TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION

Thursday, May 11, 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 Apr. Minutes	Ed Barbee, Chair
4:05	April Financial Report	Sam Kitchens, Treasurer
4:10	Clark Group Report a. MGCAC 20-Year Review b. Federal Policy Updates	Ray Clark
4:20	CFI Grant Program a. Status of Work b. Recommendation of Consultant	Greg Boike
4:30	Clark Group Contract Update	Ed Barbee
4:40	MGCAC Draft FY24 Budget	Greg Boike
4:50	Discussion	MGCAC Members
5:00	Adjournment	Ed Barbee, Chair

Next Meeting – Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*
Commissioner Jackie McCowen, Crawford County*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphel Warnock
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Councilman Mike Dodd, City of Forsyth
Charise Stephens, Macon-Bibb County
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Philip Mccreanor, Mercer University
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Jon Ringler, Yunex Traffic
Grady Smith, VHB
Rutha Jackson, Houston County NAACP

***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
Ray Clark, The Clark Group

Welcome/Call to Order

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the April meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:05 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was not immediately present, and so the committee began with discussion rather than business.

DRAFT

Clark Group Report

a. I-75 CCC Report

Ray Clark reported on the ongoing projects with the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition to promote smart growth and rail access between Hartsfield and Robins AFB. This included a discussion of the new work plan for 2023 with a focus on obtaining a 501(c)(3) status, getting support from the governor and legislature, securing appropriations, working with chambers of commerce, and organizing an inspection train.

b. MGCAC 20-Year Review

Ray Clark gave an overview of the history and charter of the Middle Georgia Clean Coalition over the past 20 years. Mr. Clark also discussed interviews that he had already had and was in the process of setting up over the next several weeks.

Southeast Rail Forum

Greg Boike reported on the Southeast Rail Forum that he attended on March 22 – 24 in Arlington. The Forum was to bring focus to the efforts made by the Southeastern States to unify their visions for the role of rail in the region and it also highlighted the economic benefits of a coordinated approach to regional rail planning. More information can be found at https://southeast-rail-forum.constantcontactsites.com.

CFI Discretionary Grant Program

Greg Boike reported on the upcoming Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program that would deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure.

Mr. Boike stated that the MGRC would move forward with putting out an RFP to assist with the implementation of deploying new EV charging stations in underserved areas throughout the region. Sam Kitchens suggested that the RFP also include an option for solar-powered charging stations, rather than requiring connection into the grid.

Discussion

At this time, Vice Chair Holmes opened up the meeting for general discussion from the members. Dr. Mccreanor from Mercer University noted that the university's technical communication department could be a resource for work on documenting the history and accomplishments of the MGCAC over the past 20 years.

DRAFT

Establishment of Quorum/Call to Order

At 4:45, a quorum of the membership was determined to have been reached and Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the business meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Jackie McCowen and a second by Sam Kitchens.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $439.90 and expenditures in the amount of $12,905.11; the ending balance as of March 31, 2023, was $148,784.21.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Jackie McCowen and a second by Eric Wilson.

Adjournment

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

* * * * *

It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on May 11, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

DRAFT

Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Financial Report
As of April 30, 2023

Beginning Balance -March 31, 2023			$ 148,784.21
Revenues			
Bank Interest	$ 5.44		
Member Contributions	433.00		
Total Revenues			$ 438.44
Subtotal			149,222.65
Expenditures			
Ray Clark	13,081.00		
Total Expenditures			13,081.00
Ending Balance -April 30, 2023			$ 136,141.65

MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
GENERAL FUND
PROJECTED FY 2024 REVENUES

DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBER DUES	$	104,635
PRIVATE PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS	$	15,000
I-75 CCC DONATION FOR RAIL PROJECTS	$	30,000
BANK INTEREST	$	365
TOTAL REVENUE	$	150,000

PROJECTED FY 2024 EXPENSES

CLARK GROUP MGCAC ANNUAL CONTRACT	$	30,000
CLARK GROUP CONSULTING - RAIL/SMART GROWTH	$	30,000
MGRC PROJECT MANAGER	$	65,000
CLEAN AIR INCENTIVES GRANTS	$	15,000
TRAVEL *(inc. MGCAC Members & Clark Group)*	$	9,875
MEETING EXPENSES	$	125
TOTAL EXPENSES	$	150,000

PROPOSED

Greg Boike

From: Clean School Bus Program Newsletter <cleanschoolbus@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:04 AM
To: Greg Boike
Subject: Reminder: 2023 EPA Clean School Bus Grant Program Webinar

May 8, 2023



2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program Webinar

The 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program is now open! This is the first grant funding opportunity through the multi-year funding program and follows the 2022 CSB Rebate Program, which was the first round of funding. Under the 2023 Grant Program, **EPA anticipates awarding approximately $400 million** in competitive grant funding to eligible applicants for the purchase of zero-emission (ZE) school buses, clean school buses, and ZE charging infrastructure.

Click here to REGISTER for the May 10 Webinar at 3 PM ET!

https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kJjVXW3eRq-zsTL_mSORMQ

More Information on the 2023 CSB Grant Program

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) includes two sub-programs, one for school district and Tribal applicants (School District Sub-program) and one for third-party applicants (Third-Party Sub-program). EPA is providing two separate competitions under this single NOFO to address the unique needs and concerns of diverse recipients and encourage participation in the CSB grants program.

EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies, rural areas, Tribal school districts funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and public school districts receiving basic support payments for students living on Tribal land. In addition, EPA is committed to ensuring the CSB Program delivers on the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

The NOFO will be open for 120 days. Applicants must submit all grant application materials to Grants.gov by:

Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59PM ET.

EPA will host a series of public webinars from May through August to provide potential applicants with an overview of the NOFO and how to apply. More information will be posted to the Clean School Bus Webinars webpage.

Technical Request for Information (RFI) - On Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Clean Ports Programs' open through June 5

EPA has announced a technical Request for Information (RFI) on zero-emissions heavy-duty vehicles and port equipment to inform the development of the new Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Clean Ports Programs in the Inflation Reduction Act. EPA invites manufacturers, fleets, ports, municipalities, school districts, utilities, and other stakeholders with zero-emission technology experience or understanding to respond to this RFI by **June 5, 2023**.

This information will also help inform EPA, in discussions with other federal, state, and private sector stakeholders, to determine approaches to support different funding opportunities.

EPA is specifically requesting information on the following technologies:

1. Zero-emission class 6 and 7 heavy-duty vehicles (e.g., electric or fuel cell delivery trucks, refuse trucks, utility trucks, school buses, and day cab tractors)
2. Zero-emission port equipment (e.g., electric or fuel cell dray trucks, harbor craft, locomotives, and cargo handling equipment)
3. Associated charging and other fueling infrastructure

For each of these technologies, EPA is requesting information on:

- *Availability* including manufacturer production capacity.
- *Performance* including durability and maintenance requirements.
- *Pricing* including payback period and lifecycle costs relative to those operating on conventional fuels.
- *Practical considerations* for program design including project development best practices and workforce training needs.

Respondents are also requested to explain if equipment and components are currently manufactured in the United States or expect to be in the near future.

Responses will help EPA understand the availability of U.S. manufactured equipment and components to better create targeted funding programs and address Build America Buy America requirements.

EPA requests responses to this technical RFI on or before June 5, 2023.

Access the technical RFI

Sign Up for this Clean School Bus Program Newsletter

Click Here to Visit the EPA Clean School Bus Program Website

Clean School Bus Program | U.S. EPA | cleanschoolbus@epa.gov

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