

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 14, 2009

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Leroy Crabtree, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Daniel Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Carolyn Rutland

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Heather Nichols

Absent: Dawn Potter-Williams, Kyle Smith, Steve Gianni

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review / Approval of Minutes	Minutes for November 12, 2008 and December 10, 2008 Were approved as submitted.	Passed on oral vote.	
3. Outdoor Wood Boiler Information	Deb Cardiff advised the committee that she is going to be on the Kalamazoo Township Supervisors monthly meeting in February. She passed out a handout reviewing information she will be sharing with Township Supervisors. Last month the committee wanted to see what she is going to share with the supervisors, before giving their support. The handout has all the information she is presenting, along with the recommendation that they put a moratorium on the installation of OWB in their townships, unless they install a model that provides secondary combustion. She would like EHAC to give support for this effort. Mark Miller advised that Monday evening, he received general approval from Kalamazoo Township, to go along with a recommendation which is along the same lines; grandfathering in current units, subject to their meeting conditions in regard to set backs and partial size, then we are going ahead and saying new units would have to meet these conditions, plus the EPA white tag units (those with secondary combustion). Pat K. inquired as to whether the DEQ has a position on this subject; and whether it is a state-wide position or do individual district offices have their own individual positions. He suggested that EHAC ask the county administration to put this issue on their agenda for their meetings with their legislators to ask them to talk to the DEA and get clarification. Carolyn R. advised that the Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee is recommending that they support this as well. She offered to get a notice of support from the ECC.	Pat K. moved that EHAC make a request that the BOC discuss the OWB issue at their next legislative agenda meeting in an effort to obtain a statewide position from the state, for a position on OWB. Carolyn seconded. Passed with verbal majority. Carolyn R. to provide Deb with a letter of support from the ECC for her meeting with the Township Supervisors. Mark Miller moved that EHAC support the information Deb is going to share with the Township Supervisors meeting. Carolyn seconded; motion passed with verbal agreement.	
4. Future Agenda Topics.	<u>Alternative Energy Sources</u> - Margaret suggested that the committee look at this topic. Portage has recently passed an ordinance regarding wind power, Comstock is beginning to look at the issue, Kalamazoo Township has one in process and Richland has a draft ordinance. Leroy Crabtree has contact regarding wind turbines, who may be able to assist in educating the members on this subject. <u>Children's Environmental Health</u> – This topic will be presenting information with conceptual stuff. We have a staff person who received a scholarship from NEHA and has been to training in		

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 14, 2009**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Washington DC, where she received a lot of great information and data regarding indoor air, radon, asthma, etc. We are beginning the fostering of focusing of a position in our bureau on these types of issues. There will be more to follow.</p> <p><u>Bronco Bio-diesel</u> – This can be removed from agenda topics.</p> <p><u>Ecovillage</u> – This can be removed from an agenda topic. If something develops in the near future we will restore it.</p> <p><u>Remediation sites on the Kalamazoo River</u> – Carolyn and Fran has been a subcommittee on keeping abreast of this topic. The information is currently in flux because of the bankruptcy developments. This will stay on the agenda. We may have to stay abreast of this for the next 2-3 months and remain in touch with the County board to make sure this is continued, and not put on the back burner.</p> <p><u>Honey Bee Colony Collapse</u> – Leroy has a neighbor who is an expert on bees, so if we want to continue this as an agenda item, he may schedule his neighbor to come and give a talk.</p> <p><u>HHW</u> - Will meet at HHW for one of the Quarterly meeting updates.</p> <p><u>Endocrine Interrupters</u> – This will be set aside, since we are having two more prescription pill collections this year, one in spring and one in fall.</p> <p><u>Phosphate Fertilizers</u> - Pat K. mentioned there is a group set on getting all local water sheds to pass an ordinance regarding this. Deb C. mentioned that at this time the County Attorney is not in favor of this position. DEQ is also putting pressure on that this should be done. The subcommittee will continue to keep abreast of this issue. Ben Yost from Farm & Garden may be interested in coming to give a perspective on this.</p> <p><u>Green Assist</u> – Greenhouse Assist is part of Farm Assist. It is a way to be MEAP verified by the state. Elizinga & Hoeksema Greenhouse is the first to get this MEAP certification. This will remain on the list for possibly later in the year.</p> <p><u>Sustainability</u> – Will remain as a priority. Carolyn recommended that the committee look at the Grand Rapids Sustainability project. She suggested we invite Corky Overmeyer, and Norman Christopher to give a presentation. They spoke with the ECC. The whole sustainability program in Grand Rapids evolved out of the EBLL levels with kids. Another potential person to give a presentation is Lynn Spur with the SW Sustainability Business Forum. Margaret mentioned checking with the City of Portage to see if they taped an environmental presentation that was done a few months ago.</p> <p>Pat K suggested a joint committee meeting with Portage Environmental Committee and the Kalamazoo ECC so all these groups are not operating in a void in regard to sustainability.</p>	<p>Deb to contact Jeff Spolstra to arrange an update for the March 11th meeting.</p> <p>Deb to schedule with Tom Dewhirst</p>	

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 14, 2009

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Pat K also suggested that we have an educational meeting regarding the statutory mandates that the Environmental Health Bureau has to meet, and the funding for these. Because there is a disconnect between what can be done, and where the funding for these efforts comes from.</p>		
5. Member Comments	<p>Deb – next meeting is February 11th, we will be electing new officers. Come prepared to nominate yourself, or ask someone to nominate you if you are interested.</p>		