



Michigan's Source Water Protection Program

Issue 11

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Calling for Wellhead Protection Grant Applications!!!

The DEQ source water unit is now accepting applications for Wellhead Protection Grants. The application and supporting materials are available in Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF format, and can be downloaded directly from the Michigan Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) Web page. To access the grant application package, go to www.michigan.gov/deqwhp. The grant application can be found under the Grants column, which is in the center of the web page (below Wellhead Protection and Information). Please review the guidance documents on the website regarding eligible activities and acceptable deliverables. Michigan's Wellhead Protection Grants are a 50 percent local match program to assist public water supplies in developing and implementing a WHPP and are voluntarily implemented on the local and state levels. Grant eligible activities are tasks undertaken for the purpose of determining a wellhead protection area, developing, implementing or maintaining a wellhead protection program, and public outreach or education about wellhead protection.

All completed applications must either be hand delivered by 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2008, or postmarked no later than March 31, 2008. If your anticipated grant assistance applied for is equal to or exceeds \$25,000.00, you must submit your application by March 3, 2008.

Grant awardees will be announced after the applications have been processed. Contracts will begin **July 1, 2008**. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Sue Grinwis, at 517-241-1339 or Cora Rubitschun, at 517-241-1397.

WHP Awards Given in November 2007

The SWP unit recently recognized all of our WHP communities with approved WHP programs. To give our communities proper recognition for their hard work, Michigan Rural Water Association and the Source Water Protection Unit held an Awards Luncheon at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on November 5, 2007. 38 communities have achieved an approved WHP program since 2005. The seminar celebrated the success of our WHP communities and shared information concerning how communities can improve upon their source water protection efforts. The following communities received awards:



Village of Bear Lake	Village of Kingsley
Village of Benzonia	Lake Bella Vista
Blair Township	Village of Lyons
Village of Breckenridge	Village of Marcellus
Briley Township	Village of Martin
City of Caspian	City of Mason
Village of Columbiaville	City of Montague
Village of Concord	Village of Muir
Village of Elk Rapids	Negaunee Township
Village of Ellsworth	City of Norway
Village of Fowler	City of Olivet
Village of Fowlerville	Village of Onsted
City of Frankfort	Village of Otisville
City of Gladwin	Village of Paw Paw
Gogebic Range Water Authority	Village of Pewamo
Grand Valley Estates	Skandia-West Branch Twps
City of Hastings	Village of Suttons Bay
City of Iron River	City of Three Rivers

Congratulations to all!!!

Water Fact! *Dirt, Bacteria, and nutrients are the most common pollutants that are found in our surface waters!*



JOINT EXPO
February 5-6, 2008
Lansing Center,
Lansing, MI

Joint Expo is an exposition for utility personnel and consultants, by equipment suppliers, manufacturers and consulting engineers who want an effective method to exhibit their products and services to water and wastewater professionals. It is a day to collect product information, see and evaluate new equipment, exchange business cards with exhibitors and new contacts, see old friends, learn, share, network, shop, compare and evaluate how your facility/business compares to where you need to be in the future.

Some of the features of Joint Expo include: over 280 exhibitor booths, MI-AWWA Meter Madness Contest, a combination scavenger hunt/raffle to benefit the Dan Wolz Education Grant, a buffet lunch/ or concessions, and Operator's Day seminars (for those registered).

Attending JOINT EXPO is worth 0.2 CECs of MDEQ drinking water/waste water credit.

Show hours: Tuesday, February 5, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The City of Kalamazoo Uses Zoning Ordinances to Support Local Source Water Protection Efforts

The City of Kalamazoo has been involved in the Wellhead Protection Program since 1992. The approach in Kalamazoo has been somewhat unique in comparison to other WHP communities, since it is addressing all seven program elements concurrently. The City obtained approval for its WHP from the DEQ in 2003, and received the Exemplary Wellhead Protection Program Award in 2004.

The City of Kalamazoo serves as a public water supply system to over 121,000 persons in an approximate 120 square mile service area. The water system is the second largest groundwater based drinking water supply system in Michigan, with 18 pumping stations and 19 wellfields, including 102 wells.

For several years, the City considered an Ordinance to serve as a primary management strategy to minimize risk to its drinking water

supply aquifers. The City's Wellhead Protection Team recognized the importance of implementing a collaborative approach of a Wellhead Protection Zoning Overlay, and formalized site plan review Performance Standards for both groundwater protection and stormwater quality management.

The primary objectives of the Zoning Overlay are to:

- 1) Prevent the establishment or creation of non-compatible land uses within the WHPAs that have a higher risk of contaminating groundwater resources used for drinking water and/or would prevent/limit the City's ability to obtain necessary MDEQ well permits to replace or add wells.
- 2) Protect drinking water supplies from spills, leaks, and other releases into the groundwater caused by improper storage, handling, use, production, or discharge of Regulated Substances by the use of Performance Standards/Best Management Practices appropriate for higher groundwater risk land uses.
- 3) Prevent or minimize public and private losses due to contamination of the public water supply by avoiding expenditure of public funds for costly pollution remediation projects and/or replacement of Public water Supply System assets.
- 4) Minimize interruptions to businesses by only regulating specific land use activities within specific designated wellhead protection capture zones, as based upon determined potential risk to the Public Water Supply System.

The City Commission unanimously adopted both the Zoning Overlay and the Performance Standards on May 21, 2007, becoming effective on May 31, 2007.

For more detailed insight into the city's process of developing the Zoning Overlay and Performance Standards, please see the May 2008 issue of Michigan Water Works News. You can also view the ordinance and supporting documents at: http://www.kalamazoo.org/portal/government.php?page_id=500.

Submitted by: John P. Paquin
Water Resources Manager, City of Kalamazoo

If you would like to see your community's accomplishments highlighted in a future newsletter, please contact us with your story!



Greater Lansing GMB holds Holiday Recognition Meeting

The Greater Lansing Area Groundwater Management Board (GMB) and Groundwater Technical Advisory Council held their 13th annual holiday meeting and recognition ceremony on Thursday December 13, 2007 in Lansing. GMB membership consists of 12 local communities and Michigan State University. The Greater Lansing GMB has held this holiday breakfast and recognition since 1995.

The agenda included recognition of the City of Wyoming and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for their outstanding support of the 2007 Children's Water Festival. The GMB also celebrated their designation as a Groundwater Guardian Community. Groundwater Guardian is an international program designed to recognize, connect and empower communities who rely on groundwater for their drinking water needs. The GMB has been a recipient of the designation since the program began in 1995. (More information about Groundwater Guardian can be found at www.groundwater.org). Guest speaker John Paquin from the City of Kalamazoo provided a short presentation which shared successes and challenges of groundwater protection in the Kalamazoo Area.

Other Groundwater Guardian communities include the City of Battle Creek, the City of Coldwater, the City of Kalamazoo, the City of Marshall, Michigan State University, and the Charter Township of Texas.



Residential Drug Disposal Options

Managing unused medications is a safety as well as an environmental concern.

Traditionally, we were told to flush unwanted medications down the drain or toilet. Although effective in removing the medication from potentially being misused, flushing creates a new and growing problem in the environment. Antibiotics and other medications in a septic system can destroy beneficial bacteria necessary for the system to operate. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or process

many compounds found in medications that end up being discharged into our surface and ground water. A study by the United States Geological Survey done in 1999 showed that in 80% of the streams sampled contained detectable levels of compounds found in common medications.

What should citizens do with unwanted medications? First, check with your pharmacy to see if they have a drug take back program. Second, find out if there is a special collection for unused and expired drugs in your area by contacting your local household hazardous waste collection or recycling coordinator.

A list of local contacts is located at www.michigan.gov/degreswastecontacts.

Controlled substances can only be accepted under special collection arrangements due to federal regulations.

If a collection program isn't available, dispose of unwanted medicines in the trash. Do not flush drugs down sink drains or the toilet.

Interested in finding out more information about prescription drug use and disposal issues?

- USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program: http://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/pharmaceuticals_method.html
- EPA Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products as Pollutants: www.epa.gov/ppcp
- Washtenaw County 4 minute video Safe Disposal of Medications
- Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction: www.mi-marr.org
- List of pharmaceuticals and other products that contain mercury: www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ead-p2-mercury-mercusetree.pdf

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