

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF  
September 15, 2021**

Item No. 1 being:

**ROLL CALL**

The Environmental Control Advisory Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Special Session at the City of Norman, in the Executive Conference Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on September 15, 2021 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     Dane Heins (Chair)  
                                 Courtney DeKalb-Myers (Vice Chair)  
                                 Lainey Phillips  
                                 Robert Vollmar  
                                 Jim Griffith (late)

MEMBERS ABSENT     Traci Gold (resigned)  
                                 Sara Bondy  
                                 Deborah Cretsinger

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT     Michele Loudenback, Enviro. & Sustainability Manager  
                                 Rachel Croft, Utilities Staff Engineer  
                                 Jerry Gates, Environmental Services Assistant Manager

Item No. 2 being:

**INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS**

Debbie Williams – Public Art Manager for Norman. Has worked on artful inlets  
Karl Evans – Republic Services  
Ronda Spring – Republic Services

Item No. 3 being:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF August 18, 2021 MEETING**

DeKalb-Myers made a motion to approve the August 18, 2021 minutes. Phillips seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS     Dane Heins (Chair)  
                 Courtney DeKalb-Myers (Vice Chair)  
                 Lainey Phillips  
                 Robert Vollmar

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

**PRESENTATION REGARDING REPUBLIC SERVICES AND THE OKC SE LANDFILL  
BY RONDA SPRING AND KARL EVANS, REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Republic has over 35,000 employees in the United States. They currently have over 16,000 trucks 21% of which is powered by reusable natural gas. They have several renewable energy avenues. The first is taking landfill gas, which is the bi product of the decomposition of waste at the landfills. They use solar power and they have composting operations as well. They have 3 active landfills here in Oklahoma. One is in Alderson, one in Oklahoma City, and one in Stillwater. They have 4 more landfills that are close to the public and have active permits. One in Shawnee, one in Newcastle, one in Pocasset, and one in Porter. Ground water has to be monitored at least a year prior to building a landfill. After completion it has to be monitored quarterly for a year and then twice a year there after. The waste decomposition process produces a gas and 45%-60% of the landfill gas is methane, 40%-60% is carbon dioxide. 2%-5% is nitrogen and 1% is oxygen. The rest is considered balanced gases. They have gas probes placed around the perimeter of the landfill to make sure that there isn't any gas that leaves the site. The gas goes to a flare. They have 2 types, a candlestick flare and a closed flare. Oklahoma no longer has a closed flare. Each well is monitored either once or twice per month. Ultimately the water exits into the Stormwater system. They also have retention ponds to settle out solids in the water. They also have disease back up controls to assist in air quality. The biggest concern that they have is birds so they have what is called Bird Deprivation Permits with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This permit allows them to go in and manage the birds in various ways. They also have a contract with the Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife that helps them with that. At the end of every day they have to cover the trash with a minimum of 6 inches of soil. There is an alternate daily cover which has to have the approval of the state and you have to have the ability to prove that you won't have any disease vectors, such as birds. Basically some kind of barrier that covers the trash that will prevent any disease vectors from happening. If no one is there over 24 hours then there is an intermediate cover option which requires an additional 12 inches of soil, basically over the weekend when they are closed. Then there is final cover. When we are closing a section of the landfill indefinitely, we would build a 24-inch barrier layer and then a 12-inch erosion layer. The bottom 2 feet of the waste disposal floor is clay which has to be compacted. Over that they put in an HDPE plastic, then a geo textile, and then sand that allows water to flow through it. Spring asked if anyone had any questions. Croft asked if they have some way of spreading the mix of gases that were mentioned. Spring explained that the flare is what burns off the gases. Evans explained that would be more of the energy project and that would be a different conversation but that they have a plant that takes all the methane off the hill. It comes in pressured and they get all the water off of it. Pretty much pull everything off of it and push it down the line. They then put it in a natural gas mound about a mile away. It ends up getting transported to the west coast and they are able to get money off of that. Evans pulls out a map of the landfill and shows everyone where things are located and the flow. They do have to do a decontamination of select waste that comes in. They also aerate it by forcing air through the pipes or by turning it. The pipes are perforated and covered by the compost. All this is to accelerate the decomposition.

Item No. 5 being:

**DISCUSS/APPROVE A “VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR” AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Heins handed it over to Loudenback to show them the ideas that she had. She explains that one is more of a check box approach and the other is more of a fill in the blank style of form. She asks the board what direction they are more interested in going? Loudenback said that they can add any additional requirements that they would like and that they were just some samples for them to look at. Vollmar said that he likes the check box approach better because he finds that with the fill in the blank option, people would actually write less. Plus, how many would be submitted electronically; they would have some restricted space with filling it out. Phillips said that she was going to say something very similar. The fillable form is great for people who want to fill it out on their computer and if they prefer to write then they can print it out. Fillable seems easier and more people would possibly do it this way opposed to the other. DeKalb-Myers likes that they would be able to tell us whatever they want. Loudenback said that she was thinking that they could choose what direction they wanted to go, create a form that they liked and revisit it at the next meeting for approval with an actual form. Heins agreed and asked if anyone was interested in taking it on and draft up a document for them to work with. Heins suggested Vollmar and Vollmar said yes, he thinks he can do it. Loudenback will send him the document. Heins asked if he had any questions for this quest. Vollmar said that he would sit down and piece it together and ask questions as he goes, once he has enough to work with. Loudenback mentioned that they had discussed presenting it on stage at Earth Day. DeKalb-Myers also reminded everyone that it was discussed that they would evaluate the nominees in the February meeting since the March meeting is busy with the poster contest. Being that everyone agreed to revisit this in the next meeting, no vote was taken.

Item No. 6 being:

**DISCUSS UPCOMING TRAINING AND DETAILS OF THE YARD BY YARD PROGRAM**

Loudenback spoke with Mink and he is coming to the October meeting and he will perform training for them and that the goal is to pass it on to ECAB and they will be the ones to go out and certify and handle it from there. He has been updating all of the Yard by Yard material and he will bring it on a thumb drive in October. He did get Cretsinger's initial application finally and asks that they go ahead and certify her yard and then use a different application to possibly be the standardized training when he comes back in the Spring. That being said, there is a class room element and a field element to the training. She also reminded them that when they receive the materials they can modify them to fit ECAB with logos or whatever else they would like.

Item No. 7 being:

**DISCUSS/APPROVE COMPOSTING UTILITY BILL INSERT**

Croft pulled up the insert that she created to show everyone. Everyone agreed that they love it.

Vollmar made a motion to approve the insert. DeKalb-Myers seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS     Dane Heins (Chair)  
             Courtney DeKalb-Myers (Vice Chair)

Lainey Phillips  
Robert Vollmar  
Jim Griffith

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Item No. 8 being:

**DISCUSS/APPROVE 2022 ARTFUL INLETS INSTALLATION AND POSSIBLE ECAB INVOLVEMENT**

Artful Inlets is a program that started in Stormwater which is a way for artists to put out beautiful artwork that has an educational piece to it. It's a great way to coordinate with the Public Arts Board and the Norman Arts Council. This year it will be at Lions Park and the sidewalks will be the canvas. Before Loudenback left Stormwater they had a meeting and they discussed an educational rotation of tables and thought that maybe ECAB would be interested in it and they could discuss whatever they would like to educate people with. Heins said he thought it would be a good idea and to bring it to the board. Williams wanted to emphasize that this year would be the 4<sup>th</sup> year to do this and it is obviously great for the artistic community because it is a good way to get the artists involved in projects like this. She thinks it is more fascinating to see how much feedback they have received from people and that there is something intriguing about seeing the artwork created in person and people can actually ask the artists questions. Then there is the message. People have used art to get their messages out for century's. She believes that once the people show up for the art work and they are interested, that is the hook and from their they would learn more about the composting, recycling or whatever they want to put out there. It is interesting to see how many people out there don't actually know what isn't supposed to be put down the drain. DeKalb-Myers questioned the dates for it and Loudenback said that she was hoping it would be Friday and Saturday of the event but that the stations would take place on Saturday. They have also had other cities interested in how they do this project. Heins asked what ECAB's involvement would look like. Vollmar stated that it could be a natural extension to educate people with the things that they have already done the previous year; composting, recycling, waters worth it. This would be the easier way since they have already put the time and effort into it and it would take more time to come up with extra educational material rather quickly. Heins agreed and stated that he thinks that it might be a matter of, between now and then taking some of the other things that they have worked on that they don't have the same level of educational material on and flush that out a bit so they have a multitude of topics to educate them on. It was agreed that they would discuss the details of ECAB's involvement in next month's meeting.

DeKalb-Myers made a motion to approve ECAB's involvement. Phillips seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Dane Heins (Chair)  
Courtney DeKalb-Myers (Vice Chair)  
Lainey Phillips  
Robert Vollmar  
Jim Griffith

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Item No. 9 being:

### **MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Loudenback mentioned the tabling event October 1st and that they do not have to be there to man it. They can leave it up for the weekend and come back on Monday. Loudenback said that she would work from set up till 12:45. Myers said that she will be there and can take over at that time. Loudenback talked about Day Without Water where everyone realizes what it would be like to spend one day without water and that it is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. She said it could be something to consider and discuss. Heins asked what their potential involvement would be with something like this. Loudenback explained that they had suggested something similar to what they did with Waters Worth It. They did an ad, they did some posters and they did the proclamation. So, promotional material and then doing a proclamation and that she can send what their proclamation looks like so they can look at it and get an idea. Heins asked what everyone's thoughts were and Vollmar stated that the only downside that he sees is that there is no time to put it together. Loudenback said that they could look at it and revisit it next year. Vollmar really likes the idea of the program and they if there is a lesser degree of involvement where they can at least show their support such as forwarding a request to the city's social media manager where they would direct people to a broader website that has their information. Loudenback said that she could draft an email if they wanted to do that. Heins said, yes, sure he would be interested in doing that and thinks it is a cool idea. Loudenback will discuss it further with Heins via email. Loudenback wanted to let everyone know that she took the posters and brochures around for distribution but had no luck getting them up at places so she gave the extras to Heins. Heins thanked Loudenback for distributing them.

Item No. 10 being:

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

Item No. 11 being:

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Passed and approved this 29 day of Oct 2021.

*Dane Heins*

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Chair, Dane Heins