



## AGENDA

### LRAPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) November 30, 2021

Start promptly at 12:00 noon, adjourn at 1:00 p.m. or earlier.

**Via ZOOM - meeting information:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88502781432>

**For Audio Only:**

Meeting ID: 885 0278 1432

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- I. Call to Order/Agenda Review (5 minutes – 12:00)**
- II. Public Participation (5 minutes – 12:05)**
- III. Board Meeting Overview (5 minutes – 12:10)**
- IV. Discussion: Gas Powered Tools (20 minutes – 12:15)**
- V. Round table (5 mins – 12:55)**
- VI. Adjournment 1:00 p.m.**

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**LRAPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CAC) Meeting Notes**



**LRAPA**  
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

**VIA ZOOM**

**November 30, 2021**

**Attending:** Jim Daniels (Chair), Kelly Wood (Vice Chair), Jeff Carman, Paul Metzler, Shane Ruddell, Terry Richardson, Jack Carter

**Absent:** Evelina Davidova

**Staff:** Steve Dietrich, Travis Knudsen, Debby Wineinger, Julie Lindsey

**Others:** Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault-Beyond Toxics

Call to Order: 12:02 PM

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**Public Participation – none**

**Board Meeting Overview:**

- LRAPA joining PERS – continue evaluating – Special meeting in December

**Assignment Small Gasoline Engines:**

**Kelly Wood** said after the last meeting, she started Googling to see what she could find and one of the first things that became really clear to her was that some of the headlines of the articles were a bit deceiving, suggesting that all these small motors we're going to be banned. And really that is what the headline said. But as it turned out, when she was digging deeper existing equipment could still be used. It's more about the manufacturers and moving forward that they're going to be built and sold having the new reduced emissions and technology. The big target is landscaping companies and other bigger companies. One of the problems is some of that technology doesn't even exist yet. She looked more into the emissions and what is known about them, she had no idea of the amount of emissions in comparison to even fuel. The average person probably really has no idea about some of these things with the emissions. They would absolutely be open to learning more about alternatives if they were presented with the information. If LRAPA wanted to come up with an information sheet, that could be really beneficial for the community.

**Jim Daniels** thought we might want to assign volunteers for different topics to research and report back to the group either as individuals or small groups. What are pros of electric tools, emissions data lifecycle analysis. Cons, battery technology, rare earth minerals. Existing or pending state and local regulations, and unintended consequences of regulations. Possible obstacles to people adopting electric tools. As Kelly mentioned, the residential versus commercial is a question and perhaps under that it would be worthwhile to open communication with some professional landscapers and others who use to get their take on what the obstacles are.

**Jack Carter** said the legacy gas powered companies are also doing lots of investments in the electrical rechargeable space, anticipating that's where the sector is going.

**Shane Ruddell** thinks the technology is getting better every year. But not everybody can afford a \$500 electronic edger it's still really expensive, the prices are slowly coming down. He thinks a flyer, or something would be a good idea.

**Travis Knudsen** mentioned this topic came up during the October board meeting, Matt Keating, Board member and Eugene city councilor. Brought up the issue of LRAPA potentially regulating small gas motors like leaf blowers, there's a lot of complications with that, instead of trying to actually regulate it, maybe there can be an informational campaign, And something that can be brought back to the Board of Directors for them to review and discuss further.

**Eric Burdette** mentioned that Jeff Carmen sent out an email and asked if LRAPA would possibly have the authority to regulate these. Do we have a clear answer on that?

**Travis Knudsen** said we do not have the authority to regulate these small engines. If a city adopted an ordinance and then provided LRAPA the authority to enforce the ordinance. That's how it works with our Homewood heating authority. And could be more of a rulemaking process accepted or adopted by the Board of Directors, there's a couple different approaches to doing it. For now, CAC discuss what the pros and cons and how complicated they may be, how straightforward they are, what are all the obstacles, essentially, for making that a reality? And it could be worthwhile to educate people so they might choose to use alternative methods.

**Paul Metzler** said he did some research on the Home Depot website, he looked at a comparison of what appears to be equivalent lawn mowers, a Toro gas powered and a Ryobi electric cordless. The cordless is about \$160 more than the gas powered. However, that comes with two batteries that lasts for 70 minutes. Each additional batteries are \$155 and only lasts 35 minutes. So clearly for anyone who's a landscaper this is going to get very expensive, very fast. Looking at the directors' report for July and August 2021, and September 2021. Interestingly, he really didn't see anything on here about complaints lodged for this. Maybe those complaints are coming in and under some other category like miscellaneous, or unknown. He is curious if this is really a problem, and issues with the lifecycle and sourcing of the raw materials. The lithium ion batteries, they use either nickel, or cobalt for the anodes. Nickel, the biggest source there is the mine complex at Norilsk in Siberia. And there's terrible emission problems there. One site accounts for about 2% of global sulfur dioxide load, just at that one source to supply nickel. Nickel is in the batteries. Cobalt's heavily mined in Democratic Republic of Congo, and it's pretty well known, there's horrendous impacts on these poverty stricken communities of color. Widely quoted has been the 2011 Edmonds study. And that's the source of this data showing that the small engines are responsible comparatively to so much more pollution than say, the classic pickup truck. This is 10 year old data now, and technology changes all the time. Personally, he is a big fan of cordless tools, he walked around in his garage and counted 12 or 15 of them, all different kinds of things. He gets a little bit concerned that this could compromise LRAPA's cooperative relationship with the community. If LRAPA is in a position of being in some way heavy handed or moving too fast. He is concerned it could damage credibility on big issues like wood smoke, outdoor burning, asbestos, and things of that nature.

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault-Beyond Toxics asked to speak to the committee. They all agreed to hear public comment outside of the timeline (beginning of meeting) for public participation.

**Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault-Beyond Toxics** wanted to say as a citizen she wanted to touch on a little bit of what Paul said, She didn't think that you were saying that you don't think it's important for folks to know. But she thinks it's important for folks to know what emissions are coming out of their tools. Not because she thinks that they're going to choose to have gas or electric. But she thinks that they should be given the choice because as citizens we have a lot of leaf blowers, we have things that we never really thought about, what could be coming from those. Working for Beyond Toxics she has learned about a lot of things but has never thought about things like the tools she uses in her yard. It would be nice to have that informational sheet or someplace where you can click on the website so that folks have a choice, whether or not they want to switch to electric from gas, because that way folks can know what's going on. She thinks it's important for the community to know that and have a choice about how they want to power their yard tools.

**Jim Daniels** said these are all good points to bring up in his opinion. It's a pretty broad net at this point. And a lot to get our arms around. In general, what do we think about having people volunteer to research different aspects of this and come back to the group?

**Paul Metzler** volunteered to explore and research the aspects about sourcing the raw materials and disposing of used batteries, because those are significant issues.

**Jeff Carman** said he could be on this the group about alternatives to motorized small engines and such.

**Kelly Wood** was interested in looking at the cost differences between some of the new technology options and existing. She thinks that a lot of what Paul mentioned is that the data is available for emissions is outdated, a bit, especially compared to new technologies.

**Shane Ruddell** said it would it be helpful to put a little thought into the commercial sector that uses these small engines versus the individual homeowner. Jim agreed. Paul Metzler mentioned the legislative proceedings for the California regulations. He thinks that testimony which addressed that quite a bit, California regulations have carved out for commercial users.

**Eric Burdette** asked if we will be focusing on lawn equipment for lack of a better term. And that's only what we're going to focus on. We're not going to focus on off road vehicles. Jim Daniels said right, not vehicles, There's all kinds of things that he thinks at least initially included in this was chain saws, edgers all kinds of tools would be part of this. No vehicles at all. But anything handheld, gas powered.

**Eric Burdette** said he would be happy to kind of poke around and look at the initial research. Can start doing a basic comparison. Look at emissions, look at costs. He can kind of get some general numbers together so we can look at those.

**Steve Dietrich** said there are already a host of regulations that EPA has on those other offroad engines. And these are things like generators, chippers, and grinders. But they had to be stationary for a whole year to be able to be considered a stationary source, before they're regulated under the Clean Air Act. There's already some information on EPA website on some emissions from some of the tools that you're talking about. We can send those links to you; it may save you a step or two to try to get to the right spot on their big website. From an authority standpoint, EPA and California Air Resource Board vary. Now they're the only authorities with the ability to establish regulations for emissions from small equipment and tools. A lot of times EPA gets at this by working with the manufacturer, just like with everything else, like for cars, for example, the same concept. If you make it flow emissions at the factory, it meets the requirements of what they're trying to gain through time, with a steady reduction in emissions of concern. From LRAPA's perspective, we only are able to take up non road engines. We don't have regulations established for nor the authority to regulate the types of engines that are used in lawn and garden equipment activity. It would be a chore to actually get to that point. And he thinks some other people hit along this earlier that we had to be careful about the balance of our authority versus the localities ability to have ordinances in place to do their work as well. The other thing he was going to point out is that House Bill HB 2007 the Oregon Legislature passed, and they provided the authority for DEQ to require phasing out of older model diesel engines, but only in the Portland Metro Area counties. There is some authority precedent there. But for diesel engines. He thinks this topic came up to the board, possibly from the emissions. But initially it was brought up to the board because people were more concerned about the noise in their neighborhoods.

**Jim Daniels** said from his notes so far, Paul's going to look into the possible downsides of battery production and disposal. Jeff will look at alternatives to power tools. Kelly will look at cost differences and coming technology. Anybody else want to jump in the pool on anything?

**Jim Daniels** said he will volunteer to look into the EPA information as well as existing or pending state and local regulations.

**Travis Knudsen** asked in January, what would be some good things to be brought to the table, because eventually want to kind of compile everybody notes and research into something that can be shared back with the Board. Jim Daniels said he is open to thoughts on that. We get assignments from the board so often; he didn't feel like we need to rush through this. We could take our time and look at this over several meetings.

**Roundtable:**

**Terry Richardson** - was a little concerned over what she heard about the methane permit that was granted to the YMCA. She spoke with Bryan who is the CEO over there, and their permits all went through. That's all she knows about it. She didn't think the neighborhoods were happy. Paul Metzler asked do you know if biomass digester on site. Some places have done that, but he couldn't imagine that being the case. He asked Steve Dietrich if he had any comments? It seems pretty unusable in town. He has only heard of that in like dairy farms out in the country. Steve Dietrich said he didn't know anything about it.

**Paul Metzler** - regarding the discussion about PERS. His wife had PERS from California, they converted it and took a settlement out. And did a lot better than PERS. For LRAPA employees that's something to think about.

**Jim Daniels** - We probably want to think about reaching out to fire prevention folks for Links replacement.

**Jim Daniels** - Evelina had an accident and injured her shoulder. We wish her the best. And hopefully she'll be back with us soon.

**Jack Carter** - Register Guard a few weeks ago, there was an article about the natural gas use at the new YMCA, as far as he can tell, it would just be for heating and hot water heating. It didn't sound any different than what you would typically see in residential areas. His sense it is of interest in places in the community for eliminating use of natural gas and new construction. The other thing a couple of weeks ago, there was an announcement from the DEQ about the clean trucks rule and adopted by the EQC. Are they automatically implemented in the same way by LRAPA. How does this affect us in Lane County. Steve Dietrich said he thinks it was a diesel emissions regulation of some sort. It could be a number of different things driving that, and it may not be statewide. It could actually be in the Portland metro area, where you have a higher concentration of vehicles. DEQ cannot regulate vehicles, but they can regulate some of the secondary emissions indirectly. And that's kind of where that's coming from, to try and maybe address an overall air quality issue in that metropolitan area. If there was a need in the area EPA regulates, Lane County would do the same thing. Anytime there's a regulation that the federal government comes out with the state adopts, then local air agencies like LRAPA would have the option to adopt those rules as is or with some kind of modifications. But in any case, if we do adopt the regulation, it can't be any less strict than what the states have adopted.

**Next Meeting Tuesday – January 25, 2022 VIA ZOOM**