TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN MIDDLE GEORGIA

MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION

Thursday, November 17, 2022

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 ➢ Approval of August Minutes ➢ Approval of September Minutes ➢ Approval of October Minutes	Ed Barbee, Chair
4:05	October Financial Report	Greg Boike
4:10	Presentation from GreenTec Labs ➢ DF5 Product Overview	Christopher Dunn, GreenTec Corey Covington, GreenTec Yvonne Walker, Fort Valley
4:30	Middle GA-Robins AFB Sustainability Plan	Greg Boike & Dan Rhoades
4:45	I-75 Central Corridor Trip Report	Greg Boike
4:50	December Meeting Preview	Greg Boike
4:55	Discussion	MGCAC Members
5:00	Adjournment	Ed Barbee, Chair

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 11, 2022, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor Ed Barbee, City of Gray*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Councilman Wade Yoder, Peach County*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Elizabeth Ruark - Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
Tamara Smith-Hayes, Georgia EPD
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Ben Kessler, ChargePoint

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

Support Staff Present

Ray Clark, The Clark Group
Laura Mathis, MGRC Executive Director
Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Public Administration
Kim Stanton, MGRC Executive Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Ed Barbee called the August 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.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the June 9, 2022, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Sam Kitchens and a second Ned Sanders.

DRAFT

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning July 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $434.16 and expenditures in the amount of $14,185.37; the ending balance as of July 31, 2022, was $130,352.87.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Ned Sanders and a second by John Harley.

The Clark Group

- Inflation Reduction Act

Ray Clark reported that included in the Inflation Reduction Act Bill would be funds for cities and states to tackle the climate crisis and help reduce emissions.

- EV's

The Inflation Reduction Act Bill would also extend tax credits for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles.

- Smart Growth

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.

- Delegation Trip to Washington

Ray Clark reported on the trip to Washington on June 22 and met with representatives from Senator Ossoff's and Senator Warnock's office to discuss Federal Rail Administration to discuss rail appropriations.

- Meeting with Chairman Perdue, Houston County

Ray Clark met with Chairman Perdue from Houston County

I-75 Legislative Summit

Laura Mathis reported on the I-75 Legislative Summit that met on June 3, 2022 to discuss the state rail plan and the smart growth study along the corridor from Stockbridge to Macon.

DRAFT

I-75 Update

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.

Discussion

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 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 September 8, 2022, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

DRAFT

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

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor Ed Barbee, City of Gray*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Shavonda Hill, Field Representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop
Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphael Warnock
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Anita Moreno, Flint Energies
Tamara Smith-Hayes, Georgia EPD
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
***Denotes Voting Member or Local Government Staff Proxy for Voting Member**

Support Staff Present

Ray Clark, The Clark Group
Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Public Administration
Kim Stanton, MGRC Executive Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Ed Barbee called the September meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was not present, and the committee was unable to conduct official business.

The Clark Group

- EV's

The Inflation Reduction Act Bill would extend tax credits for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles. The Clean Energy transition that will have an impact on businesses and homeowners as technologies change to accelerate global clean energy.

- Grant Opportunities

Ray Clark reported on grant opportunities that would be available to communities for accessible charging infrastructure.

- I-75 Corridor Update

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.

EV Car Show

Greg Boike announced the National Drive Electric Week in partnership with Mercer University, a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all electric vehicles, September 24th. More information can be found at www.driveelectricweek.org.

GLIMPSE Update

Greg Boike reported that he met with EPA today to discuss supporting a modeling tool being developed by EPA that will assist states with energy and environmental planning through the year 2050.

Set Next Meeting Dates/Times

Greg Boike asked the Chairman if they wanted to move the next MGAC meeting back to start at 3:30 in order to ensure the meeting is done before the MGRC Annual meeting.

The November MGCAC meeting will be moved to November 17 to coincide with the MGRC meeting on the same day.

Discussion

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the September MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on October 13, 2022, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

DRAFT

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 13, 2022, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor Ed Barbee, City of Gray*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
Rogie Roberson, Flint Energies
Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Kelly Sheckler, Region 4 EPA
Tamara Smith-Hayes, Georgia EPD
Mary Linn, Electrification Coalition
Tommy Bruhn, EA Engineering
Tiffany Davis, Jones County

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

Support Staff Present

Ray Clark, The Clark Group
Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Public Administration

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Ed Barbee called the October meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was not present, and the committee was unable to conduct official business.

GLIMIPSE Program Updates

Greg Boike reported that he had discussions with EPA today to discuss supporting a modeling tool being developed by EPA that will assist states with energy and environmental planning through the year 2050.

DRAFT

The Clark Group: EV Updates

The Inflation Reduction Act Bill would extend tax credits for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles. The Clean Energy transition will have an impact on businesses and homeowners as technologies change to accelerate global clean energy.

- Smart Growth Goals in 2022

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.

- I-75 Legislative Summit and Strategy

Ray Clark reported that he would be going to New Orleans/Baton Rouge to meet with community leaders that have been developing rail in that area.

Grants Roundtable

Ray Clark reported on the (CRISI) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant that would fund projects to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail systems.

Greg Boike reported on the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant that must be used where priority is given to projects that expand access to EV charging and alternative fueling infrastructure within rural areas, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and communities with a low ratio of private parking areas.

Greg Boike talked about the upcoming Low or No Emission (Bus) Grants that MTA has used for their buses. Greg Boike also reported on the upcoming grant for a Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development Planning for improving America's communities through public transportation.

Discussion

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the October MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on November 17, 2022, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Financial Report
As of October 31, 2022

Beginning Balance -September 30, 2022			$ 137,038.79
	Revenues		
	Bank Interest	$ 1.08	
	Reimbursement from I-75 Central Corridor Coalition	$ 17,500.00	
	Member Contributions	23,884.75	
Total Revenues			$ 41,385.83
Subtotal			178,424.62
	Expenditures		
	Ray Clark	12,430.00	
Total Expenditures			12,430.00
Ending Balance - October 31, 2022			$ 165,994.62

RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
ADOPTING THE MIDDLE GEORGIA—ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia—Robins Air Force Base Sustainability Plan has been a cooperative land use and community planning initiative among the cities and counties of Middle Georgia to promote growth and development that is compatible with the present and future operations and missions of Robins Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of Robins Air Force Base on the State of Georgia is approximately $5.46 billion with 23,282 employees and an annual payroll of $1.67 billion; and

WHEREAS, any decrease or loss of economic benefits would negatively impact quality of life throughout Middle Georgia; and

WHEREAS, development that is incompatible with the recommendations of the 1998 Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) study or with the 2004 Joint Land Use Study may result in negative impacts such as reduced operations and/or loss of flying missions; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, 21st Century Partnership, Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition, and member governments of Houston County, Macon-Bibb County, Peach County, Twiggs County, City of Byron, City of Centerville, City of Fort Valley, City of Jeffersonville, City of Perry, City of Warner Robins, and Town of Danville wish to partner with Robins Air Force Base in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 Middle Georgia—Robins Air Force Base Sustainability Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition endorses and supports the current missions of Robins Air Force Base and the initiatives and recommendations of the 2022 Middle Georgia—Robins Air Force Base Sustainability Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition commits to continued efforts in partnership with Robins Air Force Base and other governmental entities to implement the initiatives and recommendations of the 2022 Middle Georgia—Robins Air Force Base Sustainability Plan that are so supported.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022.

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Ed Barbee, Chairman Clifford Holmes, Vice-Chairman

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANFA TRIP REPORT

BACKGROUND: Several members of the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana on 26-27 October. The trip was based on a recommendation from Amtrak that the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAF) is working on securing Amtrak service from New Orleans to Baton Rouge and that project closely resembled the efforts of the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition efforts. They are in the I-10 Corridor which they believe to be very congested but we saw nothing that compared with the I-75 Corridor. Amtrak suggested there were lessons the I-75 CCC could gain from meeting with the leadership of the BRAF. Upon contacting, John Spain, the Executive Director, also suggested we meet with senior staff at Louisiana Department of Transportation.

DELEGATION:

- Rep Dale Washburn
- Chair Carlotta Harrell
- Mayor Eric Wilson
- Robert Reichert
- Terry Coleman
- Ray Clark

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- **Contract With Transportation for America.** The I-75 Central Corridor Coalition should consider joining the Washington based group Transportation for America. BRAF believes the group has been an essential part of moving their project forward. https://t4america.org
- **Build a Legislative Caucus.** Rep Washburn has been a leader in the building of an I-75 Central Corridor Caucus. All elected officials should coordinate with and assist Rep Washburn in building a robust Caucus. The leadership should approach Sen John Kennedy to determine if he would lead in the Senate.
- **Request and Inspection Train Day.** That the I-75 CCC should consider requesting Amtrak conduct an "Inspection Train", which is a special train that Amtrak will put on 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 people an increased enthusiasm for rail.
- **Review Other Successful Models**. That the I-75 rail line would not be novel; similar efforts are currently working in Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.
- **Focus on One Segment**. While supporting the national efforts to restore or develop rail, the I-75 CCC should focus on just the segment between Clayton County and Macon-Bibb.
- **This is Our Only Chance**. That the I-75 CCC is "over the target" and the amount of funding and program support is unprecedented and it not likely to ever be this robust again.

- **Put Extra Efforts into GDOT Partnership.** That 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 Program. We discovered that both LDOT and TxDOT have written effusive letters seeking to be a part of the program and BRAF has numerous letters from elected officials and state-wide organizations supporting their nominations.
- **Consider an Investor Angel.** The BRAF was "created in 1964, the Foundation has one simple goal: to help philanthropists pursue their causes for bettering the lives of the people of South Louisiana". While rail is not their sole issue, it is one they and their donors have made significant investments.

    - Serving donors to build the assets that drive initiatives and solutions
    - Engaging community leaders to develop appropriate responses to emerging opportunities and challenges
    - Partnering with entities from our service area, as well as with other community foundations, to leverage our collective resources and create the capacity to be a stimulus of positive regional change
    - Evaluating our work and sharing the results with our stakeholders.

SUMMARY: The entire delegation considered the trip very successful and developed numerous new ideas about how to move the I-75 CCC project forward.