Health Department News (published February 15, 2018)

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Committee exploring impact of faulty septic systems

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department is collaborating with Gratiot, Montcalm and Clinton Conservation Districts to address the issue of high levels of bacteria in waterways.

Management of septic systems within the region and how this relates to water quality and public health is a number one issue.

The committee made up of community members from the three counties will develop and recommend strategies the MMDHD Board of Health could use to draft an ordinance regulating septic systems.

Numerous counties across the state are enacting regulations or are in the process of considering to do so.

Michigan is the only state without a statewide sanitary code. Local units of government such as counties and townships set their own standards.

MMDHD Information Officer Leslie Kinnee said the committee's initial meeting was Feb. 5 in Carson City. More meetings are planned over the next three months.