

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF  
February 16, 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 Multipurpose Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on February 16, 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  
   Dave Boeck, Vice Chair  
   Jane Dye  
   Amanda Rook  
   Asia Scudder  
   Neil Suneson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**            Yves Badaroux  
   Larry Steele  
   Moira Waterbury

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**    Debbie Smith, Environmental Svcs. Coordinator

**GUESTS**                        Aaron Milligan, City of Norman Stormwater Pollution Specialist

Item No. 1 being:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2011 MEETING**

Marc Jensen asked if there were any corrections to the January 19, 2011 minutes. Dave Boeck made a motion to approve the minutes. Asia Scudder seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

**YEAS**                         Marc Jensen, Chair  
   Dave Boeck, Vice Chair  
   Jane Dye  
   Amanda Rook  
   Asia Scudder  
   Neil Suneson

**NAYS**                         None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 2 being:

**DISCUSS BUTTERFLY GARDENS**

Asia Scudder would like to promote butterfly gardens. She passed around information (attached) that explained what some volunteer groups were doing. She stated that a group called the Monarch Waystation Program created gardens that have plants for Monarch habitats. This might be a good program for informational purposes. Another group, Depavers, has volunteer days where they go depave an area and plant gardens or trees. Some businesses in other states have created butterfly gardens to promote themselves as being green. Asia Scudder had a picture of an area in a parking lot in town that was in disrepair that would benefit from a project like this. Aaron Milligan stated that

rain gardens would be a benefit for parking lots. He stated that most of the newer commercial and residential developments are required to have some kind of stormwater detention. These may be good locations for rain gardens or butterfly gardens. Neil Suneson asked what ECAB's role would be in this. Asia Scudder suggested education may be a role. Aaron Milligan said there may be an avenue to make recommendations to Planning and Development since they have landscaping rules and regulations. For example, they could include a chapter that would recommend native plants or drought tolerant plants. Currently, businesses are required to have a specific number of parking spaces. They may not be able to put a rain garden in because they don't have enough room. Marc Jensen asked Aaron what could be done to provide incentive to developers. Aaron said eventually the City will probably ask the citizens to vote on a stormwater utility fee which will be based on impervious surface. This could provide incentive since the smaller the impervious surface the lower the fee would be. Dave Boeck stated that the first thing that needs to be done is to educate the public. Next, changes could be made to the ordinance that would allow these changes. Neil Suneson mentioned that ECAB needs to understand what is allowed now before they can recommend changes. Aaron Milligan said one of the issues being discussed is the upkeep of the detention ponds. Many ponds are not being maintained because the homeowners association is defunct or the upkeep is too expensive. The City may take over the upkeep of these ponds. These areas could benefit from natural landscaping. The City is also discussing if they want to amend the stormwater detention pond design criteria to require certain water quality features to be incorporated. Signs could be located in these areas that discuss the native landscaping. The Planning Department maintains a list of the homeowner associations and these organizations could be contacted with educational material

Item No. 3 being:

#### **DISCUSS RAIN BARREL PROGRAM**

Neil Suneson did not know if it was an appropriate role for ECAB to request money from other entities to support the rain barrel program. He mentioned that the amount of water this would conserve would be negligible. He also mentioned that if another project came up then it would be difficult to go back to that entity and request additional money. Debbie Smith said ECAB was allowed to request donations but if it was over \$250 it would need to go to council for approval. Neil Suneson was under the impression that ECAB was requesting money for an outside entity to promote the rain barrel program. Amanda Rook stated she thought Larry Steele wanted this to be an ECAB project and ECAB would be assisted by an outside entity to conduct the workshops. Asia Scudder said one of the advantages of rain barrels would be to help change the mindset of individuals. She also mentioned that rain barrels can help with erosion. Neil Suneson asked if there were better ways to promote thinking about conservation. Aaron Milligan wanted to know the plan for the program. Board members stated that at the last meeting they discussed having two or three workshops for the public annually. Approximately 50 rain barrels would be made available at each of the workshops to be either given or sold to the attendees. Aaron Milligan said he could contribute \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the barrels. Aaron Milligan said it may be possible to store barrels at the Street Division.

Marc Jensen asked if this should be a function of ECAB. Debbie Smith said ECAB's Administrative Procedures have a Public Education section which states "The Environmental Control Advisory Board shall at all times when it believes necessary engage in a program or programs of public education which believes will promote the cause of environmental protection and enhancement of environmental quality."

Dave Boeck mentioned ECAB could develop public education material that residents could use to decrease run-off, decrease the use of water and things like that. Neil Suneson would like ECAB to develop brochures that could be distributed or put on the city's website that would give guidance on many different environmental issues.

Debbie Smith said she checked with the City Clerk and a revenue fund could be set up that would be used only for rain barrels. All the money collected for selling the barrels would go back into this fund and the money could only be used for purchasing additional barrels.

Item No. 4 being:

### **FINALIZE WATERSHED SIGNS**

Debbie Smith will check with Angelo Lombardo on the number of colors that can be on the sign and the size of the signs. The signs have an outline of Lake Thunderbird with the verbiage of "Entering Lake Thunderbird Watershed Norman's Drinking Water Keep it Clean". Aaron Milligan told the Board that if they are doing anything related to surface water quality he would be interested in supporting it.

Item No. 5 being:

### **FINAL APPROVAL AND DEPLOYMENT OF CONSERVATION CONTEST**

The Board agreed to send the contest information to teachers so the March 11<sup>th</sup> deadline could be met. This was approved at the last meeting. Marc will email the contest information.

Item No. 6 being:

### **REPORT ON PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE DISCUSSION**

Asia Scudder and Debbie Smith met with the Parks Department to see if they would experiment with organics in one area. The Parks Department will devote an area in a median on West Main. They will not use chemicals in this area, only organics. They will start by treating an area with corn gluten which is used as a pre-emergent. Asia said it was best to reapply in six weeks but if that is too expensive then it can be applied every three to six months. Aaron Milligan asked ECAB to let him know if Parks does this. He can include it in his report to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Item No. 7 being:

### **ADOPT-A-PARK RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Coca-Cola and Keep America Beautiful are offering a grant for recycling bins. Neil Suneson made a motion to have Marc Jensen fill out the application and send it on behalf of ECAB. Dave Boeck seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| YEAS | Marc Jensen, Chair<br>Dave Boeck, Vice Chair<br>Jane Dye<br>Amanda Rook<br>Asia Scudder<br>Neil Suneson |
| NAYS | None  |

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Board members asked Debbie Smith to talk to the Parks Department to have the recycling program added to the current Adopt-A-Park program.

Item No. 8 being:

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Community Development Block Grant Committee (J. Dye and D. Boeck)-no report
2. Bicycle Committee (N. Suneson)-no report
3. Green Team (D. Smith)-no report

Item No. 9 being:

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

No discussion

Item No. 10 being:

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

Item No. 11 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 MARCH 2010

  
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Chair, Marc Jensen