

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 13, 2009

Present: Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Leroy Crabtree, Pat Crowley, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Tom Pederson, Jeff Spoelstra, Steve Yanni, Audrey Wierenga, Bill Schwartz

Absent: Jeff Balkema

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs-Kreiger, Heather Nichols, Dan O'Donoghue, Jeff Reicherts, Randy Riggs

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	Audrey Wierenga, MDEQ Pollution Prevent, advised that there are Pollution Prevention Grant, RFP released for up to \$24,000 with a 25% matching amount. The grant is for health care issues, such as food, pharmaceutical waste, compositing, environmental uses, energy, water, etc. Must be submitted by June 1 st . Also wants to let group know that the Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum has a gathering once a month called "Green Drinks", the 4 th Tuesday of each month at Charlie Fosters, 211 Water St. begins at 5:30 with a presentation from someone from the community, usually a non-profit, then networking. The speaker this month will be Mike Jackson, who will be presenting about doing historic preservation in a green manner. Jeff Spoelstra wanted to share that the Watershed Council is looking for a new bond in order to get federal dollars that have been approved for Great Lakes Cleanup. They are looking for sustainable funding for this.	Provided general outline of requirements if anyone is interested.	
2. Review/Approval of Minutes	Leroy made motion to accept. Pat K. supported.	Approved with oral vote.	
3. EH Updates – Deb	Welcome to Patricia Crowley, who joined EHAC as representative of the Drain Commission. Meth Funding – reimbursement funds from MDCH will stop on June 1 st . We are at this point feeling we will sustain this position through December of this year. The meth program will continue if position is eliminated by being absorbed by other employees in the department. The Local Health Operating Fund reductions are being looked at, the implications and impact are not known at this time. The EH Department is the recipient of three of these areas, Food, Water and Sewage. An update will be available at the June Meeting, at this point we have no information as to what the reductions will be at this point. The Environmental Health Bureau has been renamed to the Environmental Health Division.		
4. Kalamazoo River Clean-up	Jeff Spoelstra, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, advised on the status of the Kalamazoo River Cleanup. The positive forward movement is that the Plainwell dam has been removed, that took hot spots of contaminated sediment out of the river channel, it cut back the river banks in many areas along that 1.2 mile area. There is still some contamination along the flood plain in that area. The slower branch of the Superfund cleanup will now look at what was done, and decide if it is finished or if more needs to be done. Millennium Holdings, which has been repeatedly repurchased, and has had many		

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	<p>owners, and one of the three companies that are legally bound to pay for the clean up is in bankruptcy, in Chapter 11 reorganizing. There may be a one time settlement or they may look to come out of bankruptcy and continue to fund the clean up for years to come. Many state and federal agencies are scrambling to file claims in court to, quantifying what they believe to that paper companies portion of the cost of cleanup. There is no known date as to when the proceedings will be over. The remaining two companies, Weyerhaeuser and Georgia Pacific representatives state they are continuing to clean up what they agreed to in consent agreements. The clean up proceeds in stages, each stage is negotiated, and each party signs a consent agreement for that portion of the clean up. There is rumor that they still plan to do a flood plain cleanup around the island in Plainwell, and are close to finalizing a plan to extract contaminated sediments. A large peer review study was conducted as to how dangerous the PCB's are in the flood plain, and are affecting the food chain. The conclusion was that data collected over the years at the site is good enough to consider by all parties in the negotiations, but can not stand on its own. The information was collected by MSU, funded by the responsible parties. They came up with results saying the PCB's are not as extensive as they thought. Expect to see more meetings over this issue. The companies are going to propose a risk assessment plant from the Morrow Dam to the Plainwell Dam. Clean up is in sections 1-7, so far all the clean up has been done in Section 1. Assessments will be done for all sections. The companies seem willing to do the in-stream cleanups, and are hesitant for the floodplain cleanup. Each area has a different density of people and wildlife, which is why the risk assessments are done. The sections of the river are Section 1. Morrow dam to Plainwell Dam, Section 2. Plainwell Dam to Otsego City Dam, Section 3. Otsego City dam to Otsego Township dam, Section 4. Otsego Township dam to Trowbridge Dam, Section 5. Trowbridge dam to Allegan dam in middle of city, Section 6. Allegan dam to Lake Allegan dam (in middle of county), Section 7 Lake Allegan dam to mouth of river at Lake Michigan. For many years the Kalamazoo River Protection Association, based out of Allegan County, has been talking about the bulk of the river problem is that most of the sediments are in Lake Allegan, the Trowbridge dam and one other dam. Most of the danger to the food chain is there, the volume of material and PCB's. One of their proposals has been to find a place to put a massive amount of waste relatively close, because the thing that holds up the clean up process is finding a place to put a massive volume of waste. It has been proposed that the state give away a chunk of land from the Allegan State game area to become a landfill to take this waste. They think the state should attempt to purchase more land around the game area to compensate for the land that would be removed from the game area. This is an interesting concept and may be discussed more by those involved in the cleanup.</p> <p>This group should be concerned with the Allied Landfill at Alcott and Portage. The site is uncontrolled, water flows through it and under it to Portage Creek, and the Central Well field for the City of Kalamazoo. The City and the EPA are debating, they want this included in the investigation. The City wants the EPA to recognize the risk to the city well field that they perceive. The EPA does not think it is as risky as the city believes. The paper companies have proposed a supplemental ground water work plan to go out at the</p>		

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	<p>site and do static water level movements to determine if water is moving off the Allied site towards the well field at shallow depth and at deeper depth. You may want to get updated on this situation from Bruce Merchant with the City of Kalamazoo. There is an work plan available to be shared electronically. The next action will be results from the work plan sampling in the next couple of months, a feasibility study which will list options for consolidating and capping the site.</p>		
5. Member Comments	<p>Pat Crowley – Background in Biology, San Francisco State; Water Resource Management, University of Wisconsin; Physics (focusing on Infiltration), Michigan State; DEQ, cleaning up groundwater at remediation sites; Phosphorous and Nutrient Management on Kalamazoo River; and with Dept of Agriculture as environmental consultant on large farm composting systems. Thanks to Pat Krause for reorganizing the Drain Commission office. Main focus at this time are to finish up projects that have been outstanding for years and to finish up the FEMA designations. Looking forward to participating in EHAC and getting a well rounded view of environmental concerns and other groups who are involved in the community.</p> <p>Dan Moyle – There will be a public hearing next Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Road Commission for Alamo, Kalamazoo and Oshtemo Townships because they could not come to terms on the use a road in the county for gravel trucks to take.</p> <p>Pat Krause – Group made a motion to put a request in front of the BOC to discuss outdoor wood boiler issue at their next legislative agenda meeting. Heard on news that the BOC passed a sustainability covenant, and is curious as to who will be monitoring this in the government. Margaret O'Brien will forward Deb a copy of the actual covenant that was passed. It is a good start, and everyone will be policing themselves and then coming together to share why and how they came about the decisions they made.</p> <p>Audrey shared that Western Michigan University has committed to doing quarterly sessions, workshops, gathering of the coalition to come together to work on it and flesh it out.</p> <p>Kathy Buckham – The conservation districts received a budget cut of 1 million dollars.</p> <p>Steve Yanni – There is an increase in requests for gardening, the soil testing has increased three fold since last year.</p> <p>Fran Bell – Passed out an article on dirty coal from National Wildlife for everyone to read.</p> <p>Margaret O'Brien – The deer population has increased, which leads to an overpopulation of coyotes. The deer have eaten the cities tulip bulbs, and have caused an increase in traffic accidents. The city is watching to see if they have to take action to maintain an healthy deer population. At a number of meetings this last month, there have been discussions regarding revenue sharing, all seem to be saying that all non constitutional revenue sharing will be cut, so we should plan for it. Government is going to continue to take hits. There could be more reductions coming, ultimately this will result in a reduction of services the cities can provide.</p>	<p>Letter to be sent to BOC requesting OWB issue be placed on agenda.</p>	