

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Mach 10, 2010**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Pat Crowley, Pat Krause, Greg Nichols, Dawn Potter-Williams, Kirsten Rimes, Aud Wierenga, Bill Schwartz

Absent: Leroy Crabtree, Jeannie Himmelein, Daniel Moyle, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Pederson, Carolyn Rutland

Environmental Health: Jeff Reicherts, Kim Finkbeiner, Jennifer Kosak, Heather Nicholas, Randy Riggs, Carolyn Hobbs-Krieger

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Approval of Minutes	Jeff B. motioned to approve. Fran B supported motion.	Motion passed on oral vote.	
3. EH Update	<p>Medication Collections: The Drug Collection Coalition has received written approval from the DEA District to collect drugs at Household Hazardous Waste. They must have law enforcement present. The City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Sheriff's Department have committed 4-5 hours for the 2nd Saturday of each month. The first collection may be held April 10th at HHW, if not then, definitely on May 8th. The collections will be part of a pilot project of 6 collection dates. There will be a survey component to look at possible funding for law enforcement and pharmacists.</p> <p>No Smoking Ban: EH is working with MDCH and MDA on the state's expectations. The food service staff will be enforcing Part 129, which handles restaurants and bars. The EH Health staff member who handles healthy homes and air issues, Jennifer Kosak, will be enforcing Part 126, which is public buildings. EH will be the initial responder for complaints. Enforcement of this law is education. It will be basically a paper run program.</p> <p>Irrigation Well Permitting: EH was scheduled to go before the BOC in March to discuss implementing a permitting process in the county for irrigation wells. The appointment was rescheduled by BOC for the April meeting.</p>		
4. DNRE Merger Update	Aud Wierenga gave an update as to what is happening with the DNR and DEQ merger. The new department's name is Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The two agencies were one unit until 1995, when a previous Governor split the agencies. So this is somewhat of a reunion. Locally the DNR is located in Plainwell and the DEQ is on Adobe Road in Kalamazoo, it has yet to be decided as to where the final location of the combined office will be. The old format had a "fur, feather, fin" focus and an "EH regulatory focus, with 2 deputy directors. The new department will have a resource management deputy director, an environmental protection deputy director and a stewardship deputy director. The stewardship deputy director brings in more of the people interface in the departments, like		

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	<p>recreation boating, forest management, parks, etc. The regions are to be based on a quasi watershed management regional system. There will be four regions: Upper Peninsula, Lake Michigan (Western), Lake Huron(Northeast), and South East Michigan(Lake Erie). The regional directors will bring everyone in the region together in more efficient manner. They will make decisions on a more local level. Our Resource Management Director is Mindy Cook, the Environmental Protection Deputy Director is Jim Sygo. Both of whom have been with DNR and DEQ for many years. The Stewardship Deputy Director position remains open. There will also be division management positions, some are filled, others remain to be filled. There were 22 divisions and program offices, this has been reduced to 14. These will be reconfigured with internal shuffling and consolidation. When this will be done has yet to be decided. The new director of the agency is Rebecca Humphries.</p>		
5. Member Comments	<p>Kathy Buckham - The annual tree sale is coming up and Home Expo will be happening in a couple of weeks, the conservation district will have a booth set up for storm water education; they also will be selling rain barrels and composters. Funding for the ag position at the conservation district has been eliminated from the state budget.</p> <p>Pat Crowley – inquired as to whether the county epidemiologist or EH tracked heavy metal exposure levels or cancer clusters in the county. Deb advised that EH is generally not involved in this type of issue; MDCH handles cancer clusters; she will check with the county epidemiologist to see if she had any background information.</p> <p>Fran Bell – The raw sewage situation in Charleston Township has been resolved. They will be hooking up to municipal sewer.</p> <p>Audrey Wierenga – The Community Pollution Prevention Grant funding for 2010 has been released. It is a planning grant to look at a communities greenhouse gas inventories and come up with a solution to reduce the inventories. Eligible parties are local units of government, maximum of \$50,000 with 25,000 match. Green Drinks will be happening at The Strutt on the 4th Tuesday of the Month, March 23rd. Southwest Michigan Sustainability Covenant Group will be having an open public meeting April 14th at the Douglas Community Center from 11:00 until 1:00. Bring a brown bag lunch.</p> <p>Deb Cardiff – Asked Audrey to look into putting together a Deer problem topic for the next meeting.</p>		