

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

November 14, 2012

Present: : Fran Bell, Patricia Crowley, Leroy Crabtree, Dan Moyle, Dawn Potter-Williams, Patricia Randall, Kirsten Rimes, John O'Keefe, David Harn, Jane Herbert

Absent: Kathleen Buckham, Deb Cardiff, Jack Urban, Mike Wetzal, Jim Pearson, Erich Zinser

Environmental Health: Vern Johnson, Heather Nicholas

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome - Introductions			
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes for October meeting were approved.		
3. Citizen Comments			
4. EH Updates - Deb Cardiff	EH has hired 2 new employees that have started in the last 2 weeks. They will be at the next meeting for introduction. Sandy Sheridan comes from Florida. She is a Senior Environmental Health Specialist assigned to Food Program. Mark Thomas is an Environmental Health Specialist assigned to the Land Water Wastewater staff. Deb and Vern have been subpoenaed for court and will not be attending the December EHAC meeting. Deb will be ok to cancel the meeting and move the quarterly updates to January. Leroy made a motion to cancel the December meeting and it was supported. EH has been going through transition due to staff elimination and new staff. Both Deb and Vern are in training mode. Food program is growing and it is putting extra load on staff. This will continue for the next couple of months until everyone is trained and back to full staff.	December meeting cancelled.	
5. Member Comments	Pat- Finished a bio retention demonstration on Willard Street. This type of system will have native plants. Leroy asked if the experiment was a success. Pat does not know how it is going to work. It is designed to		

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	<p>take in, hold and infiltrate up to a 2 year storm. There are 2 systems. One is a blind system that simply goes through the ground and has no overflow to the city system. The other does have an overflow to the city system. Both can overflow back into the road and into the city system if necessary. One of the functions is to find a safe route for big storms and treatment systems for small storms.</p> <p>Jane explained what her role is at MSU Extension. She is a Senior Water Resource Educator. She works state wide but her office is in Kalamazoo. In the last five years she has specialized working on lake management specifically on Natural Shoreline Restoration. It ties in with projects like the one that Pat is working on Willard Street. Jane trains contractors do Natural Shoreline work to expand their businesses. Her main audiences are landscape architects, green contractors, consultant engineers & natural resource professionals.</p> <p>Patricia Randall asked if there were any county wide rules on basement removal for new buildings. Recently there was a building torn down and all the concrete from basement was broken down and left underground and then filled with soil.</p> <p>Pat said it was not an environmental issue and it is allowed. This is more of a financial issue.</p> <p>Pat asked if Jane will be willing to do a presentation on MSU Extension organization.</p> <p>Jane said she can explain what she knows but suggested that we call or visit MSU Extension website. There are 400 educators that put 2 articles per month on the website.</p> <p>Leroy suggested that Deb could coordinate a presentation with MSUE</p> <p>Jane said it would be a good idea to have Ginger, District Coordinator, do a presentation. Jane will be happy to work with both Deb and Ginger to set that up.</p>		

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