

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
November 12, 2008**

Present: Jeff Balkema, Fran Bell, Kathy Buckham, Deb Cardiff, LeRoy Crabtree, Pat Krause, Dan Moyle, Greg Nichols, Margaret O'Brien, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, Steve Gianni

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs-Kreiger, Vern Johnson, Heather Nichols

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Comments	None		
2. Review / Approval of Minutes	Carolyn moved to approve as submitted, Pat Supported,	Motion passed	
3. Proposed EH Fee Update Outdoor Wood Boiler Update	<p>FEES -Members were given a handout detailing the changes in the EH fees that the committee agreed to support during the August meeting. The increase will go before the Board of Commissioners on November 18th for consideration.</p> <p>OUTDOOR WOOD BURNERS –Deb advised group as to new information she gained while attending the Premier Public Health Conference that was held at the Radisson last week. She attended a presentation on OWB's by Brian Brady, a DEQ employee from the Cadillac office. One of the facts that he brought to the table was that the MDEQ does have the legal authority to regulate residential OWB's. However because of resources they chose not to regulate individuals, only to regulate businesses. So the rules do apply but they are not enforced. Also the EPA made an announcement effective October 23rd, stating that they have reached a voluntary agreement with key manufacturers pledged to produce OWBs that would emit 90% less air pollution. They are adopting what are referred to as secondary standards. The OWB need to have secondary combustion. The new units will have secondary combustion. The DEQ's recommendation is that local units of government issue a temporary moratorium on the installation of OWB unless they meet the EPA standards. With this moratorium there would not be any OWB installed that would cause air issues in the community in the future, because there are wood burners out there that are being manufactured to meet these standards. Under a voluntary agreement with the EPA seven manufacturers have agreed to make at least one new model unit each that would meet the stringent requirements of the program; the new models would be tested by an EPA accredited laboratory to ensure they meet the requirements. This appears to be a common-sense approach to bring to the township association. Charleston Township requires mechanical and electrical permits for the installation of accessory structures, so this enables them to somewhat regulate the installation of the OWBs. Deb would like the board to agree with her perspective that the recommendation for the townships would be to adopt the</p>	<p>Fran Bell passed out a handout regarding a smoke free OWB that is being advertised.</p> <p>Deb to prepare materials for approval and support prior to presenting to the MTA. These will be submitted to EHAC prior to scheduled presentation for endorsement.</p>	

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	recommended ordinance. As a member of the EEC, Carolyn agrees with the proposal and will encourage the EEC to adopt a similar stance. Deb would also like to present to the City of Kalamazoo and the City of Portage. Fran will request that MTA invite all local units of governments to attend to impact a larger audience.		
4. Emerald Ash Borer Update	Kathy Buckham will email the latest information and updates of maps of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation that she just received from the state. The cooperation between the Cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, and other area agencies in cleaning up the Milham Park problem was a big success. The budget from the MDA has been significantly reduced, from 42 million dollars to 1.2 million in the State of Michigan for all invasives. They are barely maintaining. It doesn't appear that there are any new outbreaks in this area, however, pockets have been found in Indiana now. The larva come in and eat the area in the tree between the bark and the core, eating the part of the tree that takes up nutrients to the trees. This is what kills them.		
5. Kalamazoo County Michigan Township Association Proposal	Deb has proposed that she give a presentation at a Township Supervisors meeting, giving them information regarding the fee increases, outdoor wood boilers, the meth program, and the surface water grant initiative that the EH department is moving forward on. This would be an effort to introduce what the EH Bureau is doing in 2009. Fran Bell agreed that this would probably be a very productive especially from an educational perspective, since there are new supervisors.		Fran Bell to work to get Deb on Agenda in early 2009.
6. Member Comments	Carolyn wanted to thank Pat Krause for the work he completed for the County as the interim Drain Commissioner; his efforts have left the office in good standing for the new Commissioner, presenting her with a much easier job. Fran is leaving a copy of the American for Balance Energy Choices brochure for everyone to look at if interested. Margaret wanted to mention that Leroy is going to continue on the committee as a member at large. Deb left a copy of the 2009-meeting schedule with everyone; also she wanted to mention that we have an opening on EHAC for a village representative. We will be getting a new BOC representative; it looks like it may be Jack Urban. The next meeting is December 10 th and we will be updating on the EH programs, Meth, Lead, HHW. Also gave members a copy of the HCS Annual Report.		