

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 13, 2010

Present: Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Jeannie Himmelien, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Pederson, Kirsten Rimes, Bill Schwartz, Mike Wetzel, Aud Wierenga, Ken Oscarson

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

Absent: Jeff Balkema, Leroy Crabtree, Greg Nichols, Dawn Potter Williams, Carolyn Rutland

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Dan M. moved to accept as submitted. Pat K. supported.	Passed by oral vote	
3. EH Updates	<p>Deb mentioned that the number of members needed to make a quorum for meetings is 7.</p> <p>January is Radon Action Month. The EH Department is handing out 250 Radon test kits for free. Everyone is encouraged to stop into the office to pick one up, and to assist in helping inform other interested parties in the community.</p> <p>The first medication collection task force meeting is going to be held tomorrow 1/14/10. The goal of the task force is to brainstorm ways the county can provide year round collection for medication disposal. There will be future updates as to the actions of the task force.</p> <p>EH is currently in the process of writing a grant and partnering with a local medical doctor to assist with home assessments for children suffering from asthma, the tracking of asthmatic incidents, and impact upon elimination/remediation of home triggers for children who are suffering from asthma. The grant is being offered through the EPA. The grant amount is approximately \$150,000.</p> <p>Revenue Sharing Conference – It appears the Kalamazoo County budget will be stable through the end of the fiscal year. Funding cuts appear to be forestalled; LPHO funding should not be impacted. We need to wait to see what 2010/2011 brings.</p> <p>EH Received a \$10,000 grant from the MDA to create a Standard Operating Procedure Builder (SOP) for food establishments. Food service facilities need to have SOP's written for several actions their employees need to do and to assist in the education of their employees. This grant is to be used to create software to assist restaurants in learning how to write SOP's. The majority of the cost will go to the creation, writing and distribution of a software disc which will be for restaurant operators, MDA facilities and local health departments throughout the state. The first meeting is this a.m. with restaurant owners, EH staff, and</p>	<p>Deb to put Vern in touch with Mike regarding making SOP's for</p>	

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	<p>software developers. Mike W. inquired whether the SOP's will help restaurants deal with waste grease.</p> <p>Fran Bell mentioned that HHW received an \$18,000 MDA grant for Clean Sweep to assist in pesticide removal.</p> <p>Margaret mentioned that Aud Wierenga will give an update on the DNRE merger in February. The February meeting will have elections for leadership. The Chair person, Vice Chair and Secretary positions need to be refilled. Nominations can be made from the floor, or let Deb know if you are interested in one of the positions.</p>	waste grease as part of the software.	
4. MSU Extension	<p>Jeanne Himmelein gave an update as to the changes taking place with MSU extension. Due to financial constraints it has been difficult to maintain services for MSU Extension and the Ag Experiment Station. Funding has been changing for the past 8 years, and services have also been growing. Priorities will still be in line with what they have always been, to bring research based information out into the community. There is going to be a reduction in the middle managers. As of June 30th there will no longer be Regional or County Extension Directors. They are keeping three main leaders on campus, which will be creating four MSU Extension institutes. The directors for the institutes are in the process of being hired. Once the directors are in place the institutes will be looking at what the program areas will be and what their focus will be. After that the state will be broken into 13 districts. Each district will have a district coordinator. The district coordinator will be replacing the current regional and county directors. The District coordinator will make connections with County Commissioners and other entities or partners. The southwest area will cover 7 counties. They are going to promote a team approach to cross county bounds to promote and provide educational resources. Most changes will be taking place after June. We will be cutting back on people. Extension currently has 5 regional directors and approximately 83 County Directors. There will be a major reshuffling of what people are doing, and where they fit in the new organizational structure. Things are under discussion, no permanent changes for positions have been decided yet. MSU extension is a leveraging between federal, state and local funds. The decreases in federal funding and state funding, and restraints on local funding necessitate these changes.</p>		
5. Member Comments	<p>Margaret requested that members look at unfunded mandates. A commission was appointed by the state legislature, experts from throughout the state. They stated that in 2009 there were 2 Billion Dollars in unfunded mandates that local elected bodies had to pay because of state laws. The Portage City Council is going to look at all the federal and state mandates that are unfunded. This is also a problem with the county in having to cover laws that the state creates but does not pay for and the county must eat the cost. This is a</p>		

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	<p>violation of the Headlee Amendment. People need to reach out and make a list and stand up to the state about cutting revenue sharing, yet passing laws that increase the cost of providing services. This affects all public bodies right down to the Road Commission.</p> <p>Fran mentioned that Charleston has been keeping a list for at least 2 years regarding unfunded mandates, from operating elections to all areas; some of this is in regard to cutting township governments, even down to how townships use assessors, and having these items handled by County governments. Charleston has a \$300,000 budget, we operate very frugally. The cost of the county running the elections will be much higher than the cost to local townships.</p> <p>Margaret also mentioned the K Wings are having a green night, trying to market to green business and focus on the environment. They are looking for anyone interested in helping to sponsor the event.</p> <p>Pat requested information on how the smoking ban to go into effect in May will be enforced.</p> <p>Aud relayed that she has been working with Discover Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds to put a proposal together to get the Michigan Renewable Energy Fair to Kalamazoo in June of this year. The Fair has been held in Manistee in past years. They will be looking for letters of support for this. The letters are needed by January 18th. The fair draws about 6,000 people, and takes place over the weekend (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Green Drinks for January will be starting up again on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The new location will be The Strutt. It is located in the old Boogie Records Store by K College and WMU's Campus. The Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum will be having their annual meeting in February at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Dr. Harold Glasser from Western will be giving a presentation on The Southwest Michigan Sustainability Covenant. The meeting is February 18th.</p> <p>Kathy thanked Jeanne for her presentation and support for 4H.</p>	<p>Deb will get back on this</p>	