

MINUTES

LANE REGIONAL AIR PROTECTION AGENCY
THURSDAY MARCH 9th, 2017
EWEB Building - 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene, OR
97401 - meeting room in the North Building

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Jeannine Parisi, Chair - Eugene; Jay Bozievich, Vice Chair- Lane County; Bill Carpenter - Springfield; Sean VanGordon-Springfield; Betty Taylor-Eugene; Scott Lucas-Eugene; Joseph Gonzales-Eugene; Mike Fleck - Cottage Grove; Jim Coey – Oakridge

Budget Committee: Chuck Gottfried; Michael Herron; Ronald Patton; Maurie Denner; Marianne Dugan; Randy Hledik; Tom Musselwhite

Staff: Merlyn Hough-Director; Debby Wineinger; Nasser Mirhosseyni; Max Hueftle; Colleen Wagstaff; John Morrissey; Lance Giles; Jo Niehaus; Sarah Craig; Beth Davis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1. **OPENING:** Parisi called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
4. **ACTION ITEM:** Appointments – New Budget Committee Members:

Cottage Grove and Oakridge Budget Committee Members will be vacant this year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

1. **OPENING:** 11:07 a.m.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS:**
3. **ACTION ITEM:** Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016

MOTION: Carpenter **MOVED** to appoint Marianne Dugan as Budget Committee Chair. Fleck **SECONDED THE MOTION**. Fleck **MOVED** to appoint Maurie Denner as Vice Chair. Lucas **SECONDED THE MOTION**. **VOTE ON MOTIONS: UNANIMOUS**

4. **INFORMATION ITEM:** Presentation of Draft FY 2017/18 Budget Document

Mirhosseyni submitted the affidavit of publication to the records for the budget document.

Mirhosseyni presented the Draft FY 2017/18 Budget Document.

Coey asked why the FTE would need to be increased. **Hough** explained that the Resources and Projects committee identified some of the work we are not currently able to do. If we have the 10% increase in local dues, & permit fees that has been requested, that will allow us to consider working on some of the highest priority items. **Coey** said he has issues with it, he has been in Salem trying to fight for money to solve Oakridge's problems. We have had some help from LRAPA, and a lot of smoke and mirrors. We reached attainment for the first time ever last year. He sees employee costs as something that takes away from implementing projects. He has been to the state and there is all this language, but we have no money. **Hough** said he would make the case that staff are the ones implementing the projects. **Coey** said there is no money for the projects, so what is the point of implementing projects. **Hough** added that part of the FTE was a pass-thru for helping Oakridge with funding on an on-going basis. Currently we have been borrowing from other LRAPA funds to help with the compliance/code enforcement officer in Oakridge. That is a critical function, but involves people.

Gonzales commented that qualified employees are necessary to run programs. And he wondered what Jim Coey meant about "smoke and mirrors" with Oakridge. **Coey** said in the last 2 years they have been dealing with a multi decade problem. With \$50,000 and a lot of help from volunteers, and partners. To him that is "smoke and mirrors" when Oakridge is considered the worst community in the entire state of Oregon for a problem, according to everyone he hears from is an increasing problem statewide. Lakeview which is half the size of Oakridge received \$750,000.00 to correct their problems. Oakridge gets \$11,000 from LRAPA for the last 2 years to help pay for a code enforcement officer. One of the main reason we have gotten out of this is because Lane Electric installed 48 Ductless Heat pumps last year. The understanding at the statewide level is that it is income or cultural based. We have proven it's about cultural, not low income. We have been able to correct a problem that has no solution, even the legislators have said when are we coming up with something other than wood stove change outs. We did this in the last two years without one

change out. The stove change outs in 2009 didn't change the number, the number went up. To him, this agency (LRAPA) is about improving the problem, not adding employees. There is no money at the state level, so how do we fix the problem? By putting money in the hand of the people that can fix the problem. So, that is what he considers "smoke and mirrors". **Gonzales** said there are a lot of programs going on in Oakridge, along with the efforts from other partners. He understands what Coey is saying, and appreciates his comments. There is a purpose for LRAPA and we enforce that.

Fleck asked for clarification, he is seeing the same numbers for staffing, are we proposing increased staff in this budget? **Mirhosseyeni** replied no, if funding increases there might be an opportunity to increase staff where it is needed most. **Parisi** said if additional resources beyond the budget projection become available, the board would discuss where to allocate the funds. But, it is not part of this budget.

Carpenter wanted to clarify something spoken about on previous slides. Where **Mirhosseyeni** stated that the 10% increase was for the three largest partner entities, and that is correct. But the reason for the increase is because they have not kept up their historic share, and we are trying to catch up for that. **Mirhosseyeni** said that was a good point.

Dugan asked if anyone knew how it would affect funding with the new administration. **Hough** said we don't know anything at this point.

Mirhosseyeni said they are introducing something new with this budget presentation. The department heads will give a short overview on the departments they head up.

- **Max Hueftle**
Overview permitting department

Patton asked if the facilities paid dues based on the amount of pollution they emit. **Hueftle** said it is somewhat related to that. There are seven different permit categories that escalate into complexity. **Patton** asked if these permit fees go directly to LRAPA. **Hueftle** said that was correct. **Patton** wanted to know why the violation fees go directly to the state. **Hueftle** said the penalty (violation fees) money go to the county general fund. The intent is to avoid any conflict of interest, so LRAPA doesn't write tickets just to fund itself.

Gottfried asked if there was a FTE allocated to air toxics. **Hueftle** said it isn't called out in the budget, it's part of the air contaminant discharge permit, and Title V.

- **Merlyn Hough**
Overview Support Services
- **John Morrissey**
Overview Compliance and Enforcement

There was an example of an open burn that was done for land clearing. **Patton** asked if this was something the Seneca Power Plant could have used as material. **Morrissey** said they could have,

but they want to have more control over the material they bring in. And it is a lot more money to have the material chipped.

Fleck noted that there were only 10 minutes left on the agenda to cover the budget, and he said we haven't even discussed the budget yet. We may want to adjust the agenda.

MOTION: Parisi MOVED to extend the agenda for the budget by 10 minutes. Bozievich SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE ON MOTIONS: UNANIMOUS

- **Lance Giles**
Overview monitoring department

- **Jo Niehaus**
Overview public education department

- **Nasser Mirhosseyni – Airmetrics**
Overview Airmetrics Enterprise

Parisi asked Mirhosseyni to just walk through the high-level budget summary, what's different and why?

Parisi asked about page 11, Title V – what is the difference between the 2016/17 budgeted \$531,000 and proposed \$375,000 by budget officer for the beginning fund balance. **Mirhosseyni** explained that during FY'17 there were not the same number of TV facilities operating as when the FY'17 budget was proposed resulting in reduced fees.

Carpenter asked about page 21, LRAPA benefit plan – you are projecting a \$20,000 decrease from what was budgeted. But you have carried over the full amount into the following year.

Mirhosseyni said one of the staff retired that didn't receive benefits, and we gained a staff that does receive benefits. In addition, the projection reflects the 5% increase in the cost of the plan by the provider.

Dugan asked where the multi-purpose grant was in the revenues. **Mirhosseyni** said the funding was budgeted in the line item for PM2.5 monitoring grant and pass-thru.

Parisi asked about the \$129,000 for air toxics, we have been setting aside \$40,000 in reserves to help build the budget to pay for it. **Mirhosseyni** said that was correct, it is divided into two fiscal years 2020/2021. **Parisi** said she didn't understand why the expenditure shows up in 2017/2018.

Hough said the increase in lab fees is one-time funding for follow-up for a special study on the Naphthalene and other discrepancies noted in the 2015 work. And to consider the moss and other innovated techniques.

VanGordon asked if the LRAPA benefit plan listed was just health insurance. **Mirhosseyni** said yes, health, dental, and vision. **VanGordon** wanted to know if LRAPA sourced other carriers for

better plans. **Mirhosseyni** said we have, our current carrier CIS serves about 500 members throughout Oregon. We can be included in the larger pool of members, which is better than what we could get on our own.

VanGordon also asked about materials & services and the \$40,000 budgeted for computer supplies. **Mirhosseyni** said we are working with LCOG on a new database “TRAACS”. And the increase will account for the additional support servers LCOG will provide to LRAPA.

Dugan noted that the meeting was running over allotted time, she asked if they wanted another 5-minute extension on time. **Fleck** said there was no way they would be able to scratch the surface in 5 minutes.

Lucas wanted to note that he thought the budget was hard to read. He would like to see comas used in the numbering. And he also would like to see a variance column, so you can easily see if the amount has gone up or down. Instead of having to do the math in your head. This is typically seen in budget documents. **Mirhosseyni** said this is the format that the budget is published, and as an official document. And this year we sent the budget out in advance for review, and he highlighted the significant increases. He will work on next year’s budget to at least present suggested format changes in the PowerPoint presentation.

Parisi asked between now and the next meeting in a document or PowerPoint highlight the main variances, that would be very helpful.

Everyone was encouraged to email their questions to Nasser Mirhosseyni nmirhosseyni@lrapa.org And he will broadcast replies each Friday.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m. The next meeting of the LRAPA Budget Committee is scheduled for Thursday April 20, 2016, 11:00 a.m. location:

Springfield City Hall, Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth St., Springfield, OR 97477

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Wineinger
Recording Secretary