

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

January 12, 2011

Present: Jack Urban, Francis Bell, Patricia Crowley, Dawn Potter-Williams, Tom Pederson, Leroy Crabtree, Kirsten Rimes, Mike Wetzel Aud Wierenga, Kathleen Buckham and Daniel Moyle

Absent: Jeannie Himmelein, and Pat Krause

Environmental Health and HCS Staff: Deb Cardiff, Heather Nicholas and Linda Wright

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	No Comments		
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes Approved		
3. EH Updates--	<p>Deb welcomed Jack Urban as our new Commissioner appointee.</p> <p>We will hold our election for officers – Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. If you have an interest, please let Deb know by email and be thinking of someone you would like to nominate. She is expecting to hear from the City of Portage to see who will be sitting on the board. There are two other vacancies – Citizen at Large and a Business Representative and she will ask the board to post these two vacancies.</p> <p>There will be a Medicine Collection Task Force meeting tomorrow. They will be looking at the concept of having a drop box located at all of the law enforcement offices. Tom Dewhirst has done some research from three different states that are currently using this process. There will also be two medicine collections held next year.</p> <p>Deb wanted to let everyone know that there are a lot of rumors going around in Lansing about what is going to happen with the DEQ and she said they are just that – rumors. One of the changes she does know will be</p>		

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>happening in March is that our contact people for our core programs will be going away. The DEQ is moving from having a specialized person to just one person being responsible for all programs for an 8 to 10 county area. They will be doing a lot of training. Deb said we are fortunate to have a highly functioning department with programs that exceed minimum program requirements in many areas.</p>		
<p>4. 2011 Topic Discussion</p>	<p>Fran asked if anyone had any suggestions on topics for 2011 topics. Tom P suggested the developing policy about the Great Lakes and how it might affect Kalamazoo County and the watershed.</p> <p>Pat C – groundwater levels and how they impact development. She would like to learn more about the withdrawal assessment tool. She would also like to learn more about our web site.</p> <p>Deb said she would like to get the group perspective on Point of Sale Real Estate Transactions.</p> <p>Kirsten – Composting tool kits and what’s available</p> <p>Aud – A topic that has come up in Portage is keeping chickens within the city limits and she wondered if this may be an issue that will be coming up for more communities within our county. Possibly someone with Agricultural connections could educate us on what the impact of having chickens in your back yard could be and how it could affect your communities, etc.</p> <p>The U.S. Green Building Council deals with a lot of Indoor Air Quality issues, health issues, costs and she thought</p>	<p>Discussion took place among the group and not sure if this is a subject for EHAC</p> <p>Heather said she could do an in-service about the water withdrawal assessment tool.</p> <p>Deb will talk to Jeannie about this subject</p>	

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>this may be of interest to have someone from this council talk to the group.</p> <p>Fran said we do need to remember who we are and why we are here and what impact it has on our education and goals. Deb encouraged everyone to take a look at our by-laws and maybe review them.</p> <p>Fran said he would like to see something done township wide to educate property owners at point of sale about on-site systems. Outside burning of yard waste and Jack suggested getting a listing of what current Township ordinances are and maybe to strive for consistency.</p>		
<p>5. Member Comments</p>	<p>Aud – Green drinks will be at the Strutt on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00.</p> <p>The Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum – the annual meeting will be on February 17 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. The speaker will be talking about state policy issues. You can go the <a href="http://SWMSBF.ORG">SWMSBF.ORG</a> to register.</p> <p>Kathy – support your local growers on Saturdays from 9 – 2 at Burdick and Crosstown.</p> <p>Pat C – the Home Expo is in March – Deb said that she doesn't know if we will be able to assist since we have a training conference that month that a large part of our staff will be attending it.</p> <p>Jack – the EPA will have a public meeting at 6:30 at the public library.</p>		