



CITY OF NORMAN, OK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Development Center, Conference Room, 225 N. Webster Avenue, Norman,
OK 73069

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The Environmental Control Advisory Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Utilities Conference Room at the Development Center, on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, Development center at 225 N. Webster, and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Board member Deborah Cretsinger
Board member Inger Giuffrida
Board member Bob Nairn
Board member Sara Bondy
Board member Debbie Smith
Board Member Todd Howery

ABSENT

Chairman Lainey Phillips
Vice Chair Nathalie Rocher
Board Member Eileen Grzybowski

INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF

Jerry Gates, Environmental Services Assistant Manager

Michele Loudonback, Environmental & Sustainability Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE June 17, 2026 MEETING

Motion made by Board member Cretsinger, Seconded by Board member Nairn.

Voting Yea: Board member Cretsinger, Board member Giuffrida, Board member Nairn, Board member Bondy, Board member Smith, Board Member Howery

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION OF FY 27 GUEST SPEAKERS

Wetlands Expert - Chris Allen, discussion would likely have to be virtual

OU Sustainability Director - Sarah Ballew - Nairn and Loudenback met with Sarah, she will be a good tie in for the group especially if they are wanting to work more closely with what the university is trying to do when it comes to the initiatives.

Forester on UFMP - Colin Zink - will be contacted to speak at the September meeting. Cretsinger stated that she did talk with him and that they are frustrated because nothing is moving forward due to funding issues. Need more staffing in the forestry division. Colin mentioned looking into OU interns to help assist him; try to figure out how to get volunteers. The other option is to advertise that they are hiring interns. Loudenback stated that the federal US foresters just opened up a grant for helping urban forestry programs. It was discussed that they might also look into using work study students as the school will pay a percentage and it is a simple application process. Inger will get this info to Loudenback. Colin will visit with the group next month and discuss everything in further detail.

Smith suggested Having Brandon come back to discuss solid waste, recycling and composting with the group. Loudenback informed the group that in November they are planning to do a tour of the gas recovery at the landfill the city currently uses. She will keep the group updated. Would like to discuss audits again or how to reduce contamination and how to expand the materials they currently accept.

ACTION ITEMS

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO RESEARCH LIGHTING BEST PRACTICES AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion to create a subcommittee to research best practices and provide recommendations on lighting within the City of Norman and create a possible ordinance made by Board member Giuffrida, Seconded by Board member Bondy. Voting Yea: Board member Cretsinger, Board member Giuffrida, Board member Nairn, Board member Bondy, Board member Smith, Board Member Howery

3. APPROVAL TO HOST A BOOTH AT MONARCHS IN THE PARK

Discussion: September 27th is the MIP festival at Ruby Grant. It will kick off with a 5K and fun run which starts at 9 and will end coming into the festival at 11 am. They will also be tagging Monarch's at the event and releasing them at the end. Booth will need to be hosted from 11am - 4 pm. Discussion of doing seed bombs for their activity. Money will be allocated for the prizes for the waters worth it poster contest. Bio survey has free posters they may be able to supply enough for the event. Cretsinger and Smith will host the table at the event.

Motion made to host a table and do seed bombs by Board member Smith, Seconded by Board member Cretsinger.

Voting Yea: Board member Cretsinger, Board member Giuffrida, Board member Nairn, Board member Bondy, Board member Smith, Board Member Howery

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Loudenback is developing a brand new program, cross connection control which is a way to protect the distribution system from backflow or back pressure at a home. The program will be focusing on commercial first. It was suggested to have JD come and talk to the group in regards to this program. They have found out that with the new smart meters is they know if a backflow is occurring and when or where it is occurring. They are currently working with legal to implement the whole program, including an ordinance which will allow fines to be implemented. They are looking into grant funding to fix some residential issues that may have occurred due to dual checks that went in and have failed or are no longer working because they were not properly maintained.

Howery did a great job accepting the waters worth it proclamation.

Helen Grant is interested in some of the stuff ECAB does, including the MCPA and how they can do more across the city.

Cretsinger spoke with the mayor and he understands that Colin needs help and money but there is nothing he can do about it right now. He did not rush them and seemed interested in what they had to say. It will ultimately be up to ECAB to assist with Colin. Work study groups/students. According to the US Department of Education, work study students can work for federal, state, and local government agencies as long as the work benefits the public. Colin has been working with Loudenback to do more education events and items in collaboration with her department.

Smith stated her concern in regards to the water hauling challenge they did at Earth Day. It was discussed that they would do it next year but it will be on the schedule at a specific time. Would like to possibly get the schedule sent out via social media in the near future if possible. Cretsinger stated that she could not hear the announcements coming off the stage. There were roughly 2700 cell phone hits in the area the day of the event.

Bondy got a few comments from the invasive species removal event, Trail Days. One idea presented was an invasive program similar to Clean Neighborhood as well as developing a swale technical assistance program.

Smith asked about the substation that is being built. Loudenback stated that the site is essentially in compliance with regulations and there really isn't a lot, legally, that the City could do. She confirmed that the runoff is going to Lake Thunderbird. They were concerned about the pesticides and/or herbicides being sprayed around it.

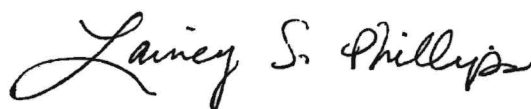
Tribal lands, environmental forum is a broad based national conference that is happening at OKANA in August and Nairn was asked to speak. He will be giving a tour and Giuffrida is the closing keynote. She stated that this would be a good partnership for the city.

The Great Plains Stonewater Conference is coming up as well as OKRA

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT



TIME: 6:35 PM