

**Kalamazoo County  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2018  
9:00 AM-10:00 AM  
Health and Community Services  
311 East Alcott St- Room 361- Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Members Present: Vern Johnson, Jim Pearson, Meredith Place, Francis Bell, Jeff Sorensen, David Pawloski, Patricia Crowley, Andrew Nieboer, Julie Pioch, Shannan Deater, Louis Parker III

Members Absent: Mike Leeuw, Claudette Reid, David Harn, Scott McGraw

Environmental Health: Aaron Hoogenboom, Lucas Pols, Jeff Reicherts

Also attending: Jim Rutherford, David Heywood (MDEQ), Elizabeth Rochow

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome - Introductions			
2. Citizen Comments			
3. Approval of Minutes	Minutes were approved for October 10, 2018		
4. EH Program Updates	<p>Vern Johnson: In the midst of interviewing for an environmental health supervisor. The new supervisor will be introduced at the February EHAC meeting. A request will go before the board in January for an Environmental Health Technician Position. This position will have many responsibilities including water sampling, filter deliveries, Zika monitoring, and others. They will primarily support our LWW team.</p> <p>Lucas Pols: Richland PFAS: Some monitoring wells have been tested and came back with PFAS over 70ppt. 23 properties were potentially affected. Filters were delivered and door hangers left for the residents that were not home. Letters were recently sent to those we have not heard from. Testing continues on residential and monitoring</p>		

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	<p>wells. The long term solution is extension of municipal water.</p> <p>In Parchment, Richland, and Cooper Township hydrogeological studies are taking place in the form of monitoring wells being installed and tested. These studies will give us a report on the impact of the contamination plume including direction of flow, size and depth and get a prediction of travel so we know potential future impacts.</p> <p>Vern asked members to suggest topics they would like discussed in meetings in 2019 and email him with those ideas.</p>		
5. Municipal Water Treatment Discharge	<p>Shannan Deater detailed the detection of PFAS in Kalamazoo wastewater discharge. They identified different industries that could be a potential source of the PFAS. Production Plated Plastics was identified as a potential site and they did find PFAS in the discharge coming from that site. When wastewater from that site was no longer going into the Kalamazoo municipal system, the PFAS in the Kalamazoo municipal wastewater discharge dropped from around 30 ppm to non-detect. The site is currently filtering their treatment discharge on site before it goes into the Kalamazoo municipal system. Kalamazoo will continue to monitor and have seen no further problems thus far with PFAS in the wastewater discharge.</p>		
6. Dioxin Updates	<p>Dave Heywood gave an update on the Plainwell/Otsego dioxin testing. MDEQ has been working with people in this area in response to citizens having concerns about what they perceive as a cancer cluster in the area. MDEQ is working with several other agencies to investigate. They decided to sample a cross-section of private wells in that area due to the paper mills land applying paper sludge to agricultural fields in that area. They tested wells for a large suite of potential contaminants. There were 14 residences that initially tested positive for dioxins. MDEQ looked further at the lab results, and discovered the control sample (method), that should test clean, also showed</p>		

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	<p>detections for many dioxin compounds. They resampled a subset of 21 wells that had showed particular results and sent them to a different MDEQ contract lab and those results showed non-detect. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a subsidiary of the CDC, and the state health department did a study and found the rates of cancer incidents in the area in question did not significantly differ from other communities of the same size. MDEQ concluded dioxin is not a widespread problem in the groundwater.</p>		
<p>7. Member Comments</p>	<p>Jeff Sorenson- Expressed Happy Holidays to everyone, enjoys serving on this council and is looking forward to the new year.</p> <p>Julie Pioch- Passed out Extension pocket guides. MSUE is trying to be a non-biased expert for information on PFAS.</p> <p>Fran Bell- Expressed Happy Holidays to everyone, enjoys serving on this council and is looking forward to the new year.</p> <p>Louis Parker III- No Comment</p> <p>Andrew Nieboer- No Comment</p> <p>Shannan Deater –No Comment</p> <p>David Pawloski- Happy Holidays, looking forward to 2019. Still having some high water issues in Texas Township.</p> <p>Pat Crowley- Asked Louis if he had seen the updates in the odor issue in Parchment and Northern Kalamazoo. Concerned about the wetlands protection potentially going down.</p> <p>Meredith Place- Thank you, enjoyed serving as a citizen at</p>		

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	<p>large and am hoping to continue as a board liaison.</p> <p>Jim Pearson: Beginning in February, Portage will no post board meetings on public media network. Portage will be posting all of their information out on their own social media to report everything to their citizens. Next meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>		