

**Kalamazoo County**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**June 11, 2008**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Kathleen Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Daniel Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, Bill Hughes

Absent: Bryan Bowne, Maury Kearcher, John Taylor

Environmental Health: Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Tammy Lahman, Kim Finkbeiner, Heather Nicholas,

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review / Approval of Minutes	Carolyn R. motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.	Minutes were approved.	
3. Proposed 2009 EH Program Fee Increases	<p>Deb Cardiff distributed two handouts showing proposed fee increases as a result of the Maximus study that was recently completed. The Maximus study looked at one calendar year of work completed by the department. She also explained that because the EH department employees prepare daily time sheets, which record the program they are working in, the activity and time involved, the department is able to see how much time is spent working in each program. This allows EH an accurate picture of the amount of time spent in each program. The EH Bureau Maximus Fee Rationale-2006 handout explains the <u>Current % Recovery Cost</u> which is the percentage of the Cost Recovery Goal that we are currently recovering from each program when you back out state funding, permit fees, grants, etc. The <u>Cost Recovery Goal</u> is based upon the impact of the program on the public health/use. There are a few services offered that are not based on the Maximus study, but based instead upon a reasonable and customary amount of time to provide the service, and what the market will bear. Pat K. felt that since the EH Bureau is the only place a person can appeal a sewage permit decision this cost should be 100% of the actual cost of the appeal. Deb stated that that could increase the cost of an appeal to approximately \$800-\$1,000 depending on amount of time involved. Fran B. expressed concern that this could be prohibitive for replacement sites. Deb C. mentioned that replacement sites have a deviation request option, and normally do not go to appeal. The Proposed Fee Increases for 2009 hand-out reflects the fee increases for those programs that are not meeting their Cost Recovery Goals. The fee increases are reflected to bring these programs closer in line to their cost recovery goals. Margaret O. expressed concerns regarding increasing the sewage installers annual fee, since the sanitary code committee meeting last year agreed to the costs. She feels the committee should be advised as to the increase, and feels the increase should go up incrementally over a few years. Kim F. mentioned that the committee did not increase the fee, however they were made aware that the fees would be going up in 2009. Carolyn mentioned the goal of EHAC would be to agree with the recommendations, or not support. Ultimately it is up to the Board of Commissioners to decide what the fees will be. Tammy Lahman noted that the Plan Review listing was missing one fee for those restaurants with 100 or more seats, current fee is \$398, new fee will be \$517, which is a 30% increase, and will bring the</p>		

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	<p>Current % Recovery Cost up to 82% of the Cost Recovery Goal. This is a one-time fee for a new restaurant. Carolyn R. recommended that a column be included as to how the new recommended fees if approved, then the new Current % Recovery Cost will be, so Commissioners can see how fast you are trying to get to your goals. Pat K. suggested that a note be placed on the lead fees that these fees have to be in place for potential insurance billing. Tammy L. mentioned that we also have a sliding scale based on ability to pay. Margaret O. mentioned that any decreases call into question, as to why other items with Current % Recovery Cost over 100% are not being cut. Pat K. suggested that some explanation be provided as to why some items show over a 100% cost recovery, but bundled with the other aspects of that program, the total cost recovery is not over 100%. Dawn P. mentioned just leaving the decreases out, as eventually it will be evened out. Deb C. mentioned that these handouts were provided to be talking points, and to help her and Tammy prepare on what they need to focus on for the commissioners. Kathy B. mentioned, that she would like to see what is coming out of general funds, and what percentage of the cost is that. Taxpayers may feel they are already paying these costs. Margaret O. mentioned that some general fund education needs to be done as to what the general funds are paying for, and how much. Kyle S. recommended that Deb and Tammy present their recommendations that they are going to the board with at the July meeting, so EHAC can decide if they want to agree or disagree with the proposals. Margaret recommended a practice run through at the EHAC meeting. Tammy mentioned that she normally meets with the finance director, and the county administrator, prior to presenting to the board, to get an idea as to where they feel the board will be on the increases.</p>		
<p>4. Phosphate Sub-Committee Update</p>	<p>Margaret O. mentioned that HB 6115 is being considered. The MTA perspective is that HB 6115 waters down the previous bill, because it would not allow local ordinances.</p> <p>Mark M. relayed that the subcommittee met and basically decided to wait and hear what was happening at the state level. Mark M. passed out a handout showing what brands and the costs involved that local stores are currently supplying. He was left with the impression that a local ordinance will be somewhat difficult to enforce.</p> <p>Dawn P. mentioned that the focus should be on the education of the public on what not to use. Pat K. mentioned that Ben Yost spoke at the Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee to speak about turf grass, the conversation changed to the phosphorous levels. He mentioned that most manufacturers have changed their process so that phosphorus is no longer in use. He also commented that applying phosphorus on established lawns will not make any difference on the amount of phosphorus in the surface water. The high risk problems are when the fertilizer is applied on impervious surfaces, grass clippings contain phosphorous and the clippings are blown out into the road, also leaves have phosphorous and these are stacked up along the road near the storm drains, and lastly applying phosphorous to newly established lawns, where there is run off. What he is saying is the opposite of what these bills are saying. There is a need to change people's habits. Jeff Balkema mentioned that as contractors, MDOT requires that they use 12-12-12 on</p>		

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	state projects, a specific amount, and they are fined if they do not. Lawn care people do not use phosphorous. Margaret O. mentioned that it appears the committee needs to hold off until the state makes a decision. Dawn P. reiterated that education must start on a one by one basis from the bottom. Carolyn R. mentioned that the riparian group of Woods Lake has been very effective with educational efforts in improving what gets into the lake.		
5. Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces	Mark M. is taking this subject up with Kalamazoo Township and the Kalamazoo Township Fire Marshall. There is a large amount of information available on the web. Carolyn R. feels this should be something to be kept on the agenda because it is going to continue to be in the news. The city has received a few calls about this. EHAC should be kept abreast of what is going on. Margaret recommended that this be a standing item on the Agenda. Mark M. mentioned that a video is being made, and will be on cable access, but he is not sure when. Margaret mentioned that the Texas Township ordinance may be changing in the future. The current ordinance was put in place to bring existing units into compliance.	To be kept on agenda as standing item.	
6. Member Comments	Kathy B. congratulated EH on the prescription pick up grant. Also Elzinga's greenhouse is the first environmentally friendly greenhouse in Kalamazoo County. Fran B would like the prescription flyer. Deb C. responded that someone would be out to his office with it. Deb C. EH is passing out the prescription pick up posters around the county. If any members would like to pass some out feel free to take some. We have gotten a very positive response to these. Margaret O. inquired as to whether we will do this in the future, Deb C. mentioned that we will have another collection in the fall. Mark M. will have difficulty attending the meetings in the fall due to his schedule, so he may need to take a leave of absence. He wants to continue on the committee, but he will miss four meetings in the fall. Margaret recommended that he send a substitute. Mark is concerned about his being a guaranteed no show. Deb C mentioned that he try to get someone from the Nature Center to attend a couple of the meetings, in an effort to keep Mark on board.		