

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
May 14, 2008**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Francis Bell, Deborah Cardiff, Patrick Krause, Mark Miller, Daniel Moyle, Greg Nichols, Maury Kearcher, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jack Urban and Linda Kerr

Absent: Bryan Bowne, Kathy Buckham (excused), Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, John Taylor

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs-Kreiger, Jeff Reicherts, Heather Nicholas

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	N/A		
2. Review/Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2008	Approved		
3. County Fees – Tammy Lahman	<p>Tammy Lahman gave a brief introduction to information that will be presented with next month outlining each service in Environmental Health, associated costs and how we arrived at establishing different fee levels for those service areas.</p> <p>Tammy distributed a handout that discusses the fee per service policy that is adopted by the Board of Commissioners each year as part of their operating budget. She read over the policies with the group. Tammy said that it is understood that our department is by far the largest fee-charging department in Kalamazoo County Govt. We conduct a fee analysis with the use of a contractor named Maximus every five years. The board of commissioners has final authority for establishing fees typically through board action. She then read over implementing the policy. In our department there are three levels of administration; the EH Bureau, our department and Kalamazoo County Bureau organization. When we start working through the study, all of those costs are considered and included in the cost for service. She said we are very fortunate in that EH has a time activity reporting system where all of their professional staff are required to time report by service category. It is very valuable and accurate data that allows them to get to how much it costs to provide a level of service.</p> <p>Deb said that after they had the full cost, they looked at each service and evaluated it as do we feel we need to recover, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of the cost. If they need to recover 100% of the cost it's because that service is a personal, profitable benefit to an individual or organization. If we need to recoup 25% or less of the cost, it's because there is a great public health impact of providing that service. You also have to apply the human side of what is the reasonable and customary amount of what we came up with – what the market will bear.</p> <p>Deb said we have nine proposed fee increases for 2009 – nothing was raised this year. The next meeting we will present what our cost recovery</p>		<p>Cost recovery goal will be presented at the next meeting.</p>

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	goal is and the fees that we identified that we want to seek your support on to the board of commissioners for 2009. Tammy will be in attendance at the next meeting.		
4. EH Program Updates - Deb -Body Art Regulations -2008 Permit Numbers	<p>Body Art Regulations Committee has met two times. Fran Bell and Carolyn Rutland are members. It is a very dynamic group. The Chair of the County Board, Mr. Buskirk is also a part of the group along with five different business owners that represent; two body artists, two tattoo facilities and one piercing operation. Deb said everyone is involved and engaged in the work group. She believes it is a good group and she thinks they will have a great product at the end. When they have finished editing the regulations they will be presented to our attorney for review and they will then be brought back to this group so they can present the proposed regulation and seek support as they move forward towards public hearing and hopefully approval at the end of the year.</p> <p>2008 Permit Numbers – Per Pats request, these are the permits issued to date: 77 sewage permits  29 of these are repair, 1 commercial, 47 new and there have been 12 deviations issued for drywells since November 11<sup>th</sup>. Deb said that comparison data for the impact of the code will be available when Kim runs the annual report in October.</p>		
5. Phosphate Sub-Committee Update - Margaret	<p>Jeff R, Mark M, Pat K, Margaret O. and Jeannie H. The committee has met two times. They asked Sue from the City of Kalamazoo to come to the meeting because they are thinking of proceeding with a phosphorous free fertilizer ordinance. The City of Kalamazoo is trying to pass an ordinance for two reasons 1) because the DEQ wants it, and 2) they want to do it as an educational component. It has come down to an ordinance versus an education program. They have come up with an action plan: They are doing some informal surveys of some of the more popular stores that sell fertilizer to see if they have phosphorous free fertilizer and is it of a smaller proportion? If it is, then we might just choose to jump into an education program. They have discussed speaking with some of the lawn care applicators to see what they are using and doing an education component with them. Ideas were discussed on how to get the information out to the public – stickers on the bags of fertilizer, flyers in township offices, etc.</p>		Their next meeting is May 29 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00.
6. New Business	<p>Deb spoke to Ron Commissaris, Texas Township Supervisor, and he said they were having problems with air quality concerns with wood burning furnaces and asked if EHAC could take a look into it. She said that that is what EHAC is here for when something has an environmental impact - to look into the problem and share information and offer some guidance. Ron was not able to be here but Linda Kerr is here from Texas Township. They have recently passed an ordinance with specific requirements for persons that want to have a wood burner on their</p>	Linda Kerr will get information copied to group – Deb will be in contact with her in the next week.	

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	<p>property. Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger did some research and created a handout with several websites that provide information.</p> <p>Linda said the township board has been dealing with this issue for over a year and has been initiated by complaints from neighbors. These units are used to heat homes and pools and they burn all year round. People are passionate about burning and the other side is just as passionate about not having the smoke. Since they adopted the ordinance they have had calls from Portage and other townships. Unfortunately there are no standards for the burners at this time. They have banned them from April 15th thru October 15th and they have set requirements for stack height setbacks. Margaret suggested that maybe a work group could be formed that could study this issue and get information out to the townships on what could be a sample ordinance that they could choose to adopt. Mark said that he brought this up at the Kalamazoo Township meeting last night. The Kalamazoo Environmental council has passed a resolution encouraging an ordinance like this and he thinks they will be moving on that at Kalamazoo Township. Deb thought that EHAC could put together a sub-committee to do research and maybe come up with best practices of a suggested ordinance if it appears that a lot of townships may be moving in that direction. Carolyn said that MDEQ Air Quality has come up with a model ordinance that has minimum language that you have to use. If you go to the DEQ's air quality web site there are fact sheets, newsletters and a lot of information that may be helpful. The biggest thing she has seen is that the mild temperatures are when they really start smoking. Fran said that there is a lot of information out there and we certainly do not need to reinvent the wheel. We can maybe take this information to the township supervisors group itself to see if the interest is there. Margaret thought that maybe there could be a short-term sub-committee group that reviews the available information. Pat said that he is not opposed to a sub committee but he would like to take a month to look over the information and then those who have time maybe sign on to be on the sub-committee at that time. Dawn asked if this would be agreeable with everyone and it was agreed to look over material and discuss it at the next meeting.</p>		

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7. Member Comments	<p>Pat Krause – Tom Dewhirst mentioned that he was working on a fact sheet on cleaning up of compact fluorescent bulbs – is that done? Deb said she didn't think so but that he is working on it. CORRECTION, see the County Website, fact sheet and links are available.</p> <p>Pat commended the EH staff on how they have handled the Shields Plat water quality issues in Comstock township and he believes that this has become a political issue rather than a public health issue.</p> <p>Fran –passed out an article from the FDA magazine “Down on the Farm” regarding the agricultural tourism aspect and also an article that Carolyn Rutland gave to him to pass out on Lithium-ion batteries.</p> <p>Fran said he just received something from the EPA regarding the Allied landfill sites and a cleanup plan being written. There will be a meeting held tomorrow at 6:30 at the Edison Neighborhood Association and also on Friday at 9:30 in the morning.</p> <p>Deb asked if everyone could please take a copy of the Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly report. Deb updated everyone about the EPA grant that EH was awarded for pharmaceutical waste. They are moving forward and there will be a press release going out after approval from the Board of Commissioners at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The first collection date will be either June 21 from 9-1 at Loy Norrix High School.</p> <p>Deb said that as a result of loss of anticipated revenue in our permitting programs and our mortgage evaluation programs, we recently had to eliminate two positions from our bureau – an Administrative Assistant position and an Environmental Health Specialist position was eliminated from the Land Water Wastewater Staff.</p> <p>Maury K – They will be interviewing for the C.E.D. position with MSU Extension on June 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be held next door and anyone is welcome to attend.</p>		