

**MINUTES**  
**LANE REGIONAL AIR PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

THURSDAY JANUARY 9, 2020  
1010 MAIN ST, SPRINGFIELD, OR 97477

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board:** Mike Fleck - Chair - Cottage Grove; Joe Pishioneri – Vice Chair – Springfield; Mysti Frost - Eugene; Betty Taylor – Eugene; Jeannine Parisi – Eugene; Joe Berney – Lane County; Gabrielle Guidero – Springfield

**Absent:** Charlie Hanna – Eugene; Kathy Nichols – Oakridge

**Staff:** Merlyn Hough–Director; Debby Wineinger; Nasser Mirhosseyni; Max Hueftle; Beth Erickson; Kelly Conlon

**Others:** Jim Daniels – CAC Chair; Kathy Lamberg – CAC Member; Josh Proudfoot – Good Company

**OPENING:** Fleck called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None**
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Howard Saxion – Eugene:**

Mr. Saxion is a resident of Eugene, representing himself. For background he currently serves as an at-large member on City of Eugene’s Sustainability Commission. He is a retired environmental professional. He and Merlyn Hough were on the International Board of Directors for Air & Waste Management Association. He is not speaking on behalf of the commission. They also have public comments during their meetings and there has been a lot of increased interest on air quality issues by the public, especially on particulate matter and air toxics. The commission formed a committee and we are in the process of getting ourselves educated on local issues. We are an advisory committee to the City Council and City Manager. As an outcome, we may have some recommendations to present to the City Council that would be forwarded to LRAPA.

Saxion is particularly concerned about LRAPA's budget and he knows local government is always strapped for money. He thinks there is no more important role of government than protecting public health, welfare, and the environment. LRAPA has suffered from significant budget cuts from historical levels. He knows for some communities, even the current allocation is a challenge. But he thinks the agency is woefully underfunded. Fifty cents per capita is a pittance to the role of LRAPA and the importance that it has. He hopes in the future the LRAPA Board would be a little more aggressive working with government partners to look at increasing the allocation and provide the funding that LRAPA needs to do its job to protect our public health.

**Ralph McDonald-Eugene:**

Mr. McDonald volunteers with Howard Saxion on the City of Eugene's Sustainability Commission, in particular, with the air quality committee. He is a resident in Betty Taylor's ward in South Eugene and is also Chair of the Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association. He is speaking today as an individual. The commission and neighborhood association both have fielded a lot of concerns about the air quality in Eugene. He noted that the Statesmen Journal in April 2018 found Eugene one of the top worst in the nation for air quality short-term crisis spikes. He understands the high spikes were from a forest fire, not necessarily from cars and exhaust. Of the areas' industries, home wood heating, vehicle exhaust, and forest fires, we are particularly concerned about industrial air pollution. The Trainsong/Roosevelt neighborhood in West Eugene has had record asthma conditions from industrial pollutants and carcinogens that are in the air in that area. He understands LRAPA has been working with the Federal Government to try and address some of the issues. We would like to see that taken beyond just public relations. He knows LRAPA gets some funding from industries, and has to be careful, but LRAPA also serves the public. Eugene wants to see the air quality improve. As far as forest fires, Australia is a game changer, we don't want to become an "Australia" so that means you have to think outside the box and think about the forests around Eugene. We should be lobbying at the state level to make sure there aren't big trees that are conducive to intense forest fires. There are questions of preemption and jurisdictional authority, but there is a requirement now to think outside the box if LRAPA is not to become irrelevant to what the citizens of Eugene are going to demand as far as improvement and safety. The South Hills in particular and the safety of their airshed.

**A. Comments on an Item on Today's Agenda**

**B. Comments on a Topic Not Included on Today's Agenda** (Note: This is an opportunity for the public to bring up unscheduled items. The board may not act at this time but, if it deems necessary, place such items on future agendas. Issues brought up under this agenda item are to be limited to three minutes' speaking time by the person raising the issue. If additional time is necessary, the item may be placed on a future agenda.)

**C. Comments from Board Members** (Note: This is an opportunity for Board Members to bring up unscheduled items regarding today's public comments, and/or written/electronic comments they have received. The board may not act now but, if it deems necessary place such items on future agendas.)

**Frost** wanted to thank Mr. Saxion and Mr. McDonald for coming in and speaking today. She also wanted to announce that she is no longer working for Beyond Toxics. She will be working with an immigration law office in Springfield. It does not affect her position with LRAPA and the Board. She will still be involved with Beyond Toxics and their events.

There is a community meeting hosted by Beyond Toxic in west Eugene at Peterson Barn, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Many community members will be coming together to speak about clean air. She will send an email invite; all public is welcome. She highly recommends that some members from LRAPA attend.

**Taylor** also wanted to thank Mr. Saxion and Mr. McDonald for coming in and speaking today. It would be great if people from the City of Eugene's Sustainability Commission came more often.

**Berney** agreed with Mysti Frost and Betty Taylor and he likes Mr. McDonald's phrase about thinking outside the box. He asked Mysti Frost if she could report back to the Board on the meeting for those who are unable to make it.

**Fleck** wanted to point out that the businesses that pay LRAPA are permitted, and it is a fee and not something they are doing out of generosity. There is no impact on our decision-making process. We are happy to take input from all sides of the fence. We are here to do what is best for the community. Fleck was concerned about the editorial from Lisa Arkin with Beyond Toxics and how they speak about the permitting process and air quality. If we are going to have good conversations around air quality, we need to do it on a factual basis. He is concerned when information is skewed in any fashion. He represents the citizens of Cottage Grove on this Board, and he takes it seriously. He is not influenced one way or the other.

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **Consent Calendar:**

- A. Approval of Minutes of November and December 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
- B. Approval of Expense Reports for November 2019

**MOTION: Pishioneri MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar; Taylor  
SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE ON MOTION: UNANIMOUS**

#### **5. STATUS REPORT ON OAKRIDGE WOODSMOKE MITIGATION PROJECT:**

[VIEW REPORT HERE](#)

**Josh Proudfoot** presented the report. The Woodsmoke Mitigation project is completed, and The Targeted Airshed Grant is what they will be working on next.

He handed out an overview of the activities that they are going to deliver for the EPA Grant as the contracted woodsmoke coordinators. It is exciting and a real privilege for them to be working on this project. Anytime we can directly affect the health and well-being of citizens is a great thing.

**Berney** asked about the 3 million dollars for residential weatherization. He took the amount of money for this and divided by 145 homes and got twice what he thinks is the maximum per home. **Proudfoot** said there is a lot of management that goes in there and there is assessment and quality control. This is an enormous gift that comes with a lot of reporting and control work. At 145 households they have more money than most of the programs paid per household. For example, EPA allocated \$10,000.00 per household for weatherization, where the norm is about \$5,000.00. The fine print expands the other items such as heat pumps, pellet stoves, certified woodstoves and management. We are going to do more than 145 homes with this, but to petition the EPA for this grant money you have to commit to a certain number and how much per household. We know not every household is going to need \$10,000.00 of weatherization. We know some of those heat pumps will be paid for by Bonneville. When we do our assessment, we will say these parts can be handled by Lane Electric because they already have a program. We are going to try and take this as far as we possibly can. But for the neatness of it, there is about \$20,000.00 per household.

**Guidero** asked what the estimate on the number of homes that have a need and will apply. **Proudfoot** said there have been rolling applications for years. And there has been different criteria. There have been so many parties involved. There are 60 homes in the queue. There are probably 16 that need everything. But no one has been back to link all the piles together of everyone's activities. We are going to start with an existing list that hasn't been served in the known worst air quality areas. Then we will gather the other lists. We will ask for a simple application with just their name and what they want looked at in the home. The priority is worst air quality, lowest income, and have the most health impacts. There will also be people we will refer to other programs.

**Parisi** asked how they are addressing rentals versus a homeowner. **Proudfoot** said if it's a multi-family, two units then 50% of the units have to be low income for the whole building to be done. If it is one single rental with a low income family, we will be able to help them. What EPA wants is for the equipment to be set-up in Oakridge. So, it's okay if the ownership isn't low income but the beneficiary is low income. One thing he is trying to find out is are there rules that say you may not raise the rent if the place is updated. **Pishioneri** said under the new landlord/tenant laws you cannot kick them out for that reason. When that person moves out you can raise the rent accordingly.

**Proudfoot** explained the costs in the community firewood program. **Berney** said he admired the way they are leveraging a program for a long-term presence in the community. **Pishioneri** also thought it was impressive. **Berney** offered his assistance with coordinating meetings with the various resources for the program.

**Parisi** asked if the PurpleAir monitors would be part of the education piece for the program. **Proudfoot** said there will be, somewhere down the road. They want to take care of the urgent needs first.

**Proudfoot** said they are working with Oregon Health Authority and they are going to carry the lead on woodsmoke and wildfire data. It will be about hospitals and prescriptions, you will start to see the cause and effect in data, which hasn't been done. This project should be breaking paths

on a lot of fronts. We hope to create jobs, we obviously hope to ensure health. We are really trying to set a pattern the rest of the state can replicate. We are expecting to see 500% more wildfires in the next 25 years.

**Proudfoot** said he welcomes additional questions via email.

## **6. REVIEW MULTI-YEAR BUDGET FORECAST:**

Nasser Mirhosseyni presented the multi-year budget forecast.

**Berney** asked for clarification between “fund balance and reserve account.” His experience is that reserve accounts are dollars that can be invested. Do we invest those dollars? Mirhosseyni said they are in a state pool.

**Pishioneri** asked how many days of reserves does LRAPA have right now. **Mirhosseyni** said about 180 days.

## **7. APPROVE DUES REQUEST TO IGA PARTNERS FOR FY2021:**

**Hough** said during the November meeting the Board asked to come back with alternatives which are outlined on page 5 of the staff report. He also spoke about the background of the dues request as also outlined on the staff report.

**Parisi** asked about the option to increase local dues by population and CPI, and not include the additional 4% and she didn't see it as one of the alternatives.

**Mirhosseyni** said he was worried about setting a precedent for continuing at that same level. **Pishioneri** said noted, but the Board is in charge and they can determine next years' dues with recommendations. The Board has the authority, so he doesn't necessarily agree with that assessment. The Board sets the standards and the request each year. There are 60 extra days of reserves, the goal of the previous committee was for stabilization, and we are at that position. The Board needs to reevaluate for the agency, partners, constituents, and the taxpayers. He thinks LRAPA is doing a great job, but we need to show the dues payers how the money is being spent and collected. He doesn't think they can justify projected increases that were valid seven years ago. He agrees with what Jeannine Parisi asked about, population and CPI.

**Fleck** said he will vote no on the current motion, so he can also make a motion.

**Taylor** said there are things that LRAPA should be doing and they are not. They need more money. As far as a city budget this is not a huge item.

**Berney** said that the cities or county can always not approve the request. The risk is it if is so high, it somehow is found offensive. And we would lose support and funding.

**Frost** wanted to add that two members of the community came in today and suggested more funding for LRAPA. She hopes they can move forward and support the recommendation.

**Guidero** said unless there is a specific program showing funding needs, it is better to offer goodwill to our partners in the community by acknowledging the amount we have extra in our reserves.

**Berney** said he didn't see any high stakes here, it's an increase of about \$8,000.00 and he hopes the request doesn't offend or erode support.

**Fleck** said he remembers when we were going to meetings to speak about the value of the agency, because the major players had really pulled back. This isn't a decision that will make or break LRAPA, it is a goodwill gesture.

**Berney** said there was a similar discussion yesterday about the County's budget. Their budget is structurally balanced. But the Sheriff's Department is hemorrhaging. Taxation and Assessment is also hemorrhaging. What he is hearing is there is prevention work that could occur and that is where he is torn.

**Taylor** said the reason LRAPA had to go to the various agencies is because they hadn't stayed in touch. It is good for LRAPA to keep in touch with the various governmental bodies on a regular basis.

**MOTION: Taylor MOVED to proceed with the FY2021 local dues request consistent with the LRAPA Board's 10-year plan; Parisi SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE ON MOTION: 3 in favor – 4 opposed. Motion failed.**

**MOTION: Parisi MOVED to approve dues that increase the CPI and population WITHOUT the additional 4% increase for FY 2021; Pishioneri SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE ON MOTION: UNANIMOUS**

**8. AIR TOXICS UPDATE: COMPARISON OF LRAPA-DEQ MONITORING DATA WITH EPA MODELING DATA FROM THE NATIONAL EMISSION INVENTORY AND NATIONAL AIR TOXICS ASSESSMENT:**  
[VIEW REPORT HERE](#)

**Lance Giles** presented the air toxics monitoring update.

**9. ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Jim Daniels** said they met in November and had a discussion regarding the open seats on the committee. Recruitment will be ongoing for a while. John Morrissey gave a debrief on the J.H. Baxter investigation. Staff should be commended as it was quite an effort. They also had an impromptu meeting on the Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) call-out status. Future meeting ideas: Air Toxics update and permitting process.

**10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY ACTIVITIES IN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019:**

**Hough** announced due to time he would just ask if there were any questions regarding the two-month reporting.

**Taylor** asked about J.H. Baxter, they are still getting lots of complaints. Is anything going to be done? **Hough** said they are one of the sources on the call list for CAO. So, there is ongoing assessment on J.H. Baxter. **Parisi** asked if they were under an enforcement action? **Hough** said they were. **Taylor** wanted to know if they would be forced to close if they don't change. **Hough** said that is not a part of the enforcement action. Penalties for permit violations and assessment of their risk would be a more important part. Emissions, odors, and complaints have reduced, and a lot depends on future risks.

**Fleck** asked about the gasoline facilities that were listed on the enforcement report. **Hough** said they are working on them. They have resolved some. Kim Singleton was working on this before she left the agency. Other staff have been working on resolution for these with their schedules. Action should be happening soon.

#### **11. PREVIEW UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS ON BOARD AND COMMITTEES:**

**Hough** said this is for review prior to appointments during the February 2020 meeting.

#### **12. SUCCESSION PLANNING: Ongoing.**

**Parisi** requested a timeline be done for the February 2020 meeting.

#### **13. OLD BUSINESS: None**

#### **14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Pat Patterson memorial this Sunday, 2 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Armory.
- Springfield City Manager applicants meet-and-greet February 16<sup>th</sup> – 5 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Wineinger