

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

August 8, 2012

Present: Fran Bell, Kathleen Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Patricia Crowley, Leroy Crabtree, Jeannie Himmelein, Mike Wetzel, Jim Pearson, John O’Keefe, David Harn, Linda Zabik, Anjana Neupaney

Absent: Dan Moyle, Dawn Potter-Williams, Patricia Randall, Kirsten Rimes, Jack Urban, Erich Zinser

Environmental Health: Vern Johnson, Kim Steinmann, Gracie Arevalo

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome - Introductions			
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes for the June meeting were approved		
3. Citizen Comments			
4. EH Update	<p>Maximus cost study is done every 3 years. We are awaiting the results. Once results are we may come to EHAC for support on any recommended fee increases. This will probably be an agenda item in EHAC before it goes to the BOC as part of the 2013 budget</p> <p>The Sanitary Code is going well. There were 5 articles that are being edited and rewritten and are in the final steps.</p> <p>The sewage regulation article changes have been submitted to corporate council for review and there weren’t any issues or concerns. The rest of the articles and the definitions are going to corporate council on Friday of this week. Deb would like to provide a presentation of an overview of all the changes on the September EHAC meeting to get support. It will then go to the committee as a whole and then to a public hearing.</p> <p>Food not Bombs is a concern to local food service. This is a nationwide political activist group that a chapter in Kalamazoo. They are promoting feeding the homeless and poor people as appose to constructing bombs. They were having regular feedings sessions on Saturdays at Bronson park. It is a concern the way that the food is being acquired and prepared. They accept donations and pick</p>		

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	<p>up scraps from dumpsters. We put a stop to this. We gave them instructions on how to do this. They did listen and didn't show up the following Saturday.</p> <p>Staffing changes have been made due to budget concerns. Many HCS programs had to eliminate positions. EH eliminated a vacant Administrative Assistant and Land Water and Wastewater Supervisor, Kim's Steinmann current position. Changes are effective August 27, 2012. Kim's last day is August 24, 2012. Kim will be greatly missed and wish her the best.</p>		
<p>5. MAEAP Certification</p>	<p>Kathleen and Jeannie introduced Linda Zabik</p> <p>Linda explained the MAEAP program. The program has been around since the mid 90's. It involves 3 systems. The Farmstead System addresses environmental risks like pesticides, fertilizers, knowing how far a well should be from fertilizer and pesticides. Cropping System focuses on environmental issues related to cropping system like irrigation management nutrients and pest management. Livestock System focuses on manure handling and procedures and field applications. These systems are further broken down to assist every farm. This is free, voluntary and confidential. Once she has access to the farm she talks to them about Extension or connecting them to resources. This program is a good way to network. There are also 3 phases of MAEAP. The Educational phase is a meeting that is held all over the state as well as online. Linda has a workshop that is held every year. She talked about the workshop that will be held this year.</p> <p>Phase 2 is On-farm risk assessment. This is an assessment book. Once complete farmers will know if they are in violation with state or federal regulations or guidelines. Linda will then create a to-do list that lets farms know exactly what to do to become MAEAP certified.</p> <p>Phase 3 is Third-party verification. The MAEAP verifier comes out and make sure that the requirements have been met.</p>		

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	<p>Prior to 2011 the program was founded through fees assets on nitrogen &amp; pesticides. There weren't enough technicians to cover all the counties. In 2011 Governor Snyder signed a bill to the MAEAP program into the law. This has helped to bring more money into the program. As a result he set really high goals into the program. Snyder want 5000 MAEAP certified farm by 2015.</p> <p>Deb asked if there was there was an enforcement now that there is a law</p> <p>Linda said that it was still voluntary but they have added regulatory incentives.</p> <p>Certification is good for 3 years</p> <p>Linda suggested that we visit and recommended the website <a href="http://www.maeap.org">www.maeap.org</a> to anyone that needs it.</p>		
5. Member comments	<p>Kathy: The fair is going on this week</p> <p>Ken: Michigan is well advance compared to other states in regards to environmental issues</p> <p>Jim: Suggested that you if you go to the fair to park on Lamont Recovery Water Fundraiser parking lot</p>		