

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 7, 2006

Present: Fran Bell, Bryan Bowne, Jeremy Marr, Mark Miller, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jim Rutherford, Carolyn Ruthland, Kyle Smith, Edwin Almodavor (USDA NRCS)

Environmental Health: Jim Draze, Kim Finkbeiner, Jeff Reicherts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	No Comments		
2. Review of Minutes	Correction made to February Minutes, under item 8, line 3, first word changed licenses to licensed. Motion for approval made, seconded.	Minutes for January and February Approved	
3. Review of Agenda	Addition to agenda between items 6 and 7, Kalamazoo Sewage Back-up. Jim Rutherford will address item.	Item added to agenda	
4. Nominations – Chairperson & Vice Chair	Current Officers, Dawn Potter Williams and Margaret O'Brien have indicated a willingness to serve another term. Nominations were opened to floor. Both were nominated, motion seconded. Verbal vote taken.	Dawn Potter Williams and Margaret elected for another year.	
5. Meth Update	182 busts in county. Next two areas to be processed are Comstock Township and Kalamazoo Township. Correspondence will go out to homeowners towards the end of the month. Verbal presentations will be conducted for the Cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. The Budget for 2008 is being developed. There are good numbers. There may still be a potential need to develop a grant for Arcus Foundation. Michigan Dept of Community Health is processing reimbursement requests for approximately 20 sites.		
6. City of Kalamazoo Sewage Backup	The City of Kalamazoo experienced sewage back up due to grease in clogging the line. The backup took place in the basements of 2-3 abandoned buildings, a subway eatery, and	Jim Draze to investigate updating web page with information on sewage spill	

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	<p>A-1 Printing Company. By law, the City should have contacted us regarding this overflow. Our office was informed via the Media, we did not receive a call from anyone. The primary concern is that there was a food facility affected, that was operating with sewage in the basement. We have sent correspondence to Bruce Merchant. We are sitting down with them to work on their communication backups and overflow requirements, to ensure that we get notified of these situations should it happen again.</p>	<p>advice as to who to contact, when, and protocols on how to clean up and sanitize.</p>	
<p>7. EH Budget Update</p>	<p>The County is indicating that it will cover the Medicaid cost reimbursement shortcomings for this year. We continue to be optimistic about the staffing levels for this year. New changes will hinge upon the Executive Order that is being worked out in Lansing. There may be changes later in 2007, and 2008 is up in the air for now.</p>		
<p>8. VDS Farms CAFO Update</p>	<p>Last month we discussed participating in the collection of water samples with the DEQ on some of the residential homes that are contiguous to this area. There have been a couple of snags in this project. We are continuing to inventory the CAFO's in Kalamazoo County. Before we get on board with the DEQ for the sampling we want to make sure we understand what our role is going to be and what the DEQ's role is going to be. We were going to leave a note at the homes we sampled, indicating this was a joint effort. DEQ did not want their name on the note. We need to be sure the DEQ is going to be supportive of our efforts. It was also mentioned that the City might be interested in offering their services to these farms to help them with their waste disposal. There may be temporary way to help the farms. This collaboration would be through the City, the farms, and the DEQ. The EHAC committee's interest is in being knowledgeable about where the CAFO's are that we have in the County, and their status with the MDEQ.</p>	<p>Meeting with DEQ scheduled for March 15th with EH personnel.</p>	
<p>9. EH Program Presentation</p>	<p>Jim Rutherford gave an overview presentation for the new members of the various teams in the Environmental Health Bureau, including each team's responsibilities throughout the county.</p>		

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10. Member Comments	<p>Fran B passed out 3 handouts, one concerning the MEC History project, one concerning CAFO's and a last one regarding the need for a balanced energy policy.</p> <p>Ann N gave a brief update of MSU extension highlights, including the disappearance of honeybees and concerns over the competition for corn due to ethanol production.</p> <p>Margaret O thanked Jim R for his work bringing diverse groups in the community together to mutually solve problems.</p> <p>Carolyn R. mentioned how helpful the surface water program; especially the beach monitoring was for the city. It makes it easier for the city to keep track of the water quality at Woods Lake and Spring Valley Park Lake.</p>		