

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



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

November 24, 2020

VIA - ZOOM

Attending: Jim Daniels (Chair), Kathleen Lamberg (Vice-Chair), Kelly Wood, Evelina Davidova-Kamis, Link Smith, Terry S. Richardson, Link Smith, Shane Ruddell, Steve Pelkey, Jeff Carman, Gery Vander Meer, Jack Carter

Staff: Merlyn Hough, Travis Knudsen, Debby Wineinger

Call to Order: 12:08 PM

Public Participation – None

Board Meeting Overview:

- Discussion about the Oak Ridge Air program.
- Member dues and what would be appropriate.
- Succession planning. And possibly increasing the pay offered. Offering moving costs. And the timing of all of this, the board normally does not meet in December. But will have a December 30, 2020 to continue the discussion.
- Discussion on Oakridge yard debris program, where the citizens could buy a permit and take their yard debris to a city yard. And the city was going to rent chipper. And they were going to suggest that the county look into buying a chipper so that different municipalities could borrow for similar programs. And the mayor of Oakridge, who's also a board member was asked if possibility representatives could support the effort. This dovetails with what we have discussing about minimizing outdoor burning.
- Regarding the proxy voting that we discussed and drafted. Right before Jim went to the board on this issue to get the bylaws approved, Merlyn checked with legal counsel. And it turns out state law does not allow proxy voting. So that whole issue is dead. Merlyn said he was surprised that it wasn't allowed for something like the Citizens Advisory Committee. But as a formality, he felt we needed to ask legal counsel in case that question came up. But, Citizens Advisory Committee meetings as a public body, proxy votes are not permissible.

OUTDOOR BURNING ALTERNATIVES:

Jim Daniels said a subcommittee will work on an informational brochure that could be distributed to people. Volunteers are were Kathy, Kelly, and Jeff. Kathy Lamberg said there is a meeting set up with Kelly and Jeff December 1, 2020. There are going to go through the brochure and evaluate it. And then determine the next steps. She asked if there was a target date for this? Jim Daniels said we are not

meeting in December. He suggested to have a first draft to discuss at the January meeting. And then maybe do any fine tuning in January and have a loose goal of presenting it to the board in February. Kelly Wood added that we'll definitely know more after our first meeting. We will split up the tasks and figure out a reasonable goal that we can have at least a first draft together by January.

Roundtable:

Jim Daniels - Paul Ruscher job duties have expanded at LCC and he regrettably will be resigning from the Committee.

Kelly Wood - Future meeting topics - One thing that she was thinking about with the fires was if anybody's done any calculations or estimates on the emissions. If it was tracked and how that compares normally. Merlyn Hough said we haven't calculated emissions. But probably even more important is the number of days and the concentrations impacting our communities. Emissions can be a lot if the wind is blowing the smoke eastwards where it's not impacting Lane County, but we've quantified that, and we could give some summary presentations and send to the committee.

Shane Ruddell - His harvest went really well and had a lot of nuts this year, about close to three quarters of a million pounds. Pruning and unfortunately going to make a little bit of smoke here eventually. He has been in charge of taking care of a chipper that the county uses. And the chippers are very expensive. If you get chippers that are relatively cheap, they aren't built to handle constant chipping all day long. We would recommend getting a good chipper, and you would need a maintenance program. Jim Daniels asked if it is standard practice to burn pruning's? Shane said absolutely. One of the main reasons is any hazelnut tree, except for the newer varieties you'll see the tops of them are all dead. They have a disease called blight. Around March is the time that the blight really starts flying around, the new wood is the most vulnerable. To get rid of the blight spores, you have to burn them. A lot of people do some shredding and stuff, but it is very expensive, and very slow. And there is no evidence that the shredding gets rid of the blight. The most effective way to control the disease is cut the blight out and burn it. Merlyn Hough wanted to clarify that he thinks what the mayor was suggesting is like a tub grinder, that the county, Rexius and Lane Forrest Products use. But Shane knows the maintenance and the costs. Those are good things for people to be aware of. Shane said that was what he was thinking, more of a tub grinder.

Link Smith - Sorry to see Paul Ruscher leaving. His background is meteorological, and he worked with smoke management.

Regarding this year's wildfire – it is the most acres that we've lost in the history of our agency. Some of the big figures are nine of the largest fires in the state in the last 100 years, five of them happened basically this year. Which is just unheard of. What you saw on Labor Day is really not related to that. The event was predicted two or three days ahead of time. That kind of a wind event comes along every three or four times in a 100 years. Unfortunately, it was east wind, low fuel, moistures and drought conditions. And we had a couple of lightning strikes already on the landscape. Each different ignition sources that when that wind hit for two days, blew those fires is a comparison to California. And you typically see them with some very large fire scars every year, they burn a lot of acres in California. What's different about the ones in Oregon is how large the fuel loading was. We have forests in the Cascades. Scrubs of California burn time after, fire has hit some of these areas on the Cascades for hundreds of years. We haven't seen this our lifetime, but we're recovering now. Our fuel reduction methods and what we're trying to do around homes is very effective with our typical fire season and regime. But when you get those kind of events like we saw on Labor Day, I don't care what you do or how many resources you have you better just get out of the way until the wind stops. You are not going to have any success and will only hurt people. Horrible event, horrible summer. And hopefully next year won't be that way.

Steve Pelkey - Would be interested in joining the subcommittee.

Kathy Lamberg - was birdwatching down in Texas. At the southernmost tip of the United States on the very tip of the Gulf. It was very windy and there was a cold front, coming down from Canada, and it pushed clear through the center of the United States and went down into Texas. And a burning expert said, we're so glad that we are getting this yearly weather movement, because it always helps the birds come down from the south while migrating. She never thought of the power of the wind as one of the things that helps migration of birds. She thought of LRAPA and discussions in some meetings, the wind movements and it how it affects the smoke and air quality in our area. She would like to understand more how about weather and the wind movement affects us.

Jim Daniels - we do not meet in December. Next meeting will be January 26, 2021. it'll be a zoom meeting again. Thank you, Travis for setting all that up.

Jack Carter - Would like to know if there were any updates on Cleaner Air Oregon? Travis said on LRAPA's webpage under a Cleaner Air Oregon section there are tabs with our facilities currently going through the Cleaner Air Oregon program, we have called in five facilities. But, one closed so we currently have just four. They are trying to cover emissions inventory, modeling protocol, risk assessment and reduction. Jim said he would like to have more updates during a future meeting. Merlyn said that would be a good idea. And he thinks it would be pretty straightforward.

Adjourned 1:07 PM

Next Meeting January 26, 2021 – VIA ZOOM details will be listed on the agenda