

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 3, 2006

Present: Michelle Karpinski, Patricia Lockwood, Mike Hanson, Kathleen Buckham, Pat Krause, Jeff Maddox, Greg Nichols, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jim Rutherford, Kyle Smith, John Taylor

Absent: Jeff Balkeman, Fran Bell, Mark Miller, Carolyn Rutland

Environmental Health: Dana Debruyn, Jim Draze, Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Approved as submitted		
3. Review of Agenda	Accepted as presented	Item 6: DVD; Animal Factories in Michigan postponed until next meeting	
4. Kalamazoo Nature Center	Michelle Karpinski gave an overview presentation of the buildings and programs available at the Nature Center in their efforts to the public with nature. The center has numerous rooms available for rent for special events. A new feature is the Glen Vista Gallery, which rotates nature based art work. The grounds consist of 1,100 acres and 11 miles of trails ranging from groomed trails to wild back trails. The Delano Homestead is used to show children how things were done in the past. Nature Way preschool is owned by the nature center and was one of the first preschools in the country. (Tours are arranged by appointment). There is also an outreach program with the public schools. Approximately 16,000 children go through the nature center annually. In addition personnel will go out to the schools. There are numerous camp		

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	<p>programs available through the summer, and classes offered year round. Currently the nature center is working on funding to connect with the Kal Haven Trail. The Community Wildlife program works with for-profit businesses and individuals to help them improve the habitats on their properties. Also, the nature center offers a native plant sale annually.</p>		
<p>5. Emerald Ash Borer in Kalamazoo County</p>	<p>Ann N. introduced Pat Lockwood, who is Policy Director with the Governors Office, and Mike Hanson, with the MDA St. Joseph Office, who were at EHAC to facilitate a discussion regarding Emerald Ash Borer. On March 27th an infected tree was discovered at Kilgore and Lover's Lane in Milham Park. Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in 2002 in Southeast Michigan, and is currently in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Canada. It has probably been in the U.S. for approximately 10 years, and is believed to have come from China in automotive packaging materials. The movement from Wayne County to other areas in the state has most likely been due to the movement of firewood. In the past there was funding from the federal government to help combat this invasive pest, however most of that funding has dried up. The state is now trying to assist by coordinating information and resources with local governments. Quarantine zones have set up in most of Southeast Michigan, and the federal and state government has restrictions on the movement of hardwoods, and nursery trees. At this point it is important for Kalamazoo County to plan communication and out reach strategies to let residents know what the regulations are and what they can and need to do to help eradicate the pest. MSU Cooperative Extension Service has been instrumental in dealing with other municipalities with the Emerald Ash Borer. Ann N. will be coordinating the organization of a local committee to formulate an action plan.</p>		
<p>6. Animal Factories in Michigan</p>	<p>DVD from Sierra Club</p>	<p>Tabled until next meeting due to time limitations.</p>	

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7. Member Comments	None		