TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION

Thursday, January 12, 2023

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Middle Georgia Regional Commission

175 Emery Highway, Suite C | Macon, GA 31217

We will act now to reduce NOx and Ozone in the Middle Georgia Community to ensure that we protect the region's public health, maintain a robust economic growth, and show leadership in environmental sustainability.

4:00	Call to Order and Approval of Dec. Minutes	Ed Barbee, Chairman
4:05	December Financial Report	Sam Kitchens, Treasurer
4:10	Ned Sanders Scholarship Presentation	Ed Barbee, Chairman Ned Sanders
4:20	MGCAC 20-Year Report Overview	Ray Clark
4:30	PM 2.5 Air Quality Standards	Ray Clark Greg Boike
4:40	I-75 CCC Report	Ray Clark
4:45	2023 MGCAC Goals	Greg Boike
4:50	Discussion	MGCAC Members
5:00	Adjournment	Ed Barbee, Chairman

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor Ed Barbee, City of Gray*
Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Chairman Greg Tapley, Monroe County*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Kayla Walker, student from Fort Valley State University
Leila Kelly, student from Mercer University
Oreta Samples, Fort Valley State University
Phillip McCreanor, Mercer University
Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphel Warnock
Lenora Benjamin, EPA Region 4
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4
Joel Huey, EPA Region 4
Tamara Smith-Hayes, Georgia EPD
Tiffany Davis, Jones County
Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Mary Linn, Electrification Coalition

***Denotes Voting Member or Local Government Staff Proxy for Voting Member**

Support Staff Present

Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Public Administration
Kim Stanton, MGRC Executive Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Ed Barbee called the December meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the conference call meeting. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the committee was able to conduct business.

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Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the November 17, 2022, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Sam Kitchens and a second Greg Tapley.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning November 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $49,770.87 and expenditures in the amount of $15,048.0; the ending balance as of November 30, 2022, was $200,717.49.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Greg Tapley and a second by John Harley.

Presentation of 2022 Ned Sanders Scholarships

Ned Sanders introduced the two recipients of the Ned Sanders scholarship that would receive a $1,000 check. Mr. Sanders recognized the efforts by the MGCAC for their support of engineering and environmental education. Mr. Sanders introduced Leila Kelly from Mercer University and Kayla Walker from Fort Valley State University. Leila Kelly and Kayla Walker thanked everyone for being a recipient of the scholarship and reported on several projects that she is currently working on for clean air.

MGCAC Green Team Report

- Review of 2022 MGCAC Goals

Greg Boike and Ray Clark facilitated a discussion regarding accomplishments from 2022 and potential goals for the upcoming 2023 year.

- Discussion of Potential Activities

MGCAC members talked about some signature projects with infrastructure funds from GDOT.

- Priorities for 2023

MGCAC members prioritized areas of focus for the development of a 2023 action plan.

After further discussion, the coalition agreed to continue the goals of 2022 but to develop a curriculum for 2023 goals. The statement of goals was approved on a motion by Greg Tapley and a second by Sam Kitchens.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress reported on pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the December MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on January 12, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

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Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Financial Report
As of December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance -November 30, 2022			$ 200,717.49
Revenues			
Bank Interest	$ 4.90		
Member Contributions	933.00		
Total Revenues			$ 937.90
Subtotal			201,655.39
Expenditures			
Scholarships	3,000.00		
Ray Clark	12,666.00		
Total Expenditures			15,666.00
Ending Balance -December 31, 2022			$ 185,989.39

20 Year Report Outline

I. History and Charter

a. Retained in 2004 by 21st Century Partnerships
b. Goal: Prevent Non-Attainment under the 8-Hour Ozone Rule.
c. Potential Jeopardy to Warner-Robins AFB During 2005 BRAC Process
d. Potential $4 Billion Loss to Local Economies
e. Helped Direct Review and Analysis of Air Quality Monitoring Studies to Demonstrate Lack of Impact
f. Worked with Senior-Level EPA Regional and Headquarters Staff to Build Scientific Case
g. Worked with Local Governments to Create the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition
h. Drafted the *Strategy for the Future* to Guide Environmental Decision Making
i. Secured $4.5 Million to Implement the *Strategy for the Future.*
j. In 2008, EPA Revised the 8-Hour Primary Ozone Standard from .08 to .075 in Response to Concerns About the Effects of Ozone on Human Health
k. EPA is Reviewing Which Areas in the United States to Classify as in Non-Attainment for the New Standard.
l. Final Classifications Expected March of 2010
m. Designation of Non-Attainment Could Present a Significant Barrier to Economic Growth and Could Jeopardize Warner-Robins in Future BRAC Processes.

II. Goals and Objectives over 20 Years

III. Projects
a. Energy Efficiency
b. Hybrid Vehicles
c. EV Chargers
d. Solarize Middle Georgia
e. Robins Solar Project

IV. Impacts
a. Dollars
b. Health
c. BRAC

V. Leader Recognition
a. Awards
b. Chairs

VI. Challenges for the Future
a. PM 2.5

From: South, Mia

To: bwhetstone; Bill Droessler; Andrea Faber; Megan Green; kemery; acox@capcog.org; DeCandis, Andrew; Ashley Featherstone; Leon, Bennet; Betsy Brown; Bjlucks@sbcglobal.net; Coomes, Bradley; BREWER Peter * DEQ; Brimmer, Amanda (she/her/hers); Gary, Byron L.; CDelaney@augustaga.gov; Christina Hagens; Johnson, Clinton; craig.raborn@h-gac.com; Chandra Ravada; curranaa@dhec.sc.gov; Damberg, Rich; Dan Smith; dana.blue; DBlanken; dee.lynch@louisvilleky.gov; DRocha; Kuehn, Elizabeth, NMENV; Eric Pollard; falen.bohannon; Greg Boike; gretchen.arnold0@gmail.com; james.garland@h-gac.com; Jean.Kelly@la.gov; Jessica Grant; john.weiss; jonathan.navarro@ncdenr.gov; jtanz; Karen Clawson; keith.bamberger@ncdenr.gov; kjmiller@cabq.gov; laurel.joseph; Lesley Long; LHufstetler@aacog.com; mharris2; marie kaufusi; Marvin Bouknight; matthew.mudd@louisvilleky.gov; Melanie Foster; Merchant, Michelle; miken@utetribe.com; mmckenzie; ngraham@incog.org; Natasha Longpine; Rasmussen, Nina; pascale.warren@deq.idaho.gov; Daniel Pekarek; pmill10955; Rensay Owen ....; robin.barrows@ncdenr.gov; RTalken1; Sandra.Holliday@h-gac.com; scott.hansen@catawba.com; sdottery; Shawn Sweetapple; Morang, Suzan; thomas.cabaniss; Udomekong Udoko; walter@imcal.la; wendy.ogilvie@gvmc.org; Wes Wyche; Schath, Brian, NMENV; Doug Norsby; dwojtach.tworoads@gmail.com; Wieber, Kirk; denise; Aspen Nero; kevin@scpdc.org

Cc: Petriman, Viorica; Jodi Slick; Butler, Elizabeth; Clover Brown; Rick Dickinson; Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn; Linky, Edward; wayne; William O"brien; Jay Bassett; Teri Goodmann; Adams, Evan; Assmus, Phillip; Brockman, Larry; Caldwell, Lance; Denny, Andrea; Donohue, Allie; Graham, AshleyR (she/her/hers); Joseph, Towana; Kemp, Lachala; Kornylak, Vera S.; Landis, Elizabeth; Lowder, Erin; Maiti, Pujarini; Molina, Maggie; Nichols, Serena; Oconnor, Karina (she/her/hers); Paige, Carrie; Pitre, Randy; Schweinfurth, Rob; Senter, Stephen; Sheckler, Kelly A.; Simcox, Alison; Spann, Jane; Vaupel, Claudia; Abrahamian, Tanya; Baldauf, Richard; Bertaina, Stephanie; Bollerud, Erica; Byrd, Darlene; Carroll, Ann; Childers, Pat (he/him/his); Coryell, Mark; Critchfield, James; Deyoung, Robyn; Dowdell, Edward (Ned); Epps-Price, Lena; Feist, Timothy; Froman, Sarah; Fuerst, Sherry; Gogal, Danny; Gurkin, Charles; Gwinn, Maureen (she/her/hers); Hannon, Arnita; Hanson, Andrew; Hatcher, Caterina; Hubbell, Bryan; Harry Zhang; January, Elizabeth; jaybassett0522; Jennifer Egan; Stancil, Joanna -FS; Kapichak, Rudolph; Kaplan, Ozge (she/her/hers); King, Matt; Kreider, Andrew; Loughlin, Dan; Ludwig, Victoria; Lupinacci, Jean; Milazzo, Julie; Mitchell, Tracey; Myers, Dianna; Oboyle, Ellen; Patulski, Meg; Payne, Melissa; Pepple, Karl; Price, Andrea; Roberts, Timothy-P; Rourk, Alexis (she/her/hers); Salazar, Viccy; Savage, Alison; Scheraga, Joel; Shah, Surabhi; Shannon, Danielle (Dani); Shatas, Angie; Strine, Lora; Swift, Faye; Tucker, Colby; Vangessel, Benjamin; Wheeler, Carrie; Wilson, Clark; Zinsmeister, Emma; Lang, Matthew; Intern Transport; David Frick; agunning@ppacg.org; Mara Gericke; Petersen, Craig; Mike Van Milligen; Kelley Deutmeyer; Mary Rose Corrigan (Mcorriga@cityofdubuque.org); Gina Bell; Dave Lyons; John Klostermann; Wally Wernimont; Jill Connors; Justin Thiltgen; Taveras, Fausto; Ferreira, Nicholas; Pender, Sarah; Sareen, Neha; Hagan, Nicole; Manj, Muhammad Bilal; Doctor, Katherine; Black, Lily; Askinazi, Valerie; Morales, Serina; Lau, Gavin; Ruvo, Richard; Darakananda, Darian; Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn; Loutan, Reema; bridget.gilmore@ee.doe.gov; Lommele, Stephen; Scarpino, Michael (Volpe); Hong, Amanda; Kern, Kayla; Naess, Liz (she/her/hers); Sherman, Conrad; Fradkin, Kenneth; Kosin, Michele; Sharon Murphy; Pickett, Beatrice; Keveney, Emmet; Ellen.Parrdoering@vermont.gov; Burkhaulter, Antwon; Schath, Brian, ENV; McCauley, Kayla; Park, Ga-Young; Mullen, Kathleen; Magos, Cecilia; Teener, Abigail; Arra, Sarah; Jared Dunlap

Subject: EPA Advance Program Information: EPA Proposes to Strengthen Air Quality Standards to Protect the Public from Harmful Effects of Soot

Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:55:09 AM

EPA Proposes to Strengthen Air Quality Standards to Protect the Public from Harmful Effects of Soot

New Standards Demonstrate President Biden's Leadership to Reduce Air Pollution that Threatens Communities

WASHINGTON (Jan. 6, 2023) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a proposal to strengthen a key national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for fine particle pollution, also known as $PM_{2.5}$, to better protect communities, including those most overburdened by pollution. Fine particles, sometimes called soot, can penetrate deep into the lungs and can result in serious health effects that include asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death – disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations including children, older adults, those with heart or lung conditions, as well as communities of color and low-income communities throughout the United States. These particles may be emitted directly from a source, such as construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks, or fires; other particles form in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of

chemicals such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which are pollutants emitted from power plants, industrial facilities, and vehicles.

EPA's proposal will specifically take comment on strengthening the primary (health-based) annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard from a level of 12 micrograms per cubic meter to a level between 9 and 10 micrograms per cubic meter, reflecting the latest health data and scientific evidence; the Agency is also taking comment on the full range (between 8 and 11 micrograms per cubic meter) included in the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) latest report.

"Our work to deliver clean, breathable air for everyone is a top priority at EPA, and this proposal will help ensure that all communities, especially the most vulnerable among us, are protected from exposure to harmful pollution," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "This proposal to deliver stronger health protections against particulate matter is grounded in the best available science, advancing the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to scientific integrity and a rigorous scientific process."

"As a physician who's passionate about oncology and dedicated to enhancing the health equity that's so often needed in Black communities and other communities of color, I am grateful for the Biden Administration's commitment to advancing equity and justice for all," **said Dr. Doris Browne, former President of the National Medical Association**. "No one should be sickened by the environment they live in, and EPA's proposal marks the start of changes that will have lasting impacts in communities all over, especially Black and brown communities that often experience increased PM pollution. Harmful air pollution can have lasting and devastating impacts on people's health, but by strengthening air quality standards, we can ensure healthier, more sustainable communities across this country."

Since EPA completed its last review of the PM NAAQS in 2012, thousands of new scientific studies have demonstrated the dangers of soot exposure. Strengthening the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard is expected to address disparities and would result in significant public health benefits. EPA estimates that if finalized, a strengthened primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard at a level of 9 micrograms per cubic meter, the lower end of the proposed range, would prevent:

- up to 4,200 premature deaths per year;
- 270,000 lost workdays per year;
- result in as much as $43 billion in net health benefits in 2032.

EPA will work closely with state, local, and Tribal air agencies to implement the revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard when finalized. Today's proposal is the latest in a broader suite of programs under President Biden's leadership to reduce air pollution that threatens communities. These programs include the proposed Good Neighbor Plan to address smog that affects downwind states, rules to address air pollution from oil and gas operations, including methane pollution, and other critical rules to reduce emissions from power plants and the transportation sector, such as

the recently finalized Clean Trucks Rule that will slash smog- and soot-forming pollution from heavy-duty trucks. Additionally, funding from the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act aimed at cutting pollution from school buses and trucks, port operations, and electricity generation are also expected to reduce soot and other harmful air pollutants.

EPA is also proposing to revise other aspects related to the PM standards – such as monitoring requirements and the Air Quality Index (AQI) – that will help states and Tribal Nations meet the revised standards while making significant strides toward protecting the health of all people, including at-risk populations. The Agency is proposing to retain the primary 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter, while taking comment on revising this level to as low as 25 micrograms per cubic meter.

In June 2021, EPA announced it would reconsider the previous administration's December 2020 decision to retain the 2012 $PM_{2.5}$ standards, because available scientific evidence and technical information indicated that the standards may not be adequate to protect public health and welfare. In developing today's proposal, EPA considered the best available science and technical information, including an Integrated Science Assessment and updated Policy Assessment that were made available for public comment and for expert review by the Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and CASAC PM expert panel. EPA carefully evaluated the recommendations of the CASAC in developing the proposed rule.

EPA will accept public comment for 60 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register. EPA will also conduct a virtual public hearing over several days for this proposed rulemaking, with the hearing beginning at 11:00 am Eastern Time and concluding at 7:00 pm ET each day. EPA will begin pre-registering speakers for the hearing upon publication of the announcement of the public hearings in the Federal Register. Additional information will also be made available on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM webpage.

After reviewing comments, the Agency plans to issue final standards later this year.

More information on particulate matter.
More information on the NAAQS review process and other documents related to this reconsideration.

Background
The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set two types of NAAQS: health-based standards, called *primary standards*, and standards to protect public welfare, called *secondary standards*. Based on the scientific evidence and technical information, EPA has set two primary standards for $PM_{2.5}$, which work together to protect public health: the annual standard, which EPA is proposing to revise, and a 24-hour standard, which the Agency is proposing to retain. EPA also is proposing to retain the current primary 24-hour standard for PM_{10}, which provides protection against coarse particles. In addition, the Agency is proposing to retain the secondary standards for both $PM_{2.5}$

and PM_{10} at this time.

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

Mia South
Pronouns: (*she/her/hers)*
Advance National Program Manager
https://www.epa.gov/advance
SPeCS National Program Manager
https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/submit-sips-online
Air Quality Policy Division
State and Local Program Group
U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards
Email: south.mia@epa.gov
Phone: 919.541.5550

I-75 Central Corridor Coalition, Inc.
Promoting Smart Growth in Georgia's Central Corridor

DRAFT WORK PLAN
2023
PRE-DECISIONAL

FORM A 501(C)(3). There are philanthropic organizations in Georgia and nationally that are interested in "Smart Growth" and passenger rail. Currently, the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition (CCC) cannot seek or secure this funding because of its current tax status. Other organizations, such as the Baton Rouge Area Foundation were developed with one simple goal: "to help philanthropists pursue their causes for bettering the lives of the people of South Louisiana." Donors have made significant investments. In 2023, the I-75 CCC will begin outreach to donors to determine first and then the necessary structure which likely would result in the formation of a 501(C)(3).

Lead: Robert Reichert
Staff: The Clark Group

SEEK GOVERNOR KEMP STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. There is an urgent need for GDOT to earnestly and aggressively support the I-75 CCC selection as one of FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Programs. Other DOTs have written effusive letters seeking to be a part of the program.

Lead: Chairman Tapley
Staff: The Clark Group

BUILD A LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS. Senator John Kennedy and Rep Dale Washburn both have been very supportive of the I-75 CCC, as has Lt Gov Burt Jones. All three will have significant influence regarding appropriations in the General Assembly. There are members currently ready and willing to help fully develop this caucus.

Lead: Chair Carlotta Harrell
Staff: The Clark Group

REQUEST CONGRESSIONAL-DIRECTED SPENDING. Over the last 18 months, the Coalition has earned the support of Senators Ossoff and Warnock, and Congressmen Sanford Bishop and Austin Scott. More outreach must be done to secure the support of Representatives Mike Collins, David Scott, and Drew Ferguson. The Coalition must work in the first quarter to determine what appropriations to seek that could result in actions on the ground that will help build the support of donors and the public at large.

Lead: Chairman Anthony Ford
Staff: The Clark Group

RECRUIT CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO THE COALITION. Chambers of Commerce are a valuable asset to help secure economic development projects as well as gain public support. A special outreach should be made to gain the support of rural Chambers of Commerce. The Coalition must make a stronger push to bring these Chambers up to speed on our efforts and gain their support.

Lead: Kay Pippin
Support: MGRC, Three Rivers RC, Atlanta Regional Commissions, and The Clark Group

REQUEST AN "INSPECTION TRAIN" DAY. Amtrak operates a special train that has been put on the rails for a one-time service where elected officials, community leaders, and others can experience the ride between Atlanta and Macon. Others who have done this have experienced an increased enthusiasm for rail. It would require close coordination and an effort to ensure that citizens and leaders turn out for the special day that would attract media attention and the support of leaders in the General Assembly.

Lead: Mayor Wilson
Staff: MGRC, Three Rivers RC, Atlanta Regional Commission, and The Clark Group

2023 MGCAC Goals and Implementation Strategies

Building on the past commitments of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC), the Executive Board has developed a series of goals, priorities, and implementation strategies for the 2022 calendar year, based on the results of a planning session on December 8, 2021. MGCAC member governments are encouraged to proactively budget for projects that will support these four goals. As local projects are identified that align with each goal, the MGCAC can apply for federal funding to undertake said projects.

Goal #1: Improve Readiness for Electric Vehicle Transitions

- Create a brand for this initiative (Example: "Charge Forward Middle Georgia")
- Partner with Georgia Power & EMCs to cross-promote incentives for installation of chargers
- Further develop and refine an EV deployment strategy for Middle Georgia
- Apply for federal transportation grant funding to install EV charging infrastructure, and leverage the MGCAC Clean Air Incentives Grants to help match funding for new federal grants
- Provide technical resources and identify financial resources for local governments and school systems interested in converting fleets and machinery to EVs and other clean alternative fuels

Goal #2: Expand Middle Georgia Solar Programs

- Pursue SolSmart recognition for Middle Georgia region
- Assist cities and counties with enactment of Model Solar Ordinance, and partner to provide training opportunities on best practices for solar permitting and inspections
- Support education and workforce development related to the solar industry
- Identify next signature project opportunity for large-scale solar development, and apply for funding through the Rural Energy Pilot Program ($10M allocation of USDA funding)
- Implement new Solar Energy Procurement Agreements (SEPAs) to install solar panels on rooftops and canopies for schools and local government facilities
- Focus on industry partnerships for new potential solar installations
- Develop annual targets for new solar installed capacity within the region
- Explore research partnerships to deploy additional energy storage technologies

Goal #3: Undertake Projects for Green, Efficient, and Healthy Buildings

- Continue technical assistance for energy savings audits and HVAC system improvements on public buildings and encourage retrofits of outdated lighting and building mechanical systems

Goal #4: Support Transit and Smart Growth Planning to Improve Air Quality

- Continue financial partnership with the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition (I-75 CCC) as a model for Smart Growth potential in Georgia
- Utilize data from the EPA GLIMPSE model to highlight the benefits of new mass transit systems and smart growth development patterns within the I-75 Central Corridor
- Support efforts of the I-75 CCC to develop passenger rail from Hartsfield to Robins AFB

Goal #5: Tell the Story of 20 Years of the MGCAC

- Identify metrics on NOx reduction, cost savings, energy savings, and Ozone/PM2.5 measures
- Develop a report that can be shared to highlight our strategies and successes
- Identify new "good news" stories and share these with the press monthly
- Work with Middle Georgia Innovation Project and Living in Middle Georgia Initiative to market our environment as why Middle Georgia is a great place to live