

Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
November 1, 2006

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Greg Nichols, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Dawn Potter-Williams, Jim Rutherford, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith

Environmental Health: Tom Dewhirst, Christine Rogers, Jim Drazo

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Approved as submitted		
3. Review of Agenda	No changes made		
4. Household Hazardous Waste Presentation	<p>HHW began in 1988 serving 250 households. This year they are serving 5700 households. Kalamazoo is one of the few counties in the state that have a year round program. The majority of the hazardous waste programs in the state operate only during late spring, summer and early autumn. The HHW department is a leader in advising other counties as to how to set up and organize their programs. The department provides excellent customer service, and is a great example of inter-governmental cooperation. It is funded 50% from the county, and the other 50% is from local contracts with townships, cities and villages. The local governmental agencies like this program, because we offer consistency in operating, in what we take in and do not take in. Also it is an affordable program. HHW has been aggressive in getting disposal costs to go down, and the industry has been very responsive. Since 2005 the quantity of hazardous materials that is taken in has almost doubled. In 2001 we took in 150,000 pounds of material, in 2005 was 301,000 pounds. During that same length of time participation has gone up over 61%. The facility that they are working in was built to handle approximately 4,000 customers per year. We hit that max in 2001, and have far exceeded our capacity. We have no signs of slowing down. The beginning of this year (Jan-Mar) experienced a 67% increase in the amount of participation. The second quarter we had a 15% increase, and in the third quarter, also saw a 15% increase. Consequently they are understaffed, and borrowed staff from the Environmental Health Department from May through July. In July the BOC created a temporary position to help through the end of the year. It has also run out of space, and is using space under the Grand Stand at the fairgrounds for overflow storage. In the next five years, HHW expects to break all records for participation this year, with participation being between 5700 and 5800 households, which represent an 11% increase from last year. They expect materials collected to increase by about 12% this year. HHW is on a record setting pace, and they are sure the electronics recycling will continue to grow. In 2007 they would like</p>		

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	<p>to see a decrease in the double-digit growth. The infrastructure needs to catch up. They would like to add another technician to the operation, they are asking for a half time HHW technician. The revenue will come from the increase in new revenues taken in, funding from the general fund, and a slight increase in the cost sharing from the cities, townships, and villages. The other item HHW is working on, as a capital improvement, is a new pole barn to get more storage on site. The Sheriff's department is also interested in what the HHW can do to help them with their meth busts. In the near future the department would like to add a person to concentrate on small businesses in the county. There are a number of small companies that are under the radar for the DEQ on the amount of hazardous waste they generate, legally if you generate less than 220 pounds per month, you can throw it in the trash. We would like to look at that segment of the waste stream. The HHW facility does accept items from out of county townships (Almena, Antwerp, Paw Paw, etc). These townships have a different payment set up. These participants get billed for the cost of disposal and \$43.00 in service fees. It is not anticipated that this business will increase; the townships do not promote HHW because that would affect the township's general fund budget.</p>		
5. Meth Update	<p>To date there have been 40 busts in the county for 2006. Of those 57% have resulted in condemnations, 4 of the condemnations are newly condemned. We are running into issues with busts in garages, vehicles, and mobile home trailers. We are talking with Community Health, the sheriffs office and other police agencies in the county, to come up with ways to handle these issues, and follow-up on these items. We've had a few trailers removed from the lots they were on and need to attempt to track them. We've put together a brochure to educate people on how to hire a contractor, how to deal with others who are involved in the situation, etc. We have encountered one situation where a home was occupied, and the residents had to be relocated, we were able to coordinate with family members, to provide housing while their house was being decontaminated. We are still coordinating utilizing or obtaining temporary housing and getting advice from Children's Protective Services. We are also looking at putting a line item in the Meth budget for temporary housing. The state of Michigan is giving the bureau \$800.00 per condemna everything past July 7th. Every bust since July 7th has been contacted and notified of the condemnation. It was advised that trailers can be traced via their registration numbers, if a trailer has been condemned, the other parks should not allow the trailer to be put in their park. The Department of Labor and Economic growth should be contacted regarding these issues.</p>		
6. Member Comments	<p>Jim R. – Update on getting Joan Rose in for a presentation regarding CAFO's , she is in Greece. We will get her on our agenda as soon as possible. Also, a brief update on Sanitary Code update. We are close to the end of the process. Prior to going to the Board of Commissioners, we will be having public meetings; we will also be presenting the changes to this committee, sometime in January, to set the stage for presentation to the board.</p>		

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