

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF February 20, 2013

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 February 20, 2013 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) Linda Goeringer (Vice Chair) Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong James Harp (left at 6:40) Odette Horton
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MEMBERS ABSENT	Zac Abbott Aaron Pilat Charles Sever
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Debbie Smith, Environmental Svcs. Coordinator Charlie Thomas, Cap. Projects Engineer Ken Komiske, Utilities Director
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Item No. 2 being:

#### INTRODUCE GUESTS

GUESTS PRESENT	none
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Item No. 3 being:

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2013 MEETING

Amanda Nairn asked if there were any corrections to the January 16, 2013 minutes. There being none James Harp made a motion to approve the January 16, 2013 minutes. Odette Horton seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn Linda Goeringer Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong James Harp Odette Horton
NAYS	None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

### **DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION**

Nairn explained to Ken Komiske that ECAB's goals were to help with water conservation public education and that is why he was invited to the meeting. ECAB wants to work with the Utilities Department and help him. Ken Komiske gave a presentation about Norman's water supply. The presentation began with the average rainfall over the last 100 years. Norman is in the third year of a drought and has not been in a drought like this for over 30 years. Lake Thunderbird is the main source of Norman's potable water supply and is managed by Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD). The lake level at Thunderbird is in the conservation pool. Because of the low level of the lake, the district manager of COMCD sent a letter to Norman stating they needed to reduce consumption of lake water by 10%. This is the first time Norman has had to conserve water in the winter. Mandatory conservation usually occurs because of water demand. The Water Conservation Plan was first created in 2001. It was updated in 2006 and 2011. There are three different water conservation stages. Stage one is voluntary and the goal is to increase public awareness. Stage two is what we are currently in. Horton asked Komiske if the Board could give suggestions to him for businesses to conserve water. Some restaurants have table cards that state they will bring water to the table only if requested. He thought it would be helpful if ECAB created these for restaurants and distributed them somehow. Armstrong mentioned the stage two goals are mainly summertime goals. She wanted to know if the conservation plan should be revised to include wintertime conservation tips. Komiske thought this was a good idea. He stated that when you look at water usage data during stage two conservation, it shows a definite drop in usage during these days. This shows that Norman residents do a great job when asked to conserve. Since the conservation plan was adopted by Council, to change it requires it to go back to Council for a vote. Sixty-six percent of Norman's water is from Lake Thunderbird. A 10% reduction would require each individual to reduce their water by 5 gallons a day. Norman also has a new gray water ordinance that can help with reducing potable water usage but it is harder to retrofit an older home than it is to incorporate in a new home. Komiske said Norman recently met with COMCD and the City of Del City and developed a five-year contract to buy some of Del City's allocation from Lake Thunderbird. This will go forward to Council at the next Council meeting. The contract allows the City of Norman to purchase 300 million gallons of water from the City of Del City with a possibility of purchasing up to 500 million gallons annually with the contingency that the City of Del City does not need it. It is a lease; Del City maintains the water rights. This water would cost \$0.33 per 1000 gallons but would not be bought until Norman has reached its allocation. Norman has three sources of water; wells, Lake Thunderbird and Oklahoma City. Norman usually only buys water from Oklahoma City in the summer during peak demands. Currently, Oklahoma City will not sell water to Norman because of the drought and it is unsure if that will change in the near future. Nairn asked if it would be beneficial to go to stage three now. Komiske said some Council members suggested going to stage three now because we do not know what is going to happen in the future. Other Council members think we should wait since most rain occurs in May and June. The Board members were in favor of going ahead and starting stage three to be proactive. It would be better to be prepared then to not start it and have a serious problem in the summer. Komiske said there are several options being evaluated for Norman's long-term water supply and invited the Board members to come to the Strategic Supply Plan public meetings. Nairn asked if it would be helpful to write a letter to the Mayor and Council recommending implementing stage three. Komiske thought it would be if they explained it would be better to start now instead of waiting until later. He thought the public education aspect discussed earlier regarding the table cards for restaurants would also be a good idea. Nairn said they would send him a copy of letter before it goes to the Mayor and Council. Armstrong asked if he could send a copy of the presentation to the Board. He will send it to Smith so she can distribute it. Nairn wanted to know, before we talked to businesses, if an informational handout was needed. Smith thought a fact sheet should

be created first and it could be taken with the table cards to restaurants. Smith said she would work on this. Armstrong will draft the letter. Armstrong made a motion that the Board write a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding going to stage three water conservation as soon as possible. Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn Linda Goeringer Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong James Harp Odette Horton
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 5 being:

#### **PLAN POSTER CONTEST**

Goeringer will send a reminder letter to the schools. Nairn said if we don't receive many posters it would be possible to extend the February 28 deadline as long as they were available for judging at the meeting in March. Nairn made a motion to extend the deadline of the poster contest if only a few posters had been received by February 26 with the deadline to be determined by Goeringer and Horton. Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn Linda Goeringer Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong James Harp Odette Horton
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 6 being:

#### **UPDATE ON FERTILIZER ORDINANCE**

Nairn mentioned the second reading of the fertilizer ordinance is on the City Council agenda next Tuesday at 6:30.

Item No. 7 being:

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Development Block Grant Committee (CDBG) – (C. Sever and D. Alexander) – no report

Item No. 8 being:

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

None

Item No. 9 being:

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

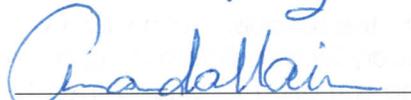
None

Item No. 10 being:

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Passed and approved this 15 day of May 2013.

  
Chair, Amanda Nairn