

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

AUGUST 21ST, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; David Benac, Vice-Chair; Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Loraine Smith, Thomas Dewhirst, Damaris Potter

ABSENT: Tressa Greshak, Robb Liekis, Bobby Glasser, David DeBack

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)

OTHERS: Erica Shuff and John Olson, *Air Quality Division at Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy*, Justin Gish, *Community Sustainability Plan*, Alexa Hemp

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/YouTube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (08/21/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 21, 2024, meeting.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Agenda and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 07/17/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the July 17, 2024 and meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Individual/Announcements: Rita, City Resident, asking which businesses are contributing to air pollution? Resources? Directed to City Website – GIS Map – Owner of Parcels

News/Educational Items:

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Dever asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

Chair Dever opened the discussion for comments by others.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS (AS NEEDED)

Sub Committee Suggestions – Native Landscape, Waste, etc.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Kalamazoo River – Litter

Waste Update – City Snapshot

Jean Talanda – Quarterly Report

Community Sustainability Plan – Justin Gish

Events:

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Electricity Proposal:

Last night, the Kalamazoo City Commission was introduced to the solar purchase agreement plan. They asked good questions and were interested in the project. The vote will be held on 9/16.

In our August meeting I mentioned that I would crunch some numbers and look at production from solar parking lots and roof tops. I'll go back to the Public Safety Building at Crosstown Parkway because I have the best estimates for this building, and it just so happens to have the largest roof and usable parking lot under the City's control. It's the best-case scenario. I use the "usable" caveat, because some City parking lots aren't amenable to solar panels due to the size of vehicles moving through the lot- snow plows, front end loaders, boom trucks, etc.

Context and comparisons helped me as I tried to wrap my head around the City's energy usage. The average home in the US uses 10,791 kWh annually. I plugged my address into [this website](#) to get an estimate of what I could do with panels at my own home. I could just about halve that average energy use with panels on my roof. But the City of Kalamazoo used 50,430,018 kWh in 2022. And we have 55 buildings, nearly as many pump houses, lift stations, and other dispersed infrastructure throughout the city limits and into three counties. Not all these city energy users have roofs, parking lots, or open space for panels.

Back to Crosstown. That building used 2,526,000 kWh of electricity in 2022. The usable roof space (not already covered by HVAC equipment) is about 26,000 square feet. Solar panels on the usable space would produce 344,605 kWh. 14% of this building's 2022 usage. Without a proper quote from a solar company, I did some liberal arts major in mathematics and came up with a kWh/sq foot that I could apply to the area of the parking lot. I measured the parking lot at 138,082 sq ft. So that lot, if totally covered in solar panels, could produce an additional 1,795,066 kWh. Parking lot + roof = 2,139,671 kWh. Very close to the energy used by that building in 2022. This scenario is very generous because my measurement of the parking lot was just looking at raw area and did not consider the proper placement of the panels, space between panels, or any other real life variables ((batteries, redundancy, water table, (cost)) that might complicate the project.

In addition to the Crosstown Parkway building map I've included a map that highlights the unique struggles the City has as it tries to work through how to meet its carbon neutrality goals. Solar at the Crosstown site makes sense. The building uses a lot of energy, panels placed near or on that building will feed directly into the building. Panels placed there will do some good- either that 14% with just the roof or more if we tap into the parking lot space.

But the other map attached to this email highlights a unique problem. The water station you see is near the Au Sable Preserve. This water station used 2,113,420 kWh of electricity in 2022. The roof measures 255 square feet and the structure is surrounded by trees. There doesn't seem to be a way to get behind-the-meter electricity at a site like this. And I called this situation unique, but it's not uncommon. The city's water stations and pump houses are generally small, dispersed, and use a lot of electricity.

EGLE Presentation:

Addressing the changes to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM2.5. You all had some great questions. Some of these were out of our area of expertise, and we want to make sure we addressed them. We

have put together some information we hope will help. This redesign process is long, and we will have more information to share as we move through it. We hope to be able to come and share more with the Committee in the future. We are always open to questions and if we cannot answer them, we will get you the person who can.

What is the difference between the regulatory monitors and air sensors?

Both are useful tools in providing information about air quality. We use some sensors in our work, but the information they provide is not used to show whether an area is attaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Air sensors are often used by citizens to get more information on the air quality around them. These can be affordable, portable, and easier to use. The information can help the public learn more about air quality in their communities. EPA has resources about [air sensors](#) helpful to citizen scientists in understanding what sensors can be used to measure different pollutants and how to interpret the results.

What is the difference between a primary and secondary PM2.5 NAAQS?

Primary standards provide public health protection, including protecting the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. **Secondary standards** provide public welfare protection, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

PM _{2.5}	primary	1 year	9.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years

What air monitoring is EGLE doing near me?

- Our [Air Monitoring webpage](#) has great information on what monitoring we are doing in the state.
- Check out our [interactive Air Monitoring Sites web map](#) which shows where we have monitors as well as what pollutants we measure at each location.

The network is designed to show regional ambient (outdoor) air quality information. It is not intended to show whether a specific company is complying with their permit. The locations of air monitors are driven by the federal regulations. These require a certain number and type of monitors to be operated, generally in areas with larger populations. When selecting locations, we consider industrial sources in the area, major roadways, the predominate wind direction, locations of schools and neighborhoods, the availability of property for the monitor, security, access to electricity, and many other factors. The sites are also selected to provide broad geographic coverage for an area.

Our [Air Monitoring Network Plan](#) is opened for public comment every year – typically late spring. This [summary of the 2025 plan](#) may help you understand what the regulatory network is for and why it is set the way it is. We also release an Air Quality Report annually that gives very detailed information about each pollutant and each location.

You can contact our air monitoring section manager, Susan Kilmer at KilmerS@Michigan.gov if you have more questions about this work.

What are the five factors being considered in area designations related to the PM2.5 standard?

1. air quality data,
2. emissions and emissions-related data,
3. meteorology,
4. geography/topography, and
5. jurisdictional boundaries

See Attachment 3 of EPA's [February 7th, 2024 memorandum](#) for more information.

How is environmental justice being considered?

EPA encourages air agencies to use information from environmental justice screening tools to inform outreach efforts and meaningful involvement as PM2.5 area recommendations are developed. We rely on the [February 7th, 2024 memorandum](#) released by EPA to help guide what area designations recommendations we will put forward. On page 6 of the memorandum, under the section titled "Environmental Justice", EPA offers several tools, screening criteria considerations, and resources to give states a framework for how to identify these areas with 'Disadvantaged Communities'. EPA defines this as:

"Disadvantaged communities are defined as any community that meets at least one of the following characteristics: communities reflected in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST); any census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile for any of the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool's (EJSCREEN's) Supplemental Indexes when compared to the nation or state; and/or any geographic area within Tribal lands as included in EJSCREEN."

In addition to the screening criteria for identifying 'Disadvantaged Communities' within EJScreen and CEJST, we also utilized the recently finalized Michigan Environmental Justice Screening Tool (MiEJScreen Version 1.0) and an alternative screening criterion. In MiEJScreen we looked at an overall score of 80th percentile and above as an initial filter for communities to focus on as well.

Links for accessing the different national and state-level environmental justice screening tools:

- EPA EJScreen: [EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool | US EPA](#)
- CEJST: [Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)
- Michigan EJScreen: [MiEJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening Tool \(Version 1.0\) \(michigan.gov\)](#)

How will the standard be enforced?

Once the process is complete and areas are officially designated as nonattainment for the PM2.5 NAAQS, there are other steps the agency may take to ensure we continue to work toward attainment. We will be sharing more on this in the future.

Where can I find information on Graphic Packaging?

We have a webpage on air quality-related information for Graphic Packaging. This including, air sampling studies, contact information, updates associated with ongoing work. [Michigan.gov/EGLEGraphicPackaging](#).

Compliance and enforcement with air permits is done by inspections, testing, monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting done through oversight by our Kalamazoo District Office. The inspector assigned to Graphic Packaging

is Michael Cox. If you have any questions specific to this facility, you can reach him at CoxM9@Michigan.gov or 616-240-3607.

How can I keep up to date?

- EGLE Calendar: Michigan.gov/EGLECalendar
 - Subscribe to the calendar: [Subscribe](#)
- Air Quality Public Notice Page: Michigan.gov/EGLEAirPublicNotice
- EGLE Subscription Service Topics: [Sign-up for email updates](#)
 - Air Quality News and Info
 - Environmental Justice
 - More

Who should I contact with questions?

You can always reach out to Erica Shuff and John Olson with questions. EGLE's Contact Us page also has links for pollution emergencies, general assistance, public records, etc. Michigan.gov/EGLE/Contact.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- ***Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board***– Mr. Glasser – No Update
- ***Air and Water Quality*** – Mr. Glasser - No Update
- ***Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection*** – Ms. Greshak – No Update
- ***City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission*** – Ms. Jondle – No Update
- ***Tree Committee*** – Mr. Dewhirst – No Update
- ***Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council*** – Ms. Dever – No Update
- ***Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*** – Mr. Liekis – No Update
- ***Kalamazoo River Watershed Council*** – Mr. Benac – Presentation for the false solution for climate change which includes anobiid digestors on Kos confined animal feeding operations. There are a couple bills in the House that need attention to get stopped because they will incentivize farmers to create methane because they burn it to create CO2 and the argument is CO2 is a less dangerous gas than methane. Methan is produced by decomposing manure anaerobically but if decomposed aerobically it does not produce methane. The money is in the Incentives in 2028, more information to come. Bill #275 and Joey Andrews introduced a couple bills also.
- ***Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly*** - Jean Talanda (September)
- ***Odor Task Force – Quarterly*** – Mr. Benac – No Update

CHECK PHONE LINES AND STREAMING FOR COMMENTS:

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.