

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 8, 2009

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Leroy Crabtree, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Tom Pederson, Steve Gianni

Absent: Mark Miller, Greg Nichols

Environmental Health: Diane Hindbaugh, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Jennifer Kosak, Heather Nichols, Jeff Reicherts, Christine Rogers

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review / Approval of Minutes	Minutes approved as submitted	Dan moved to approve. Pat seconded. Motion passed by oral vote.	
3. EH Updates	Deb advised that Jack Urban will be a back up EHAC representative for the BOC. She also advised the members that Mark Miller has submitted an email resigning from the committee due to time constraints. With Mark's resignation there are currently 4 openings on the committee. Margaret advised that members tell anyone they can think of who may be interested that there are openings available, and they can apply through the BOC. Typically in the past there has not been an EHAC meeting during the month of July. It is currently on the schedule.	Jeff moved to remove the July meeting from the schedule. Dawn seconded motion. Motion passed by oral vote.	
Q	<p>Type II Water Supplies: Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Type II Coordinator, advised that there were no monitoring violations in the first quarter, and the focus this last quarter has been on education. Type II non transient water supplies need to have a certified operator. The operators are required to have 9 hours of continuing education every 3 years. MDEQ has 8 training modules available for LPH departments to utilize for holding training sessions to assist certified operators to meet their requirements. EH has provided 2 training sessions during the last week, and will hold one more next week. Classes are open to all certified operators in the state. They have been averaging approximately 17 people per class. This is a new revenue stream for the Type II program, and the plan is to continue offering these educational opportunities with one class per quarter.</p> <p>Surface Water: Jeff Reicherts, Surface Water Coordinator, passed out copies of the annual report to members. He noted that the report is available on the EH website as a pdf document. This year the annual report directs readers to the website for the new online searchable water quality database. You can search by stream, location, or particular body of water. Last year there was one violation in 20 weeks of sampling for e. coli at bathing beaches, the violation was at Ramona Park in the City of Portage. Stream sampling reflected that 77% of the samples taken from the Kalamazoo Watershed were 300 or less. The St. Joseph Watershed had 63% of samples taken were 300 or less. We issue an advisory if the sample is over 300. The Augusta/Prairieville creek sampling will begin again this month, and the Bear Creek monthly sampling is continuing.</p>		

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	<p>Lead: Jennifer Kosak has replaced Frank Schenkuizen as the County's Lead Investigator. Frank is becoming a restaurant inspector, and Dan O'Donoghue will become a well and septic inspector. The lead steering group has been revived. There have been 1,147 blood tests done during the 1st quarter, of those 307 had venous draws because their capillary draws were over 10, this resulted in 5 investigations. (A capillary draw is a finger poke, if the capillary is over 10, then a sample is taken from the child's vein to check a larger volume). We have completed 4 contractual investigations as a result of an elevated child last year who was living in an apartment. We had 3 clearances for KNHS. The other news is that we are combining a healthy homes initiative in Kalamazoo County with our lead program. We are focusing on Healthy Homes, because we miss a lot of children who are not on Medicaid. Last year we recognized that HUD monies, and EPA monies are going for healthy homes, that address asthma issues, mold issues, along with lead. The first function for the asthma coalition will be May 28th. The American Lung Association is coming to Nazareth to do a facilitator training for respiratory therapists or others who may have to help a child who is having an asthma attack. Our goal is to encourage participation with the Safe Kids Coalition, Community in Schools, and other vested interest groups in the area. The focus of this group will be educational. We are awaiting information from the CDC regarding grant money for this area, there are also rumors that weatherization may be in line for additional funding, and we are hoping to be able to tap into some of that. Deb reiterated that healthy homes, and children's health is a new initiative. These are being set up to apply for grant money thru the EPA partnering with weatherization to find the needs, find the kids, and promote this change. We expect to see positive results come out of this program.</p> <p>METH: Christine Rogers – There has been a rise in the number this year already. We are averaging 1-2 a week, we are up to 365 since the end of 2004. The new legislation in 2006 resulted in a decrease in busts, however, now with the one pot method you do not need as much Sudafed, you can make it with 1-2 packages. We expect the 2009 numbers to be similar to 2008. We currently have 55-56 properties we are in the process of cleaning up. Primary hot spots are City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, Comstock and Kalamazoo Townships, however there are busts in other townships. Typically when they are at a bust site, there are 20-30 one pot bottle labs at the site. The cleanup time is averaging 2-3 months, and the cost has decreased over the last couple of years. We have had few cases that have had to be referred to Corporate Counsel, however they are now in the process of being cleaned up. The biggest challenge is the repeat offenders, and the lack of treatment programs in the county. Pat inquired as to how long the funding would last. Deb indicated that it is likely funded thru the end of this year, we are in a wait and see mode. The position has an annual budget of approximately \$100,000. The position is slated to be ended in September of this year, but Deb anticipates it may be extended to the end of the year with the funds the department has collected so far. Pat suggested that Deb advise the townships of the ongoing need for this position, because if the funding goes</p>		

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	<p>away, there may be a problem. The EHAC group is an advocacy for EH, and suggested that if need be, she may want to engage EHAC for assistance in keeping the program going, if funding becomes a problem.</p> <p>GROUNDWATER: Heather Nichols – A newsletter has been created to meet one of the Program goals for 2009. (This was handed out to members) This is an attempt to create a forum to address all well drillers who work in Kalamazoo area. It is comprised of hot topics, and other items that may need to be addressed, in addition to be an educational tool for the well drillers. The property in the Douglas/Orchard – This area is being offered a municipal water connection. The State of Michigan has sent property owners a letter offering to pay for the hook up. The property owners have the option to decline, however, if they want to hook up in 5 year's the state will not cover the costs for hook up.</p> <p>K/L Landfill – The DEQ has concerns regarding the horizontal extent of the plume or the depth of the plume, and have requested additional sampling to try to get a better hold on it. Three houses on KL and Seven houses on Chadd ford Way have been added. All of the houses on 1st street were connected to municipal water last fall.</p> <p>The KLA group is going for a restricted zone with no use of ground water. Most of the residential drinking wells in their proposed area have been abandoned; however, they may expand the restricted zone area. The contamination is to the west of the land fill.</p> <p>Texas Township –The DEQ has found shallow soil (in the top 6") contamination in all three locations where barrels were found on the property. PERC contamination was found in soil underneath the barn to a depth of 22'. There have been a few piezometer samples taken showing metals and voc contamination, but the depth and locations are unknown to our office, as we have not received the sample results. EH choose to sample 9 houses based on ground water flow direction and proximity to site. The well depths were not consistent. The wells on O Avenue were deeper than the wells on 1st Street. All samples were clean. There is a public meeting next Thursday in Texas Township. The EPA will be giving an update along with the DEQ.</p> <p>Restricted Zones – KL is the farthest along, so far we have received no formal applications. ABEX-NWL (Parker Hanafin) has been approved for formal application, they are fine tuning their application. The holdout is the well at the County Jail, it is contaminated, and they have requested a waiver from the DEQ. This may be given with the condition that the water be used for toilets only, and if a new jail is built the well must be abandoned, and a new emergency water source be obtained. Rotofinish is looking at a restricted zone around the airport (3 parcels), this is small they usually look for around 15 parcels. And Aeromotive has request information, their area has a number of greenhouses and irrigation wells to consider.</p> <p>Arsenic – The arsenic task team is providing educational materials for homeowners and realtors. They are also seeking county wide data for arsenic to develop a better understanding of the geologic causes for elevated levels.</p>		

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5. Member Comments	Kathy Buckham – Monies have been received to purchase flood plain easements from the USDA. The annual tree sale will be April 16 th . Margaret – The Portage staff is working on extending South County sewer service to Schoolcraft Township. Leroy – has contacted his friend who is involved with small wind turbines for residential applications, he would be happy to come and address the committee. Pat – has been elected Director of the Kalamazoo County Conservation District.		