



MINUTES
LANE REGIONAL AIR PROTECTION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 09, 2023
MEETING VIA ZOOM

February 9, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Joe Pishioneri, Chair; Jeannine Parisi, Vice Chair; Bryan Cutchen, Mike Fleck, Howard Saxion.

Absent: Matt Keating, Terry Fitzpatrick, David Loveall.

Staff: Steve Dietrich, Travis Knudsen, Julie Lindsey, Debby Wineinger, Colleen Wagstaff, Jonathan Wright, Katie Eagleson, Lance Giles, Max Hueftle, Robbye Robinson, Amanda Atkins, Aaron Speck, Trinidad Cardenas.

Others: Jim Daniels, CAC Chair; Paul Metzler, CAC Member and Budget Committee nominee; Diana Tisdale, Lane Council of Government (LCOG) Minutes Recorder.

1. Call to Order

Chair Pishioneri called the meeting of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) Board to order. **Travis Knudsen** called roll and a quorum was established.

2. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no other adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Participation

4. Public Participation

- A. Comments on an Item on Today's Agenda – None
- B. Comments on a Topic Not Included on Today's Agenda – None
- C. Comments from Board Members – None.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2023, Board of Director’s Meeting**
- B. Approval of Expense Report for January 2023**

MOTION: Mike Fleck moved, and **Howard Saxion** seconded the approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Nominations / Appoint Board Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION: Mike Fleck moved to nominate **Bryan Cutchen** as Chair, seconded by **Joe Pishioneri**. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Jeannine Parisi moved to nominate **Howard Saxion** as Vice-Chair, seconded by **Joe Pishioneri**. The motion passed unanimously.

The affirmed Chair and Vice-Chair took effect immediately.

7. Nominations / Appoint New Budget Committee Members and Budget Officer

MOTION: Joe Pishioneri moved to nominate **Paul Metzler** and **Robert Ball** as Budget Committee Members, seconded by **Mike Fleck**. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mike Fleck moved to nominate **Steve Dietrich** as Budget Officer seconded by **Howard Saxion**. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

8. Review Multi-year Budget Forecast for FY2023-2027

Mike Fleck suggested that the Multi-year Budget Forecast should be formatted to display revenue, a trend in expenditures, and extrapolation results for average fund balances. He proposed revisiting this topic when the budget forecast has been re-formatted.

Jeannine Parisi agreed.

Steve Dietrich said the Muti-year Budget Forecast would be formatted accordingly for the March 2023 LRAPA Board and Budget Committee meetings.

Jeannine Parisi inquired if there would be discussion about the Airmetrics Enterprise Fund during the March 2023 Budget Committee meeting.

Julie Lindsey confirmed that Airmetrics would give a presentation during the March 2023 Budget Committee meeting and would open the floor for questions afterward.

9. LRAPA Citizens Advisory Committee

Jim Daniels gave an update on the interview that took place in January 2022 with the LRAPA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and **James Hugo**, regarding his application to join the CAC as a representative of the general public. The CAC voted and recommended not to appoint him to the committee because air toxics from International Paper in Springfield, Oregon seemed to be his primary concern.

Additionally, he noted that results from the CAC Permit Holder's Survey were in.

Mike Fleck noted that he agreed with the CACs recommendation not to appoint **James Hugo** to the committee.

Jeannine Parisi suggested that next time, survey respondents should be required to identify what type of permit they have so LRAPA will know which industrial partner responded. She asked **Jim Daniels** if the CAC has any input on how to streamline the survey process for next year.

Jim Daniels noted **Ms. Parisi's** suggestion and said it would be possible. Regarding streamlining the survey process, the CAC proposed a web-based survey designed for permit holders and the general public. The first question on the survey would differentiate whether a respondent was a member of the public or a permit holder. Their answer will determine which survey they would take. Permit holders would be sent an email containing a link that directs them to the survey website. Emails could be sent to them anytime LRAPA has a need to gather information.

Regarding the survey results, **Mike Fleck** commented that some permit holders said they'd like incentives. He proposed making time to discuss the possible incentives at a future meeting and noted that even updating the website to make it easier for permit holders to do business with LRAPA could be an incentive.

Howard Saixon added there would need to be a high level of consistency among updating forms on the website because the data needs to be in a format that can be shared with the state and with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Steve Dietrich stated he is communicating with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) about the forms they use and how LRAPA might be able to incorporate those into the website.

Jim Daniels said the CAC will discuss this topic and provide additional advice at a future meeting.

10. Director's Report of Agency Activities for the Month of January 2023

Steve Dietrich highlighted that on January 23, 2023, a representative from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Region responded to the letter LRAPA members **Joe Pishioneri** and himself sent on October 18, 2022, regarding concerns over smoke impacts to the Oakridge – Westfir Community from the Cedar Creek Fire. He added that because of this letter exchange, he was invited to speak at the Oregon Post Fire Research and Monitoring Symposium held on February 7, 2023. He added that the state has taken notice and efforts are being made to address the concerns raised in LRAPA's letter which may include future funding from the governor's office for air quality preparedness during future wildfire seasons. Further conversations around this issue resulted from the symposium, and will continue among the agencies who attended, which he would also continue to be part of.

Bryan Cutchen noted how invaluable the effort to provide air purifiers to the people of Oakridge was during the heaviest period of smoke that lasted from August to October. He inquired whether a lessons learned report was obtained regarding the situation.

Travis Knudsen replied that two representatives from the University of Oregon (U of O) used LRAPA's Targeted Airshed Grant to conduct an after-action review regarding the City of Oakridge evacuation process during the Cedar Creek fire and the smoke response that occurred thereafter. Their report determined what went well and identified areas for improvement in the future. He noted the importance of strengthened connections between the City of Oakridge and local non-profit groups who can support those kinds of efforts.

Steve Dietrich added that the U of O representatives also presented at the February 7th Symposium.

Jeannine Parisi noted the importance of the letter sent to the USDA on October 18, 2022. She thanked **Joe Pishioneri**, **Steve Dietrich**, and LRAPA staff for their efforts to get involved and help drive the discussion on how air quality preparedness can be improved during future wildfires.

Joe Pishioneri replied that it's LRAPA's mission to protect air quality and the Board's decision to send that letter was the right thing to do.

Mike Fleck asked if anyone knew when the PM2.5 standard would change and how that may impact LRAPA's abilities throughout Oakridge and the rest of the county.

Steve Dietrich replied that the EPA was taking comments nationally regarding a proposal to lower the annual standard, which was set at 12 micrograms per cubic meter. He added that considerations were being made to set it somewhere between eight and 11 micrograms per cubic meter.

Lance Giles anticipated a standard set between nine or 10 is probably what the EPA would do and noted that either one of those would require LRAPA do another exceptional event because of the wildfire smoke from 2022. If the EPA lowered the standard to eight, even the Eugene / Springfield area would have some issues. If they set it at 10, it would be a fairly simple process. If the EPA set it at nine, it will require a bit more work from LRAPA for Oakridge only. Eugene / Springfield will be okay whether it was set at nine or 10 for the annual standard. He was hopeful that the EPA will make changes to the standard by the end of the year. He added he would produce a chart that shows PM concentration so areas of non-compliance could easily be identified depending on where the EPA sets the annual standard, and that information would be included in the next Director's report.

Jeannine Parisi inquired if LRAPA or the DEQ would submit public comments to the EPA regarding the standards.

Steve Dietrich responded that LRAPA supports whatever science-based decisions the EPA makes and that comments would most likely not be made. He anticipated that the DEQ would probably also remain neutral.

Travis Knudsen added that the EPA makes health-based decision, not decisions based on economic impacts.

Bryan Cutchen asked how a new standard might impact the attainment status for Oakridge and Targeted Airshed Grant efforts.

Lance Giles replied that the data shows everything is based on wildfires. He added, PM levels for all of Lane County is on a downward trend until you factor in plausible wildfires.

DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION:

11. New Business

Steve Dietrich announced the resignation of **Julie Lindsey** and noted her resignation would take place on March 3, 2023, but that she would continue past that date on a part-time, as needed basis to provide a smooth transition. He added the process to fill her position was underway and noted it may take some time to find the right person.

Jeannine Parisi inquired about whether the new financial software program was implemented.

Julie Lindsey responded that the data to implement the new program had been verified and the next step was obtaining a programmer to install the software. She identified the new software program as Caselle. Additionally, she noted that the LRAPA audit was close to completion.

Board members thanked **Julie Lindsey** for her service to LRAPA.

12. Old Business – Work Session

Steve Dietrich stated that this work session was added to the agenda as a placeholder to continue the discussion from January's meeting regarding forming a three-person sub-committee to work on creating LRAPA bylaws. He stated that **Bryan Cutchen** and **Howard Saixon** were chosen for the sub-committee during January's meeting and a third person was still needed.

Mike Fleck volunteered to be the third person on this sub-committee.

Steve Dietrich suggested that the sub-committee could begin working on the bylaws as opposed to waiting for the next work session.

Bryan Cutchen suggested putting information pertaining to the bylaws on a shared drive so everyone could collaborate.

Travis Knudsen said the LRAPA handbook was the closest thing they had to bylaws and that he would add that document in addition to a generic set of bylaws, an example of the CAC's bylaws, and a blank Word document for recording proposed bylaws to a Microsoft OneDrive.

13. Meeting Adjourned

(Minutes recorded by Diana Pamir Tisdale)