

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF  
October 19, 2011**

The Environmental Control Advisory Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session at the City of Norman, in the Multi-Purpose Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on October 19, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Notice and Agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marc Jensen, Chair  
Darren Alexander  
Jacy Crosbie  
Linda Goeringer  
Amanda Nairn

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dave Boeck, Vice Chair  
Larry Steele

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer  
Debra Smith, Environmental Services Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Alex Pedraza, OU student intern in Env. Svcs.  
Bob Hanger, Stormwater Engineer  
Aaron Milligan, Stormwater Specialist  
James Briggs, Park Planner  
Tracey Payton Miller, Horticulturist, OSU Extension

Item No. 1 being:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING**

Marc Jensen asked if there were any corrections to the September 21, 2011 minutes. Jacy Crosbie made a motion to approve the September 21, 2011 minutes. Darren Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

**YEAS**

Marc Jensen, Chair  
Darren Alexander  
Jacy Crosbie  
Linda Goeringer  
Amanda Nairn

**NAYS**

None

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Item No. 2 being:

**DROUGHT RESISTANT PLANTING/XERISCAPING AT CITY FACILITIES  
REVIEW REPORT BENCHMARKING OTHER CITIES  
DISCUSS APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NORMAN**

James Briggs asked what other cities were doing. Marc Jensen went over this information that was presented at the last ECAB meeting (September 21, 2011 minutes). James Briggs stated he was a licensed landscape architect and in training they are taught to utilize native plants. He practices this with new plantings for the City. Very little of the plantings are irrigated, however some places have the ability to irrigate. They use naturalized plants, Oklahoma Proven plants, native plants, etc. Tracy Payton Miller said she had many brochures available for the public that could be helpful. Jacy Crosbie said it would be good to have this information put on the City's Green Norman website or the City of Norman's home page. James Briggs said xeriscaping meant you would intentionally not water. Drought resistant plants were a little different. Marc Jensen asked if it would be beneficial to build a drought-resistant park or area as a demonstration site that could be used as an educational tool. James Briggs said the medians may be a good location or the front area by the Municipal Building entrance. James Briggs stated that the area by Abner needs to be replanted but he would need to wait because of funding. He will evaluate this area and find out what it would cost. It may be possible for ECAB or the Stormwater Division to fund it. A rain barrel could be installed also. A sign could be placed in the area stating it was a demonstration site and the name of the group that sponsored it. The Board agreed that public education was a crucial part of the water conservation campaign.

Item No. 3 being:

#### **DISCUSS PUBLIC EDUCATION ON FERTILIZER USE**

Aaron Milligan stated that the City of Norman Stormwater Division already has a public education campaign and he mentioned some of the things that they are doing. Bob Hanger distributed some of this information to the Board. ECAB could help them expand this. Darren Alexander said he has access to a television studio that isn't being used and they could shoot something professionally and put it on the city's cable channel. Target areas for public education could include the homeowner associations, retail, lawncare companies, the public and city employees. Ways to accomplish this could be through green ribbon week, school folders, cable, brochures, television production, news media, website, facebook and the water bill. Aaron Milligan said a group has been formed with his counterparts from other cities that get together and run radio ads. This group is called COSWA for Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance. Marc Jensen asked ECAB to gather information for the next meeting. Tracy Payton Miller said a lot of information was on their website. She stated the soil testing for nutrients cost \$10 and it takes about two weeks to get results back. She evaluated past soil tests to determine the approximate percent of soils that needed phosphorous. This was provided as a handout. She said if you have too much phosphorus, it is harmful to plants. Amanda Nairn asked if the Stormwater Division would support an ordinance limiting phosphorus fertilizers. Aaron Milligan had an example of an ordinance that was reasonable. This was from New Jersey. Debbie Smith will scan this and send it to the group. It was mentioned that it would not be very effective to have a local ordinance limiting phosphorus fertilizers if surrounding areas did not. If it was statewide, it would help everyone. The Oklahoma Municipal League could be a good group to promote this. Bob Hanger also mentioned that he talked to Chris Mattingly, Water Treatment Superintendent, to find out the economic impact of treating water with excess algae. He also said the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District could put a moratorium on development if phosphorus was not reduced. Jacy Crosbie mentioned that zero phosphorus fertilizer is now available in Norman.

Item No. 4 being:

#### **DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION PUBLIC EDUCATION**

This was partially covered under number 3 above.

Item No. 5 being:

**UPDATE ON WATERSHED SIGNAGE**

Postponed until next meeting

Item No. 6 being:

**WATER CONSERVATION CONTEST FOR SEPTEMBER 2012**

Postponed until next meeting

Item No. 7 being:

**DISCUSS SHINGLE RECYCLING POLICIES**

Postponed until next meeting

Item No. 8 being:

**DONATIONS FROM CITIZENS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES**

Jacy Crosby presented a letter she composed to be submitted to the Mayor and Council. This letter is requesting that a voluntary donation can be made through a citizen's utility bill payment. These funds would be used to help maintain the lake's water quality.

Board members wanted to know what these funds would be used for specifically. Jacy Crosbie said the City Council could make that decision.

Linda Goeringer made a motion to approve the letter. Darren Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Marc Jensen, Chair Darren Alexander Jacy Crosbie Linda Goeringer Amanda Nairn
NAYS	None

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Item No. 9 being:

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Community Development Block Grant Committee (D. Boeck)- no report
2. Bicycle Committee – no report
3. Green Team (D. Smith)- no report

Item No. 10 being:

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Amanda Nairn said the City of Norman and the Cleveland County Conservation District are hosting an Earth Day Festival April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She thinks ECAB should have a table with information. She would also like to see the group do a survey on fertilizer use.

Item No. 11 being:

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

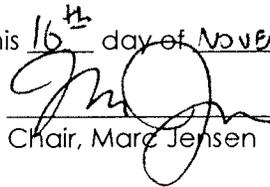
None

Item No. 12 being:

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2011.

  
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Chair, Marc Jensen