

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
October 4, 2006**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Francis Bell, Patrick Krause, Jeffrie Maddox, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jim Rutherford, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, Brandy Dogget (NRCS), Jerrod Sanders (MDEQ)

Environmental Health: Tom Dewhirst, Jeff Reicherts, Christine Rogers

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Minutes	Approved as submitted		
3. Review of Agenda	Added: under item 4, CAFO Information: Speaker Update Jerrod Sanders, DEQ		
4. CAFO Information	No farms are allowed to have discharges. The current issue is whether or not farms are permitted. There are currently 14-15 farms permitted in the southwestern district. This district is comprised of the of Allegan, Calhoun, Cass, Berrien, Branch, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. There are a total of 68 known CAFO's in these counties, which are 15 more than any other district in the state. There are 7 in Kalamazoo County that the DEQ is aware of. 2 are permitted with the same ownership. The rest in the county are in the MEAP program, or are in the process of getting permits. In a year and a half all 68 CAFO's will be under permit. We will have one person working half time to regulate all these CAFO's. Ideally there needs to be more than one person involved in the regulation, not only for inspections, and complaints, but also for educating the public. The majority of the pollution is coming from a small amount of operators, this is a serious issue and they are not necessarily all CAFO's. There is legislation on the table to make MEAP a permanent program, and make it a permanent regulatory option. This legislation has a part that provides a agriculture storm water exception, which would say the farmer is not responsible if they spread manure and it rains, generating run-off. This would be seen as an act of God. This has the potential to have a major impact on the environment; this has been temporarily put on hold. The information in the DEQ office is readily available to members of the committee if they are interested,	Jim Rutherford to invite Joan Rose MSU Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife to discuss health risks associated with CAFO's. for December meeting	Committee needs to decide if they want to continue looking into this issue, and what the county can and should do about CAFO's. Consider asking State Legislature Reps to meeting to discuss regulatory enforcement and funding after the election. May want to consider having someone do a historical investigative work to determine exactly what is number of farms and violations in Kalamazoo County so Committee can keep an eye on situation.

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	<p>along with spreadsheets informing where the farms are, etc. via FOIA requests. The DEQ has a file on anyone who they have received a complaint on, if we have referred to MDA we have a file on that. The department keeps a running spreadsheet of the people they have dealt with, roughly with information regarding the types of animals they have, where they are located, as much information as they can gather when dealing with the problems. The vast majority of the complaints are animal-ag complaints. Due to urban sprawl in Kalamazoo county the number of complaints will most likely be decreasing. The surface water sampling that Kalamazoo county does provides valuable statistical data for the DEQ to have access to. It is important to call the DEQ when a discharge is actually happening. If there is an active manure discharge going on the PEAS line should be called so an immediate response can be generated.</p>		
5. Meth Update	<p>The department has hired Christine Rogers as the Methamphetamine Team Response Coordinator. She is working on becoming familiar with the groups in the county she will be working with, and getting letters out to homeowners. Van Buren County is interested in the model we have developed, and we are doing a presentation with them later this month. The state is developing state regulations and we are on that Committee. Christine will attend those meetings as well. We are fully funded for this year, and partially funded for the following year. We will be corresponding with the Arcus Foundation to work on obtaining funding there their group. We are going back and do all homes that have had a bust to ensure they are in compliance with the regulations. Motion was made to send a thank you letter to Senator George regarding funding. Motion passed.</p>	Committee to send a thank you letter to Senator George.	
6. Staffing Updates for Environmental Health	<p>The department has experienced a reduction in our groundwater program and our on-site sewage program. These programs are heavily tied into the new house start industry. The market is soft right now, along with house sales. We need to make cuts. We are proposing to drop one of our sanitarians down to half time. We have a sanitarian who is moving and has given her notice. So the position will be posted In January for a .5 position, instead of a 1.0. It will balance our budget and doesn't ask for any additional money. The money from the</p>		

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	<p>DEQ has remained stagnant. What has gone down is the income generated from permit fees. Our goal is to get this position back to full time. In January we will be looking at our lead program. The county and some municipalities are starting to take a close look at lead burdened homes in Kalamazoo. We will be looking at additional grant opportunities and may be looking at additional staff in the lead program. We expect 2007 to be on the upswing.</p>		
<p>7. Household Hazardous Waste Presentation</p>	<p>A motion was made to move this presentation to the November meeting. Motion was approved</p>		
<p>8. Member Comments</p>	<p>Jim R. – The latest issue of Business Review is focusing on the County. I will leave it on the table for anyone to look at if you are interested. It mentions the GIS program our office has implemented. Ann N. – It's National 4-H Week this week, if you know of anyone who may be interested, have them enroll now.</p>		