

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
August 1, 2007**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Bryan Bowne, Mark Miller, Greg Nichols, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jim Rutherford, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, John Taylor, Bob Kildea

Environmental Health: Deb Cardiff, Kim Finkbeiner, Jennifer Kosak, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Steve Leuty, Christine Rogers, 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 to agenda.		
4. Flexible Fuel – Plug In Hybrid Car Presentation	Bob Kildea gave a presentation regarding Plug-in Partners National Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) Initiative. A national grass-roots initiative to demonstrate to automakers that a market for flexible-fuel PHEV exists today. This was conceived and is being promoted by Austin Energy of the City of Austin, Texas. They are asking that interested citizens, local and state governments and organizations sign a petition indicating their support and endorsement of PHEV vehicles. The technology is available. PHEV 's use both battery power and gasoline. They are outfitted with a battery pack that can operate from 20 to 60 miles on one charge. They are coordinating a grass roots campaign to promote this technology, as an effective choice to reduce our consumption of petroleum based energy, and reducing greenhouse gases.	Mark M. offered to chair a committee to for follow up with the County Board.	
5. Sanitary Code Update	In February 2006 a committee was formed to go through the Sanitary Code and update the sewage regulations. Michigan is the only State that does not have a Statewide Sanitary Code. The committee consisted of approximately 15 people, 11 of whom were community members with a vested interest in the Sanitary Code, such as installers, realtors, homebuilders, township officials, etc. It met on a regular basis over the last year and half to accomplish this revision. A number of handouts were given to EHAC members, including master list of all proposed, and approved changes, and a draft of the new code. The changes are both cosmetic changes such as enhanced definitions and organizational changes, technical changes, such as focusing on the concept of sewage treatment instead of sewage disposal, and specifics as to what is covered, what is not, and to reflect the in-house policies of the Environmental Health Bureau. The next step in this process is a series of public presentations, obtaining letters of support, and presenting the changes to the Board		

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	of Commissioners Committee of the Whole later in August. There will be a public hearing in September. The changes will go into effect		
6. Meth Update	Christine had the mid-year report on hand for members to pick up for review. There are 37 properties left in the county to investigate. Correspondence has been sent to 22 of the 37. We anticipate clean up to take place in the next couple of months. We have encountered a number of property owners who want to perform the clean up themselves. We have a better handle of offering proper guidance for clean up. Consulting costs have decreased, and a couple of contractors have been helpful in offering free or reduced rates to assist with clean up. The cooperation with the public has been very positive; including homeowners who have purchased a few of these homes after the busts, and were not aware that they were purchasing a meth-contaminated house. Our program will be presented to the Environmental Health Directors Conference next month at Higgins Lake. Interest in pursuing the possibility of a regional program, with surrounding counties utilizing program is still on the table.	Ann N. to speak with Allegan & St. Joseph County Boards regarding their interest in participating in expanding our program to a regional project.	
7. Member Comments	<p>Jim Rutherford introduced Deb Cardiff, the new Environmental Health Director, to EHAC Members. Deb will be taking over Jim's position with the group.</p> <p>Carolyn Rutland mentioned that the Metro Transit System is going to bio-diesel use. They will begin converting buses in September and October. The City intends to use Bronco bio-diesel. Carolyn is also looking for volunteers to assist with the marking of storm water drains. Kalamazoo is marketing "Kalamazoo Splash", drinking water from the city municipal water system.</p> <p>Ann N. suggested looking into a media release to advise homeowners of the bio-diesel conversion. She mentioned the possibility of touring the bio-diesel plant in Bangor, and reminded everyone that the County Fair was beginning on Monday, August 6th.</p> <p>John Taylor mentioned that he and Peter Battani are moving forward with an internal waste reduction committee for the county.</p> <p>Fran Bell passed out a handout regarding Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change from Americans for Balanced Energy Choices.</p>		