

**Kalamazoo County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**June 7, 2006**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Kathleen Buckham, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Greg Nichols, Ann Niewenshuis, Margaret O'Brien  
Dawn Potter Williams, Jim Rutherford, Kyle Smith

Environmental Health: Dana DeBruyn, Kim Finkbeiner, Jennifer Kosak, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Steve Leuty, Jeff Reicherts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Minutes approved as submitted		
3. Review of Agenda	No changes noted.		
4. Manitou Arbor	Sister Ginny Jones gave a presentation on the eco village the Sisters of St. Joseph are developing on the Nazareth Farm property in Comstock. Ten years ago Sister Jones began to formulate the idea to develop an ecologically friendly living environment after visiting sites in Europe, Denmark, and Australia using the same concepts. The plan is to develop a middle class sustainable community where people live and work in natural harmony, along with a spiritual connection with the natural world. Currently they are working on developing 45 residences on 12 acres. They have contracted an Architect and are working with the township regarding rezoning issues. The group has organized as a LLC for financial reasons, and plan to		

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	utilize solar and wind energy, intensive recycling, and community supported agriculture and cottage industries.		
5. Animal Factories in Michigan	A video produced by the Sierra Club on CAFO's was presented. The video was filmed around Hudson, Michigan, which has 12 of the 200 CAFO's that currently operate in the State of Michigan. The film stressed the environmental concerns regarding storage of the waste in untreated lagoons, and seepage into the ground and streams. It also focused on the physical symptoms that people who live around the lagoons, or land where the waste is spread experience, difficulty breathing, sinus infections, bronchitis, abdominal pains, etc.	EHAC to obtain additional input from both sides of the issue, become familiar with current ordinances, enforcement, education and research. Possibly add a topic per meeting to familiarize EHAC members with topic. Also investigate the possibility of organizing a daylong seminar on the subject. Greg Nichols would like to have Alex Saggetty with Sierra Club give a presentation to EHAC, along with DEQ, MSU, Dept of Ag.	Ann N. to check out local ordinances and enforcement for August meeting.
6. Emerald Ash Borer Update	Ann N. passed out a flyer, and announced a meeting to be held in Milham Park. City of Portage is still waiting for official notification from the State. In meantime they are working with Kalamazoo, and the cooperation among the communities is impressive. She indicated that homeowners are experiencing difficulty in identifying if they have ash trees and if they are infected. She is hopeful that the upcoming meeting in Milham Park will help address these issues.		
7. Sanitary Code Update	Jim R. mentioned that the committee is making good progress. Currently addressing depth of seasonal high water table issue, and the continued use of dry well units. Currently there are no seasonal water table depths in the code. Sean Nalepke from the MDEQ is to meet with the committee to discuss these issues.	Jim R to continue to keep EHAC apprised of progress.	

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8. Methamphetamine Update	<p>Jim R. advised that the BOC did approve the regulations. We are in process of developing a PDQ, which is a job description to start the process of hiring a person. Community Mental Health came up with \$23,000 to help with this; also we received \$16,000 from a Brownfield grant to assist with costs, along with the City of Kalamazoo and the City of Portage. He expressed appreciation for all the help and support the committee provided in getting the regulations passed.</p>		
9. Member Comments	<p>Jim R- Household Hazardous Waste is booming. There are staffing issues to look at, and physical structure issues. This will hopefully be an agenda item on the August meeting.</p> <p>Pat K – Discussed the possibility of getting positive publicity for Environmental issues, such as the Beach Monitoring program. Jim R. mentioned that Dr. Tooker does 2 articles per month in the Gazette. EHAC may want to approach him regarding future articles.</p> <p>Margaret O – Shared that a contractor from the State has been in the area looking at Lead Poisoning in Children in Kalamazoo County. They are particularly concerned with children in the City of Kalamazoo. She is certain what they are doing, or what they are proposing to do, and what it will mean to the county, but will keep EHAC advised as she finds out more information. Kyle mentioned he visited the website, and it gave him a better idea as to what they are doing. Margaret has the impression they want to push education. She knows the contractor will be back.</p> <p>Ann N. – Just a brief note, that Consumer Reports is advising pregnant women to avoid Tuna. The EPA and FDA are standing behind current regulations.</p>	<p>Jim R to work on information and a presentation with Environmental Health and Personal Health. Possibly putting an educational component on the agenda for September or October</p>	

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