

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD, CITY OF PORTAGE**  
**January 13, 2010**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:10 pm by Bill Schwartz, Chair

**Members Present:** Denise Clegg, Martha Dahlinger, Jason Howard, Bryce Maurer, Becca Schramm, Bill Schwartz, Marty Sepanik, Daniel VanPeenen, Sara Wick and Audrey Wierenga

**Staff Present:** Chris Barnes

**Nov minutes:** Approved as corrected (Chris will e-mail). December, 2009 meeting cancelled due to snow storm.

**Information and Announcements:** Martha announced Michigan Wildflower conference, Mar. 7 & 8, at MSU, East Lansing. Aud announced "Green Drinks" at new location, The Strutt, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Jan 26 at 5:30, topic will be "Energy savings". Also, SWMBus Forum, Feb. 18 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center at noon, primary topic, sustainability indicators. Kalamazoo County has submitted a bid to hold Renewable Energy Fair which would increase community awareness and educate on sustainability. EB will communicate its support to City Council.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Lakeview Display board** – Jason will present his recommendations at February meeting. The new materials will be displayed effective March 1.

**Earth Day event** – Marty updated Board on Youth Advisory Council's plans for April 24 event. The Council is asking EB to provide 10 local environmental facts for use in their promotional materials.

**Rain garden** – Chris reported the garden at the new water treatment plant will be completed in the Spring. He also updated EB that the previously reported unusually high water table is now decreasing at a rate of .8 ft/mo.

**Sustainability Workshop** update – Chris indicated EB was well represented, the workshop addressed developing community sustainability indicators including mortality in children, developing a healthy community and the role of local food providers. All indicators were discussed with an eye to envisioning the future.

**Purple Loosetrife** report – Marty attended a City Council meeting in November to answer questions on the 2009 report. The Council appreciated EB efforts on limiting PLS and agreed the consolidated drain should be the focus for 2010. February EB meeting will address content of PLS location signs.

**COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION REPORTS**

**Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee report** – Bill Hughes (of KECC) reported they discussed fluoridation, not to proceed with "phosphorus free" it is unenforceable, wind turbine ordinance is limiting and Radon ordinance does not include rental housing.

**Kalamazoo Environmental Health Advisory Council** – Bill Schwartz reported January meeting agenda included level of county meth. busts, Radon awareness month, disposed medicines-burned program and the Council is re-organizing to reduce its costs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Goals and Objectives for 2010** – they have been approved and Chris will e-mail members approved letter.

**Denise** resigned effective at the January meeting – EB accepted her resignation and thanked her for her contributions.

**Comments of citizens present:** None

**Comments of board members:** None

**Adjournment:** 8:38 pm

**Next meeting Wednesday, February 10, 7 p.m., City Hall. Scheduled secretary: Dan**

**Minutes recorded by Marty Sepanik**