

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF August 15, 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 Study Session Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on August 15, 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	Amanda Nairn (Chair) Zac Abbott Darren Alexander Linda Goeringer James Harp (left at 6:45) Odette Horton Aaron Pilat Charles Sever
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MEMBERS ABSENT	Holly Armstrong
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Debbie Smith, Environmental Svcs. Coordinator Charlie Thomas, Cap. Projects Engineer
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Item No. 2 being:

#### INTRODUCE GUESTS

GUESTS PRESENT	Mark Campbell
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Item No. 3 being:

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2012 MEETING

Amanda Nairn asked if there were any corrections to the May 16, 2012 minutes. There being none Charles Sever made a motion to approve the May 16, 2012 minutes. Aaron Pilat seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn (Chair) Zac Abbott Darren Alexander Linda Goeringer James Harp Odette Horton Aaron Pilat Charles Sever
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

#### **INTRODUCE NEW ECAB MEMBER ODETTE HORTON**

All ECAB members introduced themselves. James Harp – Executive Vice President of Republic Bank; Debbie Smith – Environmental Services Coordinator for the City of Norman; Charlie Thomas-Capital Projects Engineer for the City of Norman; Charles Sever – retired from the EPA; Linda Goeringer-University of Oklahoma Academic Counselor; Amanda Nairn – community volunteer and environmental educator; Zac Abbott – works in Leadership Development for the Chickasaw Nation; Odette Horton – works in Film and Media Studies at the University of Oklahoma; Aaron Pilat – Architect; and Darren Alexander – Environmental Health and Safety Officer for the University of Oklahoma.

*(Zac Abbott was appointed to the Board after the agenda was published. He was introduced as a new member also.)*

Item No. 5 being:

#### **ELECT VICE-CHAIR**

James Greer was the Vice-Chair and he has resigned. A new Vice-Chair needs to be elected to fill the remainder of this term which ends in December 2012. Amanda Nairn asked if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair or if anyone was interested. Darren Alexander nominated Linda Goeringer for Vice-Chair. Odette Horton seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn (Chair) Zac Abbott Darren Alexander Linda Goeringer James Harp Odette Horton Aaron Pilat Charles Sever
NAYS	None

The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Item No. 6 being:

#### **DISCUSS FERTILIZER PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Nairn asked if the Board had received the update she sent out a couple of weeks ago (attached). The email gave an overview of some of the Board projects that came to fruition over the summer. The fertilizer survey developed by ECAB will be on the City's website soon and Aaron Milligan, Stormwater Specialist, will be sending out utility bill inserts informing citizens about the survey and directing them to the website. Nairn told the new members that ECAB developed a fertilizer brochure that educates citizens on the proper use of fertilizer. She wanted to know if anyone was willing to go to retail stores to see if they would distribute the brochures or put them in their fertilizer section. Horton said she was willing to do this. Smith said she has brochures in her office and will make them available when she is ready for them. Sever stated that the Mayor asked the Board to find ordinances that might be suitable. He has several to share. Nairn stated

she doesn't want to recommend ordinances. Developing an ordinance should be the Council's decision but it is good to have these in case the Council would like them in the future. Goeringer said the citizens need to be educated. Pilat talked to landscape companies as part of his involvement with the Chamber's Greenovation Committee. He asked the companies if there was a ban on phosphate, would it affect their business. He was told it wouldn't make a difference. Some of the local businesses were already phasing out phosphates. Harp mentioned that only a small percentage of Norman's residential area drains into Lake Thunderbird. Most Board members agreed that education was the best tool. Campbell asked if a workshop, similar to the rainbarrel workshop, could be held to test soil for phosphates. Smith and Nairn will check on lab requirements to test the soil. Harp suggested inviting someone to the next meeting to explain fertilizers. Tracy Peyton from the extension office will be contacted to see if she could come. One of the other items mentioned in the email from Nairn was to put "snippets" in the newspaper about fertilizer usage and water conservation. Nairn will put those together. In addition to these educational efforts, the Board will discuss conducting a conservation poster contest for elementary students at the next meeting. Nairn will bring the information that was used at the conservation contest that ECAB had two years ago. Sever provided Smith with some manuals on an Outreach Campaign and she will bring them for distribution next meeting.

Item No. 7 being:

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

ECAB submitted a proclamation to Council to recognize July as "Water's Worth It" month (attached). The Council adopted this at the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 council meeting. Nairn suggested doing this annually. Smith mentioned plans are underway for another rainbarrel workshop. Jed Boersma, Recycle America, hopes to have barrels soon to donate to Norman. Campbell suggested having a site on the website where people could post their rainbarrel pictures. Nairn said that a lot of effort from the Board has been on fertilizer education and she would like to increase efforts on water conservation. Thomas stated that Norman has reduced their unit consumption; citizens are beginning to conserve water. Sever mentioned that information is available on how to conserve water but the problem is relaying that information to the public. Nairn would like everyone to jot down some ideas regarding how to educate and at the next meeting a list can be made.

Item No. 8 being:

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Development Block Grant Committee (C. Sever and L. Goeringer) – Linda Goeringer resigned from this committee since she was elected Vice-Chair. Alexander will replace her.

Item No. 9 being:

#### **MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Nairn will contact Sean Rieger, Attorney with the Builder's Association. She was told that they were more than willing to educate homeowners about fertilizer use. Since she did not have this conversation with Rieger, she will contact him and follow-up on this.

Item No. 10 being:

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mark Campbell mentioned that several years ago ECAB purchased indoor water conservation kits for residents as part of the water conservation program. Campbell suggested passing out the

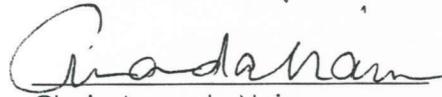
water conservation kits through the police department's crime-free housing program. Smith will bring one to show the Board at the next meeting.

Item No. 11 being:

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Passed and approved this 14 day of Sept 2012.

  
Chair, Amanda Nairn