance Abuse, and EHAC to develop a workable ongoing program for the collection of medication in the county. Fran Bell volunteered to represent EHAC on this committee.</p>		
4. 2010 Agenda Topics	<p>Vern Johnson suggested that a presentation on the food program be given to the EHAC members, as that program has had many changes and improvements over the years in how they deal with owners, with staff training, what the staff does, and how they do it.</p> <p>Aud Wierenga mentioned looking at urban and deer management in the county.</p> <p>Pat Crowley mentioned looking at composting, and promoting it in the community.</p> <p>It was recommended that if anyone else have any ideas for agenda items to forward them the Margaret or Deb for addition to the list.</p>		
5. Citizen Comments	<p>Aud Wierenga – thanks to Carolyn for her years of service to the City of Kalamazoo and her contributions to the City Environmental Committee and EHAC.</p> <p>Pat Crowley – mentioned that she is updating the Storm Water Rules and will be seeking collaboration on this project. We are one of the top choices for the TMDL implementation grant for Davis Creek. She would like to see Kalamazoo move forward to work with the conservation district and others to possibly get grant action from the Great Lakes Initiative.</p> <p>Fran – there has been activity in Lansing regarding the phosphorous situation.</p>		

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