



AGENDA

LRAPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

October 26, 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

+12532158782, 88502781432# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799, 88502781432# US (Houston)

- 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 – LRAPA Website Redesign (20 minutes – 12:15)**
- V. **Discussion – Gas Powered Tools (20 minutes – 12:35)**
- VI. **Round table (5 mins – (12:55)**
- VII. **Adjournment 1:00 p.m.**

We endeavor to provide public accessibility to LRAPA services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities. People needing special accommodations to participate in LRAPA public hearings such as assistive listening devices or accessible formats such as large print, Braille, electronic documents, or audio tapes, should please contact the LRAPA office as soon as possible, but preferably at least 72 hours in advance. For people requiring language interpretation services, including qualified ASL interpretation, please contact the LRAPA office as soon as possible, but preferably at least 5 business days in advance so that LRAPA can provide the most comprehensive interpretation services available. Please contact the LRAPA NonDiscrimination Coordinator at accessibility@lrapa.org or by calling the LRAPA office at 541-736-1056.

Nos esforzamos por proporcionar accesibilidad pública a los servicios, programas y actividades de LRAPA para personas con discapacidades. Las personas que necesiten adaptaciones especiales, como dispositivos de asistencia auditiva, formatos accesibles como letra grande, Braille, documentos electrónicos o cintas de audio, deben comunicarse con la oficina de LRAPA con al menos 72 horas de anticipación. Para las personas que requieren servicios de interpretación de idiomas, incluyendo la interpretación calificada de ASL, comuníquese con la oficina de LRAPA al menos con 5 días laborables de anticipación para que LRAPA pueda proporcionar los servicios de interpretación que sean lo más completos disponibles. Para todas las solicitudes, envíe un correo electrónico al Coordinador de Antidiscriminación de LRAPA a accessibility@lrapa.org o llame a la oficina de LRAPA al 541- 736-1056

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



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

VIA ZOOM

October 26, 2021

Attending: Jim Daniels (Chair), Kelly Wood, Jeff Carman, Paul Metzler, Evelina Davidova, Shane Ruddell, Link Smith, Paul Metzler

Absent: Terry Richardson

Staff: Steve Dietrich, Travis Knudsen, Debby Wineinger

Others: Matt Keating-LRAPA Board Member, John Quetzalcoa

Call to Order: 12:01 PM

Public Participation:

Deborah McGee - Eugene

She has lived in Lane County for 41 years. Carmel, California 1975 Beverly Hills 1986 Los Angeles 1998. She could name over 180 cities that have banned gas leaf blowers in their city operations as well as community wide. The first reason is noise. Hearing loss can occur at 60 Plus decibels at the operator's ear. Gas leaf blowers are 95 to 115 decibels even 50 feet away. It ranges from 64 to 78 decibels. So the noise levels are literally deafening. And they also contribute to stress related health conditions. The second reason is health leaf blower stirrup dust, pollen, spores, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, animal feedings, and even trace heavy minerals. Leaf blowers make allergies worse, this contributes to health problems, such as lung cancer, heart disease, strokes, asthma, other respiratory ailments. The third reason cities banned these gas powered tools is a greenhouse gas emissions. California officials say that contamination from running a top selling leaf blower for one hour matches the emissions from driving a 2016 Toyota Camry for 1,100 miles, the distance from Los Angeles to Denver. The bans weren't voluntary changes, they were mandates. She didn't know exactly what responsibility LRAPA has with this regarding this issue. She has heard before if it's legally permitted, but if there's anything you can do to help us stop these bad products being used, please do it. We're being told by scientists that every 10th of a degree that we can limit may make a difference in our future. So please protect our health and our safety.

James Hershiser - Eugene

He said he reached out to the city council mayor and city manager via email recently about potential leaf blower gas powered lawn equipment bans. He was just here to voice his support. Because it's been something that California has enacted. And he thinks that that's a good model that we could potentially follow. And of course, he is concerned about landscaping companies getting the proper like reimbursements for switching to like electric powered equipment, or other types of rebates that might be needed to do that. But overall, he is here to voice his support for a gas powered landscaping equipment ban in Eugene.

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault - Eugene

She is the West Eugene Environmental Justice Organizer for Beyond Toxics. She is here today as a community member with hopes that other community members will want to follow lead and come to

join in some of these meetings to sort of get an idea of what's going on with the advisory board. She is here as a community member, and parent. She has learned that over the span of decades West Eugene has been battling pollution from their industrial neighbors with what seems to the community members with little or no concern about the families that are being impacted by what's going on in West Eugene, and the industrial corridor. This disconnect for the people impacted with the pollution, has unwittingly set a precedent that there is no hope for a better quality of life. What her is working with Beyond Toxics, and with West Eugene, is that we will be able to break down the silos that the community and regular regulatory agencies have our hope, her hope is that bridging this gap, will we build the trust and help establish a renewed partnership that can help establish a new partnership that the people can feel that they can trust. The regulatory agencies such as LRAPA, and DEQ. She knows that doesn't have anything to do with you all as far as the DEQ and the decisions that they make. But she is grouping LRAPA in with them. Because as a community member and standing as a community member for my community here at the meeting, she just wants to express to you how there's this momentum going on in West Eugene after people have been privy to what's happening behind the scenes. There's been a lot of involvement from the community. And she just want to say we're getting stronger. And hopefully, more community members will come to these meetings just to hear what you have planned for West Eugene, She didn't know how closely this advisory board in particular, works with different sects of town. But she is here just to hear maybe some things that you might have planned in as far as involving the community with these meetings.

Board Meeting Overview- Travis Knudsen:

- Some of the board members were interested in hearing about the efforts that's going on with coordination between LRAPA, DEQ, and the City of Eugene, on work surrounding JH Baxter, in West Eugene.
- Oakridge Air updates from Good Company.
- Reviewed current Dashboard report.
- Adopted the PM2.5 and PM10 maintenance plans.
- Discussed Director's six month review of accomplishments and goals.

Website Redesign:

Kelly Wood sent an email to Travis Knudsen with comments – [view list here](#)

Jim Daniels thinks the calendars could be a little more user friendly. He has struggled looking for agendas and minutes on LRAPA website. It's not super intuitive to those of us who maybe don't use it often. He feels there could be little clarity added to, and more user friendly. List the permits, so you can look at any source. And as part of the regulated community, he would like to be able to compare permits.

Evelina Davidova suggested clean burning methods under homewood heating program. And it's a good idea to provide a link of suppliers for clean stoves.

Jim Daniels said you can email Travis if have additional comments.

Gas Powered Tools:

Jim Daniels said this was initially brought up during the board meeting by Councilor Keating, who is joining us today. The initial thrust seemed to be what can be done about it. And Steve Dietrich identified that LRAPA does not have jurisdiction to enact a ban. And the discussion transitioned into having the committee look at ways to encourage alternatives to gas powered tools, not just leaf blowers, but all kinds of small gasoline engines. We will be brainstorming about ways to approach this. And how, as a committee, we might want to take this on.

Paul Metzler said LRAPA does not have direct authority to ban these small gas powered tools. He

has great concern that this effort poses a grave credibility and reputational risk to the agency. He is on this committee as a representative of the general public and he would submit that for the general public, the credibility on important issues like asbestos, dust and lead based paint that credibility will be eroded. If LRAPA is presented with banning leaf blowers he thinks that is something that's not been addressed adequately, what is the cost to the public? He did a little homework and compared it off of a website on Home Depot representative, a cordless electric lawnmower, and a similar gas lawn mower. And it looks to him like it would take a good six to seven years to break even for a homeowner. There's also the issue of the fire danger from the lithium batteries. It's been publicized by a lot of fire departments all around the country they can be a fire hazard. Even internationally, this has been raised. Just yesterday, the fire officials from one of the states in Germany, announced they have a big concern, they're going to have to segregate their electric buses from their regular buses because of fire danger burned up 20 of them. And that was just in the news yesterday. He would also have a concern that this might be exporting our problems if in fact there are any problems to the third world. It's well known that Cobalt is a vital ingredient on the lithium batteries used in cordless tools, and Cobalt is mined under horrendous conditions, largely the Democratic Republic of Congo. So he would have a concern that there would be desperate ethnic impacts. He is not sure what LRAPA can or should be doing anything on this issue, or if in fact it's an issue at all.

Kelly Wood said she saw a comment about how California had just passed a ban down there. Read a couple articles and saw a figure that 16.7 million is what they're estimating how many leaf blowers, weed eaters, lawn mowers there are. And there was a separate step for generators later on. But as somebody in the mining industry, in sand and gravel. taking functioning existing equipment, and what is the cost on the environment to mine and replace 16.7 million pieces of equipment from the mining and processing and manufacturing and then shipping? She is curious if anybody's done the calculations on that environmental impact, as opposed to existing equipment. It's another piece of this, as we weigh the costs and benefits of replacing existing things, there's absolutely a huge cost in the pollution manufacturing, that should be taken in considerations.

Jim Daniels asked Steve Dietrich, it's pretty clear that LRAPA doesn't have jurisdiction to enact a ban. Does LRAPA have any authority to lobby local jurisdictions to enact a ban. **Steve Dietrich** said that's a good question about lobbying jurisdictions. A lot of our authority comes from the regulations that we have. And our regulations are very similar, if not verbatim with the state regulations. The Authority has to come from the state legislature to the DEQ, and then LRAPA has to be at least as strict but can be stricter on certain regulations, but it can't be any less strict. If it does start at the local level, in this case Lane County certainly could forward to the next legislative activity that begins every year. And you'd have to find a sponsor to help a committee work to bring that cause forward, sometimes it may span more than one legislative session.

Jim Daniels said he recalls that at least some state representatives have already been in discussion about leaf blowers specifically. People don't realize that it's also used in construction. At the mill here, they are used to help with cleanup of sawdust and noise is certainly not an issue on that the other equipment is at least as noisy as leaf blowers. So there's other considerations here.

Travis said the Board conversation was more of potentially an informational campaign or things we'd like to put together to make people more aware of potential problems with leaf blowers and other equipment. Something that Citizens Advisory Committee can consider or think about is how beyond our LRAPA authority, or how local municipalities adopting their own ordinance. For example, the Homewood heating ordinance that LRAPA enforces, those are ordinances are adopted by the city, and then they grant us permission to enforce it. Is that something that would be an appropriate approach, because then that brings up questions like enforcement for LRAPA that would create a lot of staff time and labor. He thinks exploring all of those different options is a good process for the Citizens Advisory Committee, and then coming up with these multiple ideas or path forwards and bringing that back to the Board. He thinks that might be a good way to approach this.

Paul Metzler had a technical question for Steve and Travis, a lot of these small gas engines use the two stroke engine with the gasoline and oil mix. Are the LRAPA and EPA monitoring stations capable

of differentiating any air pollutions which is specific for that type of engine. **Steve Dietrich** said he was not sure that it can speciate like that, especially from our ambient air monitors that are fed a reference monitor. It just depends on what the goal is and how you design the monitor to do its work and where you place it has a big part in it.

Jim Daniels asked Link Smith his perspective on fire, both for electric and gas engines, in particular, during fire season. **Link Smith** said the reality is it's probably skewed data right now, because the majority of equipment is gasoline powered. And most of our restrictions regulate internal combustion motors. Many of our fires in the summertime that are started by lawn mowers, essentially they're not from mowing their lawns, they're mowing dry grass, and they're from a rock strike. So whether you're using an electrical engine, or a gasoline motor, the rock strike of the blade in dry grass, is going to be the same with whatever equipment you use.

Jim Daniels said let's take the time till our next meeting to ponder approaches here. He will start doing a little research on costs and benefits of both gas and electric engines. But, as Travis was saying, probably headed towards more of an informational approach to encourage people to take the path of least harm. This will be our main topic for the next meeting.

Roundtable:

- **Jim Daniels** congratulated Link Smith, he is retiring and will also be retiring from the committee. Jim said he has been a great asset, and thanked him for his service. Link Smith said he thinks his replacement might be interested in applying for his seat on the committee. If not he would do some background recruitment and try to get someone to apply. Link also said it has been a pleasure to be part of this group.
- **Paul Metzler** said last month around town in various locations. He smelled the distinctive smell that told him that it's cannabis curing season. For home growers, are those aromatic vapors picked up by any of LRAPA monitoring stations, or any of those vapors? You know, issues of concern? **Steve Dietrich** said he didn't know if he could answer that question. He would have to check with monitoring staff and figure out if there's anything that has shown that's hasn't been showing up until now on the monitors. **Travis Knudsen** said the Oregon liquor Commission, is the regulatory authority this.
- **Jim Daniels** asked if there are any cannabis sources that are permitted? **Steve Dietrich** said he didn't think he has ever seen a permit that we've actually issued a permit for it. DEQ, on the other hand, has instances where they've had to look into the drying operations to be more specific, not so much the growing operation, but the drying operation because of the fuel used to actually run the dryers. And then any kind of emissions from the power of the dryer actually works with the with the product is another area they've looked at; He is not 100% sure what type of permits could have issued in the past or what they're considering now. But they are the dryers, or the areas has been targeted.
- Everyone wished Link Smith the best!

Next Meeting Tuesday – November 30, 2021 VIA ZOOM