

**Kalamazoo County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**April 4, 2007**

Present: Patrick Krause, Jeff Balkema, Mark Miller, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, John Taylor  
Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, Greg Nichols

Environmental Health: Jim Draze, Carolyn Hobbs-Kreiger, Vern Johnson, Linda Wright and Jeff Reicherts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	No Comments		
2. Review of Minutes	Approval of Minutes of March meeting	Minutes for March approved	
3. Review of Agenda	No changes noted.		
4. KCHCSD Lead Program Enhancement Initiative – Jim Draze	<p>Everyone should have received a handout entitled KCHCS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Improvement Plan. Kalamazoo County EH program has operated this program since 1993. When Jim came in 1994 one of his supervisory responsibilities was the lead program. In 1995 the bureau received a two-year grant from HUD through what was then called the Michigan Dept of Public Health. It was a grant to work with homeowners and landlords to remediate lead paint hazards in housing. Jim continued to go over the key elements provided in the handout with the group.</p> <p>Jim said that this is a broad outline of what we are attempting to do. There is a target date of putting this plan into effect mid to late summer. There will be a half-day seminar at the end of April to HCS Steering and then to the Board of Commissioners so everyone is aware of what we are doing. The county prosecutor has indicated his interest in pursuing prosecution under the state law for when a landlord is aware of a problem and does not correct the problem - they will then have 90 days to correct the problem. Jim said we are taking this program and making the program improvement using our existing resources within the City and County. Jim said part of the program we want to put in place is to help property owners, landlords and property owners, understand the difference between interim control and abatement.</p>		
5. The Importance of Sustainable Land Use Planning for Future Renewable Energy Needs – Ann Nieuwenhuis	<p>Ann distributed a Land Use report that they have been working on for about 16 months. She has sent an invitation to everyone to attend rotary on Monday to be able to hear Dr. Stephen Harsh, Professor in Agriculture Economics, who has become an expert in the field of alternative energy and Brad Newman who is the Land Use Extension Educator housed in St. Joe County. Ann said that their presentation would be at the Rotary meeting, Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Ballroom at 12:00 and everyone is invited to come as her guest.</p> <p>Ann then explained that MSU Extension is many times the facilitator of the discussion and is by no means making recommendations as to what has to happen, but an idea of being able to say; especially with the changes in Michigan economy and what's happening with alternative fuels, that it the right time to get the right people together to have this discussion.</p>	Presentation at Rotary meeting on April 9 at the Radisson Ballroom at 12:00.	

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	<p>Ann proceeded to go through the report with the group.</p>		
<p>6. Jim Draze Retirement</p>	<p>Pat stated that Jim R is on vacation and asked Pat would say a few words on his behalf. Jim is a retiree of the county as of Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> but is staying on as a volunteer to help out. Pat read that Jim R wanted to thank Jim for 13 years of dedicated service to the county. Jim has earned a great deal of respect from staff, from the MDA and from the peers within the state. Jim has worked and maintained one of the best food protection programs in the state of Michigan. In addition, Jim has committed a great deal of his time to the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators Food Committee and is currently viewed as one of the most knowledgeable "food people" in the state.</p> <p>Pat said he had the privilege of hiring Jim through a group process. Pat said that Jim is probable one of the most intellectual people that he knows. One of his stated goals of Jims when he came here was for both he and his wife to increase their knowledge and education, which they both did. Jim received his Masters degree in Public Admistration from Western and his wife Deanna obtained her PHD from WMU. He also said that Jim is responsible for much of the automation of programs that have been placed in the EH department. Also, Jim is extremely responsible in the area of lead protection. Both Pat and Jim R recognized that Jim is extremely knowledgeable in the area of Food Protection and the area of lead protections. He is recognized throughout the state of Michigan for his knowledge in these two programs; so much so, he is involved in a number of statewide committees, which has given us a chance to influence state policy. Pat said he believes that the department is in very good hands with Vern Johnson being his successor. There will be a party for Jim on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at 5:30 at the Blue Dolphin. Pat thanked Jim on behalf of everyone for all of his efforts.</p> <p>Jim thanked everyone for the kind words and the county and Ehac for the opportunity to work here. He said Kalamazoo County embodies excellence in government. When he decided to come here people asked if he was sure because of the level of expectation demanded by Pat Krause and now by Jim Rutherford and he said it was a privilege to have worked in that kind of environment. He said that when staff within Environmental Health does such a good job, EHAC is partly responsible for that because you offer the opportunity to excel, he appreciates that and thanks you.</p>	<p>Retirement party for Jim on April 27, 2007 at 5:30 at the Blue Dolphin.</p>	
<p>7. Member Comments</p>	<p>Margaret asked how the retirements have affected EH. Tom replied that Jim is the only one who has retired and the only problem is that it happened on spring break while many people are on vacation. Jim said he was planning on leaving on May 4<sup>th</sup> anyway, so much has already been in place and there has been no lapse of authority. Vern took over the position on April 2. Jim is also working on a volunteer basis minimally through the month of April.</p>		
	<p>Ann said if anyone knows of anyone who would like to hear the presentation that she summarized for us to please let her know. Also, she has additional copies of the handout if anyone would like them.</p>	<p>.</p>	

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	Mark Miller invited everyone to the Legislative breakfast at the Kalamazoo Nature Center on April 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 7:30.	Respond to Kay Chase if interested at 388-3777	
	<p>Tom said effective Monday the Governors general order cancelled payment of all grants. The clean sweep is a grant-funded program funded through the Dept of Agriculture. They are temporarily freezing collection activities for pesticides and mercury except from Kalamazoo County residents which is covered in the HHW Program. He hopes it is a very temporary thing but from a fiscally responsible view, they cannot incur debt that they don't know if they will get paid for.</p> <p>Also, HHW continues on it's growth spurt with the interest in the collection of electronics and other household material. They have a request for a half time employee going before the board in about two weeks. This won't be for new funds, it is due to a position elimination.</p>		