

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF September 21, 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 September 21, 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
Larry Steele

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Boeck, Vice Chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer (5:40 p.m.)
Debra Smith, Environmental Services Coordinator

GUESTS

none

Item No. 1 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2011 MEETING

Marc Jensen asked if there were any corrections to the July 20, 2011 minutes. Larry Steele made a motion to approve the July 20, 2011 minutes. Jacy Crosbie 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
Larry Steele

NAYS

None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 2 being:

INTRODUCE NEW ECAB MEMBERS DARREN ALEXANDER, LINDA GOERINGER, AMANDA NAIRN

Current ECAB members introduced themselves. Linda Goeringer works at the University as a counselor for Petroleum Engineering and Physics. Amanda Nairn has been a volunteer for many environmental groups in Norman and has helped with ECAB's rain barrel workshops. Darren Alexander is the Environmental Health and Safety Instructor for NCED.

Item No. 3 being:

DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION/XERISCAPING RESEARCH

ECAB members contacted different cities to find out if they were doing xeriscaping on city property. Jacy Crosbie contacted Moore, Lawton and Amarillo (handouts). Moore's City Manager said there has been no discussion on this in Moore. She also found out that Moore does not have a site for asphalt shingle recycling. The Lawton City Manager, Larry Mitchell, told Jacy that Lawton has proposed a new landscape ordinance that will address this and also require commercial businesses to include xeriscaping. Asphalt shingle recycling is not addressed in Lawton. The City of Amarillo does not have any incentives or penalties for recycling asphalt shingles. They do have two demonstration xeriscape areas with the most public one being at City Hall. Debbie Smith had an email to the group from Mayor Rosenthal. The Mayor would like ECAB to develop public education material on proper fertilizer usage and water conservation to include landscaping choices such as rain harvesting and xeriscape options. Larry Steele contacted Stillwater, Manhattan, Kansas and Austin, Texas (handout). Stillwater and Manhattan do not have a shingle recycling program. Austin, Texas has a very large program. Most of the material from construction is recycled. Stillwater has over 100 acres designated as natural areas. No mowing, watering or fertilizing will take place in these areas. Manhattan stated that xeriscaping was minimal on City land and it was done mostly to save money on maintenance. Austin has an extensive program called "Grow Green". Grow Green is a water quality education program that also addresses water conservation, recycling and many sustainability issues tied to landscaping. Their website is www.growgreen.org. It is a partnership with the City of Austin and the Texas AgriLife Extension Services. Marc Jensen researched Broken Arrow, Edmond, and Enid. Broken Arrow does not have a xeriscape ordinance. They encourage drought resistant plants. Edmond has a xeriscape demonstration at a City Park. They have a preference for drought tolerant plants but no policy. Enid is looking in to drought resistant plants.

The board decided to get a report together on what other cities are doing and then give beneficial suggestions which could include replacing plants that have died with native plants, creating a list of suggested plants for city employees, etc. Marc will compile the report and bring a draft to the next meeting. Larry Steele will contact the schools to see what they are doing.

Charlie Thomas said he talked to City Park Planner, James Briggs, that had concerns about xeriscaping. He was more interested in using native plants. James Briggs will be invited to the next meeting.

Amanda Nairn will contact Reid Coffman regarding his opinion and water conservation/xeriscape options.

Debbie Smith will invite someone from the City of Norman's Stormwater Division.

Amanda Nairn also mentioned that it is difficult to find native plants for purchase. This may need to be addressed before recommendations are made.

Item No. 4 being:

DISCUSS GRAY WATER ORDINANCE

Marc Jensen said Ken Komiske came to the meeting last month and discussed the new Gray Water Rules. A recent bill that went through the legislature will allow cities to adopt

ordinances to re-use some of their gray water. Marc Jensen drafted a letter to send to council to encourage this (attached). Amanda Nairn made a motion to approve the letter and send it to the Mayor and Council. Larry Steele 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 Larry Steele
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Larry Steele will try to locate gray water ordinances from other cities

Item No. 5 being:

UPDATE ON WATERSHED SIGNAGE

The Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District currently has the signs. They would like to purchase the signs and place them in all the cities that drain in to the Lake Thunderbird watershed.

Item No. 6 being:

DISCUSS SHINGLE RECYCLING

Some discussion took place under item No. 3. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Item No. 7 being:

DONATIONS FROM CITIZENS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

Jacy Crosbie said Council Member Gallagher suggested providing the opportunity for citizens to donate to issues regarding Lake Thunderbird water quality. This could be something similar to the donation opportunity for the arts on the City of Norman utility bill. Jacy Crosbie made a motion to place on the utility bill a separate location for people to donate to Lake Thunderbird Water Quality and this idea be given to City Council for review. Marc Jensen 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 Larry Steele
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0. Jacy Crosbie will draft the letter and bring it to the next meeting.

Item No. 8 being:

DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION CONTEST

Marc Jensen would like to do this again. The most difficult part is collecting prizes. Jacy Crosbie will help collect the prizes. Amanda Nairn suggested to increase participation to give a prize to the teacher that has the most participation, not to the teacher with the winning poster. Teachers appreciate gift certificates to Copelins.

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)- Recycling in city facilities and the Norman Public Schools will soon start. Also, most of the plastics # 1 - #7 will now be accepted through the City of Norman's recycling program. Jacy suggested helping the schools set up a rechargeable battery recycling program. Debbie Smith said there is a company, RBRC, that will do this at no cost. Cardboard containers will also be set up at the schools.

Item No. 9 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

None

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 19th day of October, 2011.



Chair, Marc Jensen