



AGENDA

LRAPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

September 26, 2023

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

This CAC meeting will be hosted exclusively virtually via ZOOM

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. 12:00 Call to Order/Agenda Review
- II. 12:05 Public Participation
- III. 12:10 Board Meeting Overview
- IV. 12:20 GHG Reduction Grant Opportunities
- V. 12:45 Roundtable
- VI. 1:00 Adjournment

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

September 26, 2023



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Attending: Jim Daniels, Chair; Kelly Wood, Vice-Chair; Peter Dragovich, Evelina Davidova-Kamis, Paul Metzler; Chris Kline and Teresa Roarke

Staff: Travis Knudsen and Heather Gravelle

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review.

Chair Jim Daniels called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Public Participation.

There was no public participation or public statements made.

III. Board Meeting Overview.

Travis Knudsen, Public Affairs Manager, provided an overview of the September 14, 2023 Board of Directors meeting. Topics included: a summary of prescribed burning in Lane County and LRAPA's role; a synopsis of the July Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting; the Board appointment of Teresa Rourk to the CAC; a review of the Director's Report and the presentation of longevity awards to LRAPA staff.

IV: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Opportunities.

Mr. Knudsen shared that climate pollution reduction grants came from the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress setting aside five billion dollars in funding. He explained that 4.6 billion dollars will be used to implement climate pollution reduction grants focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. **Mr. Knudsen** added that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to see widespread infrastructure updates across the country targeting and reducing GHG emissions. He stated that they were in the Initial planning stages for state and local municipalities to create large scale grant programs that could be used to reduce GHG and, all sectors would qualify, from transportation projects to upgrading buildings and facilities for better energy efficiency.

Mr. Knudsen shared a presentation that he provided to the Residential Woodstove Working Group who were focused on woodstove change out programs. He explained that they were working on installing all ductless heat pumps in the City of Oakridge, weatherization and swapping woodstoves with EPA certified ones. **Mr. Knudsen** added that the state has set goals to reduce GHG emissions and one of the goals set in Oregon is to weatherize 95% of existing residential home envelopes so they are more energy efficient.

Mr. Knudsen stated that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been provided three million dollars from the federal government to begin developing a preliminary climate action plan. He explained that any project applications for grant funding must be in the preliminary plan to receive funding that is available. He added that LRAPA was currently engaged with local partners that include Lane County, EWEB, City of Eugene and the City of Springfield discussing what projects reduce the most GHG.

Mr. Knudsen explained that LRAPA would need to get any project applications they were interested in to the DEQ so they could include it in their preliminary climate action plan to be eligible to apply for the funding. He questioned how they take the funding and bring it to the industrial sector to upgrade or improve local industry in Lane County to reduce GHG, generate industry interest and awareness, and how to incorporate community involvement. He mentioned that one example was wood fire boilers which had a lot of GHG emissions, and questioned if there could be upgrades to move them to all electric, and possibly including other equipment to electric as well.

Chair Daniels questioned what they would do with the material if it wasn't being burned for fuel in the wood fire boilers. He explained that it was a delicate balance dealing with byproducts, sawdust and shavings, and a challenge to find them a home. **Chair Daniels** added that some mills in remote areas were using wood waste landfills that were separately permitted through the DEQ, while others were giving it away as animal bedding.

Mr. Metzler stated that one wildfire produced GHG emissions that overwhelm everything else. He asked why they were dealing with minor side issues when there was an overwhelming issue that could possibly be addressed. **Mr. Knudsen** responded that was a valid question; there were a lot of emissions from wood fuel burning in the forest. If a project existed for fuel reduction, and you could quantify that work in the forest could amount to GHG reductions if a fire was ever to move through the area, that could be eligible for this type of funding.

Ms. Rourk asked if industries in Lane County would apply on their own, or if there would be one application with multiple industry partners. **Mr. Knudsen** responded that individual industry would not be applying for the grants, if would be a regional approach. **Mr. Dragovich** stated that he supported a vigorous outreach to the private sector to determine if they voluntarily wanted to engage; it may be a boost to their business, help them expand and save them money.

Vice-Chair Wood stated that LRAPA had access to all the permits, knew who the biggest contributors were and the equipment that had upgrading capability. She stated that it would make sense that LRAPA would make a list that had the most potential for upgrading and would have the biggest impact. **Vice-Chair Wood** added that transportation smart traffic signals weren't utilized enough and that would have a huge impact. Discussion followed.

Mr. Knudsen shared that the states preliminary climate action plan was due in March 2024; the grant implementation applications were due in April 2024 and the awarding of the funds was expected in October 2024. Committee members thanked Mr. Knudsen for the presentation, information, and discussion.

V: Round Table.

- **Jim Daniels** - None
- **Kelly Wood** – None
- **Peter Dragovich** – None
- **Evelina Davidova-Kamis** – None
- **Mysti Frost** – None
- **Chris Cline** – Explained that it had been a brutal fire season, and he does not expect the recent rains to be enough to bring them out of it. He added that due to the ongoing risk of fire danger, outdoor burning wouldn't be allowed on October 1.
- **Paul Metzler** – None
- **Teresa Rourk** - None

VI. Adjournment

Chair **Jim Daniels** adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting October 31, 2023

(Minutes recorded by Heather Gravelle)