

**LRAPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CAC) Meeting Minutes
VIA ZOOM/In Person**



January 31, 2023

Attending: Jim Daniels-Chair, Kelly Wood-Vice Chair, Terry Richardson, Paul Metzler
ZOOM -, Mysti Frost, Peter Dragovich, Chris Cline

Absent: Shane Ruddell, Eric Burdette, Evelina Davidova-Kamis, Jeffrey Carman,

Staff: Steve Dietrich, Debby Wineinger, Travis Knudsen
ZOOM -Max Hueftle, Julie Lindsey, Colleen Wagstaff, Robbye Robinson, Cassandra Jackson, Aaron Speck

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Jim Daniels called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

II. Interview James Hugo via ZOOM

Jim Daniels advised that they tell all applicants the committee gives advice only, “we are not a decision-making body. Our role is to advise the LRAPA Board of Directors. We only work on projects as assigned to us, or we are given permission to work on.”

Jim Daniels noted that Mr. Hugo had involvement with different organizations. And asked if he was familiar with Robert's Rules of order and that type of meeting setting? **Mr. Hugo** said he recently took a course where they went over that. And that he is someone who can pull out his notes and be prepared for that process if he gets selected for this committee.

Jim Daniels asked to hear more about his current role as a board member on the Environmental Safety Standards Association. **Mr. Hugo** said it's a small organization with only three board members and is not as large as other nonprofits. It has existed for about a year and is a grassroots established nonprofit. The nonprofit is helpful to him as he communicates and networks with other organizations. He said starting a nonprofit was recommended to him by a professors a couple of years ago. He doesn't have any funding for it and is not looking at getting any funding for it.

Jim Daniels noted that in the past Hugo attended public board meetings and gave public comment. Daniels referenced a particular meeting where, by Hugo's right, he was critical of some of the board members. Daniels asked Hugo to speak on that potential conflict considering the Citizen Advisory Committee works by the grace of the board. **Mr. Hugo** said there was one individual board member he had conflict with but did not want to call out names. Hugo believes that individual is no longer on the board. And he doesn't think there is someone on the board he would have any conflict of interest with. Mr. Hugo mentioned the board member he had conflict with was a past landlord of his, and he stated that individual owed him money. But he did not believe that board member was currently on the board.

Jim Daniels asked how he would characterize his past interactions with LRAPA staff. **Mr. Hugo** said, he had some complications with certain members of the staff. But he thinks he has also had a lot of good conversations with some of the staff. He stated he believes there's a lot of wonderful people that work at LRAPA. Mr. Hugo offered that in 2021 he was dealing with toxic exposure in his neighborhood that placed him under duress, and he was having to deal with those complications. Since then, he has a new roof, new windows, new doors, new everything, new siding, and everything in his house that mitigates the toxic exposure in his neighborhood despite International Paper's continued activity near his home. Mr. Hugo stated he doesn't feel like he is as exposed to those toxics, as he was in 2021. He was unaware of any complications he has had with LRAPA staff since 2021, unless Travis Knudsen can inform him otherwise.

Travis Knudsen said LRAPA met in a formal setting with Mr. Hugo and representative from Beyond Toxics in August of 2021. Since that meeting, LRAPA has communicated primarily with Mr. Hugo through written format due to Mr. Hugo's demeanor and conduct during the meeting. However, a couple of weeks ago, LRAPA's operations manager Max Hueftle had a phone conversation with Mr. Hugo. But for most of 2022, LRAPA's communication with Mr. Hugo has been limited to written formats.

Peter Dragovich asked about Mr. Hugo's local concerns with air quality and if he is also including whether regulating indoor air quality is a direction that LRAPA should pursue? **Mr. Hugo** said he definitely thinks LRAPA should look into indoor air quality as well as provide more monitoring of public places. Mr. Hugo said he been involved with advocating to not just LRAPA, but the DEQ and EPA. His current focus is on air toxics. Mr. Hugo said he plans to get a Bachelor of Science Degree in environmental policy planning management. He plans to get his doctorate on air toxics. Mr. Hugo mentioned the University of Oregon has a program focused on fire and smoke, and the Oregon State University has similar programs. His main focus on the committee would be to try and get LRAPA more funding for updated air monitoring. He accused Travis Knudsen of rolling his eyes at his statement and stated he believes the air monitors being used by LRAPA, DEQ, and other agencies are outdated. He would love to see updated air monitoring around facilities. He said that as a community member he is critical of the pollution around J.H. Baxter in Eugene. He believes there should be more air monitoring around that facility, as well as around International Paper where he lives, in Thurston. Mr. Hugo stated he feels like the public doesn't have enough information and data to base any scientific studies on. He wants more ability for studies to be conducted. Mr. Hugo believes it's important to get the proper air monitoring systems in place in the right areas of communities so the public can know what they're breathing and know what's in the air.

Jim Daniels thanked Mr. Hugo for his time after none of the committee members had additional questions. Mr. Daniels informed Mr. Hugo the committed will discuss, take a vote, and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Hugo then logged off the meeting.

Paul Metzler moved to not recommend James Hugo as a CAC member to the LRAPA Board. **Kelly Wood** seconded the motion. Vote: Aye 6 - Nay 1 (Terry Richardson). Motion passed.

III. Public Participation-None

IV. Board Meeting Overview

Chair Jim Daniels overview on the meeting.

- Two new board members. Lane County Commissioner David Loveall and Oakridge Mayor Bryan Cutchen.
- Executive Session to discuss a public request during the October Board Meeting. They voted to hold a hearing to determine whether Mr. Weybright's initial contested hearing request was timely.

- Good company gave a status report on Oakridge Air project, they are making steady progress.
- EPA potentially lowering the PM 2.5 limit. That could affect Oakridge attainment status.
- First discussion on Board work session, topic is Board Bylaws Development vs. LRAPA Responsibilities. Still need to firm up a subcommittee.

V. 2022 Permitted Source Survey – continued discussion:

The CAC reviewed the survey results and Kelly Wood's summarization. She and the subcommittee agreed to do some fine tuning on the information and try to have ready to add to this week's Board packet. And Jim Daniels will present it to the Board.

Round Table:

- **Terry Richardson** – Had to leave the meeting at 1:00pm and did not offer any items or information for roundtable.
- **Paul Metzler** – Asked about citizen compliance with home wood heating regulations, particularly the green/yellow/red home wood heating days. **Travis Knudsen** said home wood heating season definitely brings an uptick in complaints. But there have not been as many red or yellow days called as in the past years. Past year comparisons could be made, (information is found in the Directors Report), but he did not know of the top of his head for the Eugene/Springfield area. However, in Oakridge compliance has improved due to extra communication from a Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG or Oakridge Air Program) funding from the EPA. That level of communication isn't as strong to residents in the Eugene Springfield metro area.
- **Paul Metzler** – Said that it has been in the news and out in the community a lot lately about the push to restrict gas hookups, natural gas. And, in the last couple of years, we've seen a lot of wildfires due to electrical lines. Gas doesn't cause forest fires.
- **Kelly Wood** - She is on the Mackenzie Watershed Council, and with the holiday farm fire that had been up there, they actually started a firewood program since there is currently a surplus of debris. **Travis Knudsen** thought that was great if they can keep the funding going for it. There is a similar program in Oakridge that exists through Oakridge Air and only available due to the EPA grant funding. He said without funding it's challenging to keep those programs running.
- **Peter Dragovich** - MIT recently released a study on the effect of air pollution on mental cognition. And they did it focusing on chess players. Even chess experts perform worse when air quality is lower, suggesting a negative effect on cognition. It's interesting. He will forward it to everyone.
- **Chris Cline** - Lots of legislation being ramped up in Salem in regard to Forestry and Forest operations from air to water, vegetation management. The Oregon Department of Forestry

will know more closer to the end of the legislative session which bills to watch.

- **Jim Daniels** – Heard from Shane Ruddell, and expects he would reapply for the CAC committee, but has not seen his application yet. And he wasn't sure if Terry Richardson would be reapplying.
- **Debby Wineinger** – Mentioned the Budget meetings start in March and LRAPA needs a member for the committee from the city of Eugene. If anyone is interested or might know someone who might be interested please contact her.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Jim Daniels adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Next Meeting February 28, 2023

(Minutes recorded by Debby Wineinger)

James Hugo

Why do you want to become a member of the committee?

I would like to be involved with this committee because I care about the environment.

Please give a brief description of any experience or training that qualifies you for this position:

I am currently studying environmental policy and management at Purdue university. I also live within close proximity to heavy industrial sites. My family's health has been severely impacted by exposure to toxic emissions.

Please list the community concerns or topics you would like to see addressed by this committee:

Jh Baxter, International paper complex in Springfield. More air monitoring stations placed in Lane county. Air monitoring stations that are updated, not purple air.

Briefly describe your present or past involvement in relevant community groups. Please note that having no previous involvement will not disqualify you for appointment:

I have been involved with the Seria club, OSPIRG, Beyond Toxics, Voter Power, Environmental Safety Standards Association Oregon Safety Standards Association. Springfield Eugene Tennant Alliance.

Are you currently serving on any advisory boards or committees? If so, which ones?

I am on the board of directors for Environmental Safety Standards Association.

This committee meets over the noon hour once a month, generally the last Tuesday. Are you available during this time?

YES

February 2, 2023

**LRAPA Citizens' Advisory Committee
Results of 2022 Permit Holder Survey**

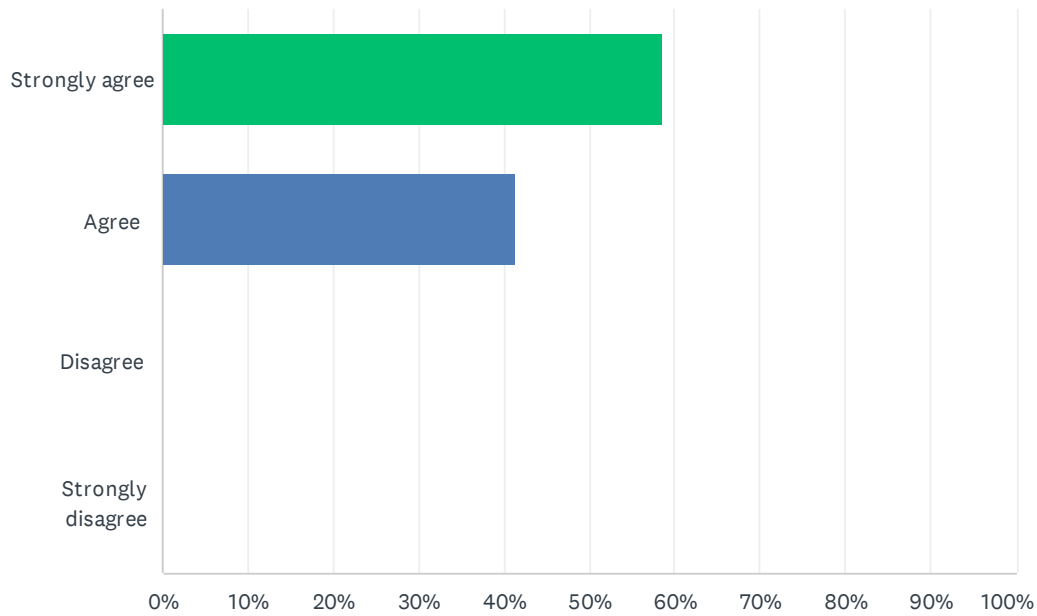
The 2022 Permit Holder Survey was sent by email to all LRAPA permit holders on November 7, with a reminder email send on December 9. The survey was answered by 75 permit holders of a potential pool of approximately 300 respondents. This gives us a response rate of approximately 25%.

The next five pages show the responses to questions #1-5 as tabulated by the survey program, each illustrated by a bar graph and a table. The two pages after that are results summaries prepared by the survey sub-committee. Questions #6-9 call for a written response, so the answers are presented in summary form in order to preserve the anonymity of the permit holders.

The survey and results were prepared by a sub-committee of the CAC, led by Vice-Chair Kelly Wood and assisted by Jeffery Carman, and Evelina Davidova-Kamis.

Q1 LRAPA staff treated you in a respectful and courteous manner:

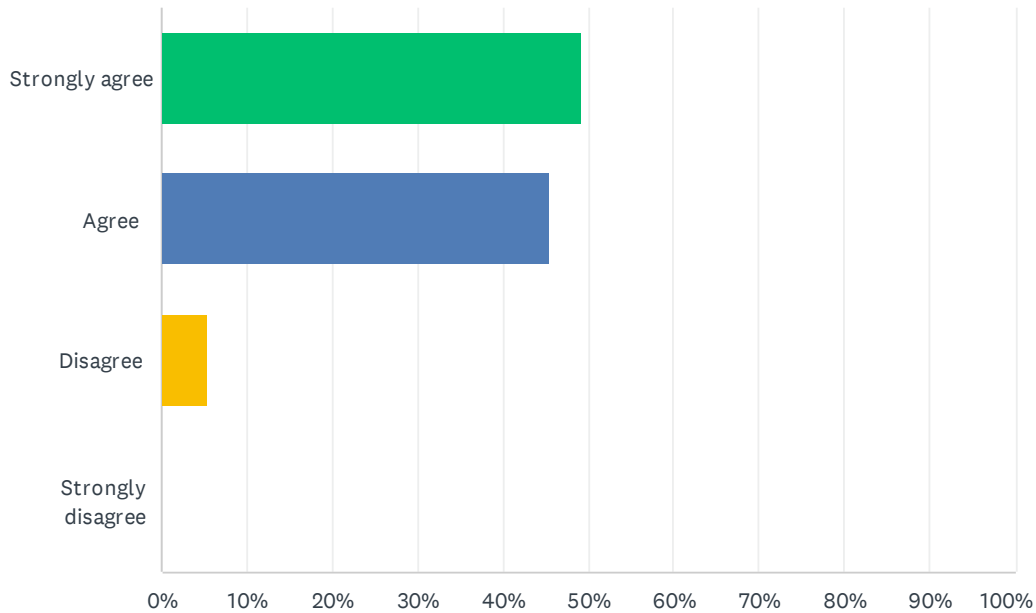
Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	58.67%	44
Agree	41.33%	31
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		75

Q2 LRAPA staff provided you with helpful/knowledgeable answers and problems solving information regarding question and concerns, including any supplemental materials if requested.

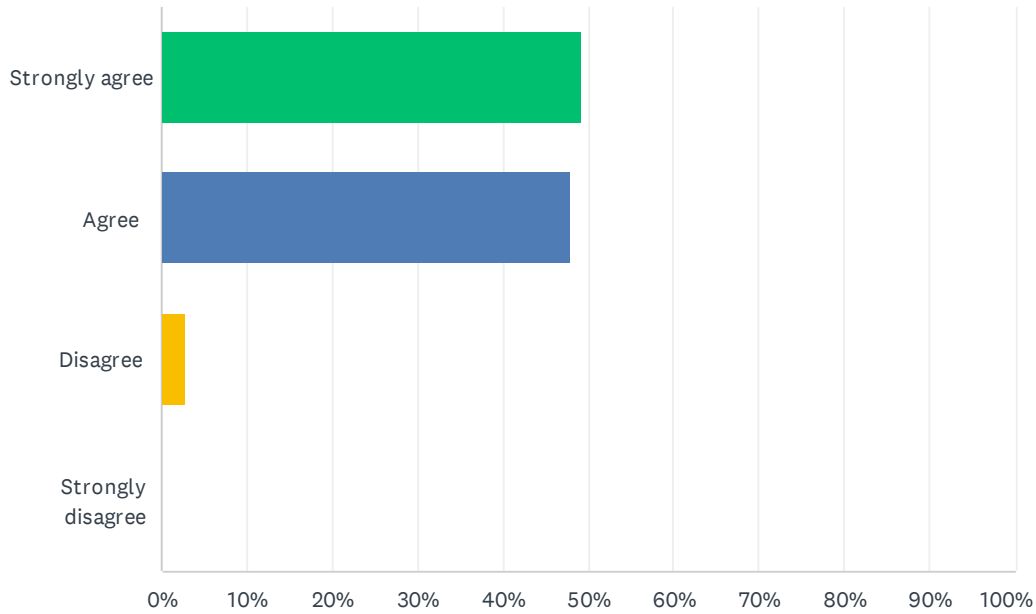
Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	49.33%	37
Agree	45.33%	34
Disagree	5.33%	4
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		75

Q3 LRAPA staff assisted you in a timely manner

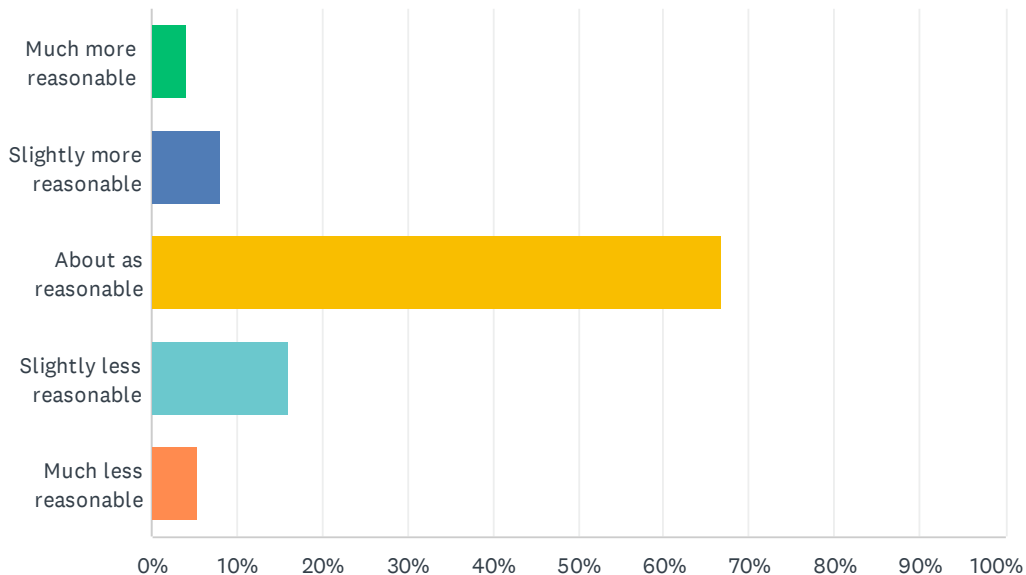
Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	49.33%	37
Agree	48.00%	36
Disagree	2.67%	2
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		75

Q4 Compared to other regulatory fees, are LRAPA fees more reasonable, less reasonable, or about the same?

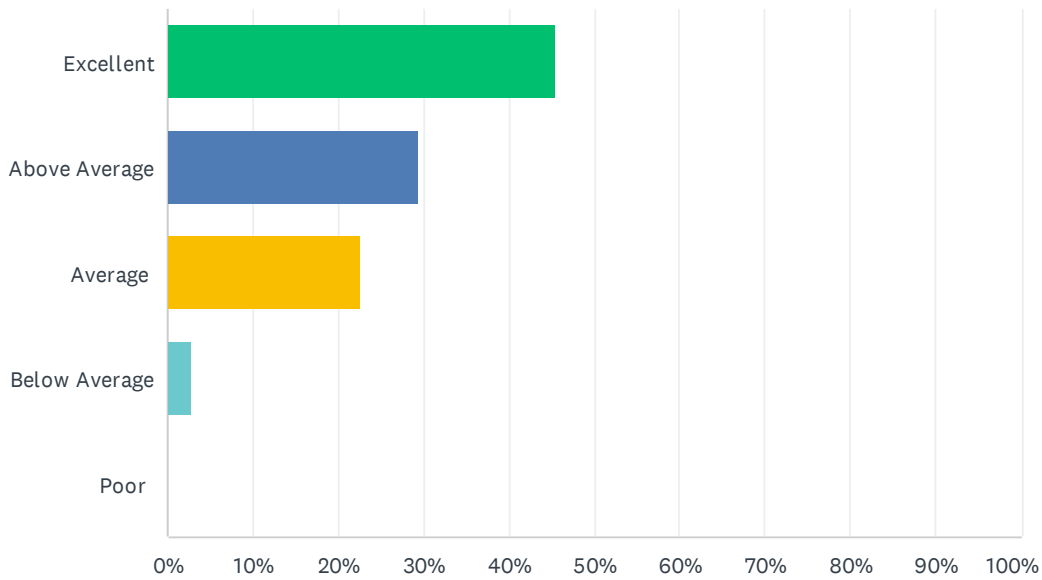
Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Much more reasonable	4.00% 3
Slightly more reasonable	8.00% 6
About as reasonable	66.67% 50
Slightly less reasonable	16.00% 12
Much less reasonable	5.33% 4
TOTAL	75

Q5 Please indicate your overall valuation of LRAPA staff

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	45.33%	34
Above Average	29.33%	22
Average	22.67%	17
Below Average	2.67%	2
Poor	0.00%	0
TOTAL		75

2022 LRAPA Permit Holder Survey Results

Note that comments received within Q6 and QS which are applicable to Q1-Q5 have been incorporated with those question summaries.

Q1 - LRAPA staff treated you in a respectful and courteous manner.

Of the 75 respondents who answered this survey statement (1 skipped), 100% of them agreed or strongly agreed.

There were zero complaints or comments pertaining to issues or concerns with staff interactions. Several respondents specifically commented on having always received prompt and friendly assistance from staff. Feedback received in QG and QS indicates that permit holders are satisfied with the current service and have no recommendations for improvements pertaining to staff.

Q2 - LRAPA staff provided you with helpful/knowledgeable answers and problems solving information regarding questions and concerns, including any supplemental materials if requested
Of the 75 responding results (1 skipped), approximately 95% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Multiple respondents voiced that staff have been and continue to be accessible, professional, knowledgeable, and friendly. Several permit holders did request updated forms, tools, reports, and training opportunities which may prevent some of the need to contact staff with questions.

Q3 - LRAPA staff assisted you in a timely manner.

Of the 75 respondents (1 skipped), approximately 97% agreed or strongly agreed.

Respondents generally commented that LRAPA staff have always provided timely and friendly service. There were no comments or recommendations pertaining to processing or response times.

Q4 - Compared to other regulatory fees, are LRAPA fees more reasonable, less reasonable, or about the same?

50 of the 75 respondents rated LRAPA as "about as reasonable" as other regulatory fees. The second highest rating was "slightly less reasonable". Permit holders responses were more distributed on this question than any other.

Multiple respondents commented that the fees are excessive and /or are a financial hardship for smaller business when combined with the other regulatory fees. It was suggested that LRAPA consider incentives, rewards, and discounts for permittees who implement emission reduction measures / sustainable practices beyond the LRAPA requirements. It was also mentioned that more explanation could be provided as to what the fees and permitting actually accomplish.

Q5 -Please indicate your overall valuation of LRAPA staff.

Nearly 75% of respondents replied that overall valuation of staff is above average or excellent. Approximately 23% of respondents replied that the valuation is "average". Only two of 75 rated overall staff valuation as "below average".

In total, approximately 98% of the permit holder respondents feel that the valuation of LRAPA staff is average or better. There were no direct staff complaints or suggestions for improving interactions or response times.

Q6- How can LRAPA improve?

In general, permit holders would like to see updated forms and tools for record keeping and reporting. Permit holders are interested in the creation of incentives for sustainable practices and/or implementing measures which reduce emissions. Permit holders also expressed interest in continued education and communication pertaining to both personal and industry roles in air emission reductions and contributions.

Q7-What feedback do you have on LRAPA' s website?

Based on the responses, it does not appear that many of the permit holders are utilizing the website on a regular basis. The limited responses of active users indicate that the new website is easy to navigate, and provides more updated information and helpful links to pertinent information.

Q8 - Additional Comments

Generally, permit holders are satisfied with the level of service and knowledge from LRAPA staff. Several respondents stated appreciation for the partnership that has been established between industry, staff, and the community as a whole.