

**Kalamazoo County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Daniel Moyle, Greg Nichols, Maury Kaercher, Margaret O'Brien, Carolyn Rutland,

Absent: Bryan Bowne, Deb Cardiff, Dawn Potter-Williams, Kyle Smith, John Taylor

Environmental Health: Tom Dewhirst, Diane Hindbaugh, Heather Nicholas, Zak Peiffer, Jeff Reicherts, Christine Rogers

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Minutes	Mark M. moved to accept as presented. Carolyn seconded.	Minutes approved.	
3. EH Program Updates	<p><b>Sanitary Code</b> – Since revisions have gone into effect, we have denied 1 permit due to unsuitable water levels, and 1 property modification has been found unsuitable due to water. We have approved 8 dry well deviation requests, (dry wells are approved if there is not sufficient area available for trenches) and rejected 1. Installers have begun to come in and take the test for licensing this year. The registration fee this year has been prorated from May to December; the cost is \$86.00. Most improvements have been met with little or no resistance.</p> <p><b>KL Landfill</b> – Still awaiting the formal request for restrictive zone. Since the discovery of 1,2 diethylene dioxide in 2005 the restricted zone has grown. 2 homes in the restricted zone have resisted connecting to municipal water, and 8 homes are requesting to keep their wells for irrigation for lawns and gardens. The MDEQ will make decisions as to allow waivers. Wells that are down gradient will continue to be monitored on an annual or semi annual basis.</p> <p><b>Surface Water</b> – County has two major watersheds, the Kalamazoo River Watershed and the St. Joseph River watershed. The difference between beach sampling and stream sampling is that for the beach sampling we collect a minimum of three samples, as opposed to one for the streams. We worked on a grant project in 2006 for predictive modeling; we did not get the results we were looking for, partly because we do not have a chronic problem with water quality at the beaches in Kalamazoo County. It is hard to predict high concentrations of bacteria when you don't really have them. We have very good water quality at our beaches here. A beach is in compliance if it is under 300, based on an average for the three samples. They want a 30-day running average to be 130 or less. Both Arcadia Creek and Axtell Creek get high concentrations of bacteria. These are both urban streams, and the higher rates tend to be related to weather events.</p>	<p>P. Krause requested the number of permits issued so far this year, differentiate between new and replacements, to be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>Jeff passed out annual reports to those who had not received them.</p>	

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	<p>For 2008, we are trying to sample sites that do not have high levels of bacteria on a monthly or quarterly basis, those that do have high levels we will be doing on a more frequent basis. The EH specialists are assisting with the collection of the data. Some sights are being targeted for rain events. Our lab tests max out at greater than 2,400, so we will be conducting a dilution and then run the tests, so we get a more accurate result. Beach monitoring will resume the first week of May. Looking at adding nutrient sampling, ie, phosphorous. There was a sampling done by the USGS in 1986, and we're looking at following some of their sites to get a comparison from 20 years ago. Another hot topic is source tracking, to determine where some of the high numbers are coming from and looking at DNA fingerprinting, this may be something to consider in the future. Last fall we received a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to change our website for surface water and groundwater quality databases. These are now searchable on the website by address, by section, by lake or stream name, etc, so when someone is looking for data, they no longer have to scroll through all the data. Greg Nichols added that the State has a CLMP (Cooperative Lake Management Program) a cooperative effort of the DEQ and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. They monitor 300 lakes for bacteria, phosphorous, turbidity, general basic information, from the deepest part of the lakes. They don't update it as often, but it does give you an idea of how the lakes are doing.</p> <p><b>Lead Enhancement Initiative</b> – We are continuing to do inspections/risk assessments on homes with children who have an elevated venous blood lead level. We are now monitoring child with a level of 10 micrograms per deciliter or higher. We have been finalizing the procedures, letters, forms, etc. for this program. We are also working closely with the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, to enforcement the State Lead Abatement Act. Property owners who are renting homes that have an elevated lead level, will have 90 days to remediate those hazards. We have also been working with the City of Kalamazoo, and have received an EPA grant for lead education and training, and outreach programs. There will be eight 1-day training sessions for lead safe work practices. The goal is to educate property owners on how to identify and fix the hazards before children become burdened. The county has purchased a new XRF analyzer; it is a faster and up to date version.</p> <p><b>Meth</b> - We have had over 215 meth busts in Kalamazoo County. We have had 8 busts in the last month. 87% of the bust properties have been cleaned up. We have 35 properties of which ½ that are still in the process of being cleaned. We do have some that have been sitting due to foreclosure or abandonment. Our goal is to have all these old</p>	<p>Christine passed out an article for everyone to look at regarding the one pot method.</p>	

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	<p>cases closed by the end of summer. The one pot method of cooking meth has resulted in an increase in meth busts as of late. It uses some of the same standard household chemicals. Randy Riggs will be taking over this program in the fall. We have a few new contractors participating in the clean up and remediation of these properties. You can check our meth website, it has a property status report for each property.</p> <p><b>HHW</b> – Waste stream consists of 35% electronics, 23% used motor oil, 14% flammable materials, 9% oil based paints, 7% car batteries, 3% antifreeze, 3% pesticides, 3% other chemicals, 2% scrap metal, 1% aerosols. The staff is up to 5 people. HHW is recycling fluorescent lights and encourage people to bring them in to HHW when they burn out. They are also in the process of putting together an opinion piece for the gazette to respond to the recent article. The best way to clean up a fluorescent light breakage is to use a whiskbroom and dustpan, then put the waste in a zip lock bag to take to HHW. Our typical customers are bringing in a couple of different waste streams into the facility now. We continue to grow each year. The 1100 square feet pole barn has been completed to store electronics. It has been in use since this past winter. We are looking at prescription over the counter medications. We have applied for a grant from the EPA, to have two large collections this year, to collect those prescriptions that people no longer use. The will be sent to an incinerator for disposal/destruction. The grant was written so that even if you do not live in Kalamazoo County you can participate. We are hoping to send a main message of “Do not flush your medicines down your drain”. There is a lot of work to be done at the federal level with the EPA and DEA to assist in these efforts at the local level.</p>		
4. Phosphate Sub Committee	There is a meeting April 22 <sup>nd</sup> , in the am. Jeff Spolstra has collected a bit of information about this and Mark will bring it back to the next meeting.		
5. Member Comments	<p>Fran – There was a meeting last Wednesday regarding the Plainwell PCB site. No much has changed. EPA reps and one DEQ rep gave updates. They will be using the same landfill sites that they used last year, one in Marshall and one in Wayne County.</p> <p>Tom- EHAC Bylaws were approved by the board. The working group for the Body Art regulations will be meeting next week to begin work on the local ordinance.</p> <p>Carolyn – She is going on a trip to Cuba in December, through her church, the Methodist Church. They take drugs with them. There is a shortage of drugs in Cuba. Most of what they take are sample packets. So if anyone can get any from their doctor, she will be happy</p>		

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