

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF
January 18, 2012**

Item No. 1. being:

ROLL CALL

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 January 18, 2012 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

Darren Alexander (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Jacy Crosbie
Linda Goeringer
James Greer
James Harp (left at 6:20 p.m.)
Amanda Nairn
Charles Sever

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marc Jensen, Chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Debbie Smith, Environmental Svcs. Coordinator
Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer

Item No. 2 being:

INTRODUCE GUESTS

GUESTS PRESENT

Chris Ward, Cleveland County Conservation District

Item No. 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING

Due to absence of chair, Debbie Smith asked if there were any corrections to the December 21, 2011 minutes. Amanda Nairn made a motion to approve the December 21, 2011 minutes. Jacy Crosby seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS

Jacy Crosbie
Linda Goeringer
James Greer
James Harp
Amanda Nairn
Charles Sever

NAYS

None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

Linda Goeringer nominated Amanda Nairn for Chair. James Greer seconded. No other nominations were made and a motion was made by Linda Goeringer to close the nomination. James Greer seconded. A vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS	Jacy Crosbie Linda Goeringer James Greer James Harp Amanda Nairn Charles Sever
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Amanda Nairn asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair. James Greer nominated Linda Goeringer. Linda Goeringer declined the nomination. Charles Sever nominated James Greer for Vice Chair and James Harp seconded. Charles Sever made a motion to close the nominations. James Harp seconded. A vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS	Jacy Crosbie Linda Goeringer James Greer James Harp Amanda Nairn Charles Sever
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 5 being:

APPOINT ONE PRIMARY AND ONE ALTERNATE ECAB MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

Debbie Smith said each city board is required to have a member on the Community Development Block Grant Committee. Charles Sever stated he would be interested. Linda Goeringer volunteered to be the alternate.

Item No. 6 being:

DISCUSS ECAB GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2012

Amanda Nairn asked if there were any comments. Debbie Smith said there were two directives by the Mayor. One is public education on water conservation and the other is public education on proper fertilizer usage. Jacy Crosbie would like to see ECAB pursue donations for stormwater quality. James Harp said he thinks a goal could be for Norman to

be one of the most organized, educated communities regarding environmental issues. Amanda Nairn would like to see more of the public education ideas implemented.

Item No. 7 being:

DISCUSS PUBLIC EDUCATION ON FERTILIZER USE

Some ECAB members were asked to contact different cities to find out how they regulate fertilizer. Amanda Nairn contacted Enid and Fayetteville. These two cities do not regulate fertilizers. Fayetteville has a Sustainable Yard Ordinance which she handed out. Darren Alexander contacted Manhattan – they do not have anything. Stillwater has not called him back. He hopes to have more information next meeting. James Harp contacted Amarillo. They have not addressed this issue. Amanda Nairn presented a map from the Storm Water Master Plan that shows 50% of Norman's drainage goes to the River. Charlie Thomas presented information regarding the square miles of drainage to Lake Thunderbird. The total drainage basin to Thunderbird is 256 square miles. City of Norman drainage to Thunderbird is 132 square miles. Charles Sever stated that his task was to talk to some of the commercial fertilizer applicators and how they applied fertilizer. He talked to a wholesale supplier that supplies to the landscape community. He has found that most of the fertilizer is very low in phosphate with the exception of fertilizers for new sods. Most of the commercial applicators do soil tests every four or five years. He intends to check phosphate content of fertilizers sold at places like Wal-Mart. He also found there are several grants available from the federal government to communities to work on watersheds to solve these problems. He said a group called Blue Thumb can monitor water quality in creeks and he isn't aware of it being utilized in Norman. Chris Ward stated that it was and there is an upcoming training this month in Norman. She also stated that phosphorous is the problem and if you don't test your soil annually you do not know how much phosphorous is in your soil. She said she works with the agricultural community and they have learned what to do properly because if they don't they burn their crops and kill their land. Chris Ward stated that the Department of Environmental Quality has a grant to build a model and they are monitoring the water quality. They are in year three of a study and will be finished this year. When the model is complete it will be available to the public. The leading experts in water quality in Oklahoma say there is a phosphorous problem. She said even though some of the water goes to the Canadian River, it is our responsibility as citizens, no matter where that water goes, to control as much as we possible can. The river is affecting someone. James Harp mentioned that he is concerned there is another source of phosphate going to the lake not Norman. Chris Ward said the surrounding cities need to be involved too. Amanda Nairn talked to Aaron Milligan and asked him what public education he would like ECAB to focus on. He is interested in the survey and he will pay for it to go out in every utility bill in Norman. ECAB needs to get a list of questions that want to ask. These would include; do you use fertilizer, how often do you get your soil tested, do you have a service. ECAB had discussed doing the survey at the Earth Day Festival. The survey could also be online. Amanda Nairn said she would send out an email requesting questions for the survey. She will put the document together and it will be discussed at the next meeting. This data would be good to have before the group goes forward with public education. Charles Sever contacted the International Fertilizer Association and they have literature and videos available on how to reduce phosphate in the watershed. He will pursue this and report back to the Board. Linda Goeringer suggested mentioning fertilizer use at the rain barrel workshops. James Greer said he is a big believer in water conservation and he passed around artificial grass for the group to look at. Using artificial grass would cut down on water use and fertilizer. He is familiar with the City of Tulsa's stormwater runoff. James Greer said he could invite someone from Tulsa to come talk to the group. They have a good program. Jacy Crosbie emailed Lawton and Moore. These cities do not have any ordinances on the use of fertilizers. Charlie Thomas mentioned his assignment was to find out if the city requires a permit for fertilizer applicators and he found that they do not.

Item No. 8 being:

DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION PUBLIC EDUCATION

Debbie Smith said she reminded James Briggs that ECAB was still interested in a demonstration garden utilizing native plants. He said he planned to put this in the upcoming budget. Amanda Nairn told the Board that ECAB has a rain barrel workshop January 21st at Forrest Building Materials. She asked if anyone could help. Charlie Thomas volunteered. Debbie Smith said a lot of information was available but the information is not reaching the public. Charles Sever asked if the newspaper could do something. Debbie Smith said they could but someone would need to package the information and give it to them. It was also mentioned that the Board give conservation tips to be put in the paper. Amanda Nairn asked if anyone on the Board would like to provide information to the staff and then staff could forward these to these to the paper. Linda Goeringer thought it would be good for the City to have a theme that citizens would recognize. Debbie Smith mentioned that the Water Environment Federation is coming out with a theme this year called "Water is Worth It". They are developing information to be used. Make Every Drop Count was used in the past and the City still has some signs for this. Charles Sever mentioned it could be "Let's do our share". The Board decided to start with the Earth Day Festival, possible information in the newspaper and a booth at the Farmer's market. Amanda Nairn suggested going together with the Extension Office because of the cost for a booth. Linda Goeringer will contact the County Fairgrounds to see if the Board could have a booth. Amanda Nairn asked the Board to find flyers on water conservation and fertilizer usage and bring them to the next meeting.

Charles Sever would like to have an expert come talk to the group about fertilizers. He said he could contact the International Fertilizer Association to see if they could come. Amanda Nairn mentioned that Baxter Vieux did a study on the Lake Thunderbird Watershed and he would probably talk to the Board. Charles Sever suggested having citizens write in and tell what they have been doing to reduce water or fertilizer and this information could be published to give the citizen recognition.

Item No. 9 being:

DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CONTEST FOR 2012

Jacy Crosbie said she had volunteered to get prizes for this but she is going to have to resign from ECAB because she is running for City Council and it is taking a lot of time. Linda Goeringer volunteered to help get prizes. Teachers and students will receive prizes. Amanda Nairn will send out the information on the contest to everyone and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Item No. 10 being:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Community Development Block Grant Committee - no report
2. Green Team (D. Smith) - Debbie Smith said recycling has been started in the public schools.

Item No. 11 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

The Board discussed having an educational meeting on fertilizers and Lake Thunderbird water quality issues before the next ECAB meeting. James Greer will try to arrange this.

Item No. 12 being:

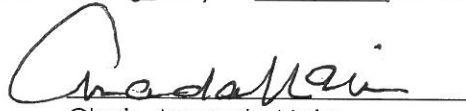
QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Item No. 13 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
Passed and approved this 28 day of March 2012.


Chair, Amanda Nair