

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

JULY 15, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Manstrom, Chair; Phil Dietrich, Vice Chair; Joe Bower; Sharon Dever; Scott Schmidt, Jeanne Hess; Gail Walter; Aaron Wright, Ian Magnuson, Bobby Glasser, Lauri Holmes

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: None

STAFF: Malissa Drzick, Staff Liaison; Deborah Wright, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Vern Johnson, Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Director; Dr. Ned Walker, Professor of Entomology, Rick Welch, Hope For Creation, Roger Lonozo, Portage Environmental Council

1. ROLL CALL (Excused Absences)

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2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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3. APPROVAL MINUTES (February 20, 2020 and June 17, 2020):

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4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Kalamazoo Remembers will be having a 10-year anniversary event of the oil spill at the Peoples Food Coop. The event is listed on our Facebook page.

5. COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Presentation on Styrofoam Recycling Proposal by Recycling Sub-Committee

- Sharon Dever met via Zoom about this project.
- Malissa Drzick passed on the information to Wendy to talk with Public Works find a facility to house the project.
- We are suggesting the site have one key holder and 4 volunteers for sorting and supervising 4 times a year.
- This information will be including in the View From the Curb and in the library publication.
- Jeanne Hess suggests using students as volunteers.
- Wayne Bond would like a written description and schedule of what would be needed from students, to present to his group.
- Aaron Wright suggests waiting until the August meeting to see if we have a space secured before presenting the proposal to the Commission.
- Rick Welch will be attending the next City Commission meeting to answer any questions.

Presentation on Mosquito monitoring and spraying by Dr. Vern Johnson, Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Director

- For the past 4 years, Kalamazoo County has conducted a vector surveillance program to find out how robust ticks are in the community.
- Zika virus monitoring has been conducted within the past year
- Traps have been set to monitor for the presence for the mosquito that carries the Zika virus
- They are mostly seen at airports, truck stops, and rest areas.
- They are also looking for EEE infections. They are usually seen every 3 years or so. This virus can be deadly if contracted.
- We are looking to partner with Calhoun County and MSU to perform a pilot study to look for EEE for early detection in the Culiceta melanura mosquitos, which are the enzootic vector that overwinters here as larva. Only Kalamazoo county has urban areas that are endemic for the virus. Other areas are mostly rural.

Dr. Ned Walker, MSU, Professor of Entomology-Presentation

- **Brief overview of the EEE problem in Michigan and the US**
 - EEE symposium was presented at MSU in February 2020
 - EEE had outbreaks in 2019, with Michigan having 10 cases
 - Michigan had the second highest human cases with 6 of the 10 cases resulting in death
 - There are currently 4 mosquito-borne disease cases in Michigan between 2018-2020 (EEE; Jamestown Canyon Virus; West Nile Virus, with 9 fatalities; and Dengue)
 - EEE virus transmission cycle: *C. melanura* mosquitoes are vectors and infect various species of birds. Over the summer, the virus may amplify and the transmission rate will increase. When this happens, it can spill over to other mosquito populations (*Aedes canadensis* and *Coquillettidia perturbans*) which can bite both birds and mammals. These are common species and are the bridge mosquitoes which in turn can infect horses, humans and other mammals.
 - The virus is carried by the *Culiseta melanura* mosquito which are common for our area.
 - In 1831 an unknown encephalomyelitis affects horses in Massachusetts
 - Virus Isolations: Horse, 1933; Pheasant, 1937; *Coquillettidia perturbans* in Georgia by Howitt, 1949
 - *Culiseta melanura* in Louisiana, Chamberlain, 1950
 - 1938-1939, EEE outbreak amongst people in SE Massachusetts
 - EEE isolated from human brain tissue
 - 1957-1959, Outbreak in eastern US, 38 cases mostly in New Jersey
 - No human cases reported in Michigan from 1942-1980
 - First human case reported in the 1980s in Mendon, Michigan. He lived in coma 14 months and died
 - Second human cases reported in 1982
 - 2002 marked the West Nile Virus outbreak, 650 reported
 - The gap is closing on human cases as opposed to horse cases within the past 10 years. Since human cases occur concurrently with or before horse cases, horse cases cannot be used as sentinels for human.
 - 1980 was the first-time traps were set by the CDC in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties
 - 1997 showed an outbreak of horse cases in Richey farm bog
 - *Culiseta melanura* were sampled from 29 resting stations at Richey Farm (Cass County) from the middle of June to the beginning of October
- **Concept and practice of mosquito control**
 - Manage mosquito populations
 - Utilize focused methods based on knowledge of the mosquito species where EEE originates
 - Larval mosquito control if habitats are accessible and treatable
 - Adult mosquito control: ground based ultralow volume space sprays
 - Goal for disease control: reduce the fraction of older, infectious female mosquitoes in the population
- **Prospects for mosquito control for the EEE problem in SW Michigan**
 - Utilize computer-based mapping technology
 - Organize adult mosquito trapping networks. Could resting stations contain insecticide and reduce the mosquito population as well as serve as a means of surveillance? Dr. Walker would like to explore this, but unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented that from being tested this year.
 - Where are the important mosquitoes coming from?
- **Surveillance and control: idea**
 - Perform mosquito surveillance early in the summer
 - Organize adult mosquito trapping networks
 - Mosquito control is about being prepared before an emergency and taking action before an emergency occurs
- Dr. Ned Walker predicts that we will see a continued incline in cases of EEE over the years
- Currently, testing is not available because of Covid 19

City of Kalamazoo Sustainability/Climate Action Plan

- Missy Stoltz has a podcast posted on the website. Ian Magnuson will share the link.
- Jamie McCarthy and Aaron Wright will be having standing meetings between ECC meetings to help us stay informed about the Sustainability/Climate Action Plan.

- Aaron Wright made a motion to draft a Sustainability Plan for the following:
 - The ECC recommends the City Commission urge the City Manager and City Planner's offices to develop a draft Sustainability Plan that features the following: a detailed plan for a municipal greenhouse gas emission inventory, aggressive goals for reducing those emissions, and specific resources and staffing needed to put the plan into action. The ECC strongly urges the City to develop a draft plan by December 2020. The ECC recognizes that recent circumstances have made progress on this plan difficult. The City Commission's adoption of a Climate Crisis resolution in late 2019; however, makes it clear that taking action is a priority in our community that cannot wait
- The motion was seconded by
- The motion was unanimously approved
- Jamie McCarthy is looking for ECC members to join groups pertaining to the Sustainability Climate Action Plan

Discussion on weather related flooding in Kalamazoo

- No report

Former Vermeulen Property Update

- No report

Kleinstuck Preserve Update

- No report

Graphic Packaging Air Quality Meeting/Odor Study

- No report

Woods Lake Salinization

- No report

7. NEW BUSINESS

Review ECC in Code of Ordinance

- No report

Regional communication/cooperation

- No report

ECC Field Trip?

- No report

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

NFP Review Board

- No report

Air and Water Quality

- No report

Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection

- No report

Waste Management/Litter

- No report

Planning Commission

- No report

Tree Committee

- No report

- No report

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- No report

Wellhead Protection Program Committee

- No report

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary