**MEETING MINUTES**
**MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION**
**REGULAR MEETING**
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Commissioner Wade Yoder, Peach County*
Commissioner Jackie McCowan, Crawford County*
Chairman Dan Perdue, Houston County

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4

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

Support Staff Present

Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Planning and Public Administration
Alex Smith, MGRC Environmental and Land Use Planner
Kim Stanton, MGRC Executive Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Chairman Ed Barbee called the January meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the 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 November 16, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and a second by Sam Kitchens.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning November 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $57,731.06 and expenditures in the amount of $5,000.00; the ending balance as of December 31, 2023, was $207,924.76.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Clifford Holmes and a second by Ned Sanders.

Updates on Clean School Bus Projects

Sam Kitchens reported that Bibb County School District was one of five schools in Georgia that was selected to receive grant funds of $6,275,000.00 to purchase over 25 clean school buses by the Environmental Protection Agency, accelerating the transition to low- and zero-emission vehicles, these awards will improve air quality for children and their families and advance environmental justice.

Review of Goals and Plans for 2024

a. Existing Goals from 2023

After further discussion, the coalition reviewed and agreed to continue the goals of 2023, removing the 20-year commemoration, with minor updates and new prioritization for 2024.

b. New Priorities

MGCAC members prioritized areas of focus for the development of a 2024 action plan.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the MGCAC presented Chairman Ed Barbee with a plaque of appreciation recognizing his work with the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition in efforts to address air quality as part of the coalition's 20-year celebration.

c. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

Greg Boike reported that the Georgia EPA has a new funding source, Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. Mr. Boike stated that the MGRC can assist with these grants. More information on examples of different types of projects for which grant applications could be submitted are available online at www.drawdownga.org.

Clark Group Contract Update

Greg Boike reported on the recommendation from Ray Clark that the contract with The Clark Group be updated with a stipend and expenses.

The current contract is $5,000 per month, $2,500 from I-75 CCC and $2,500 from the MGCAC. The proposal would clarify and add travel costs, expenses would include:

Mileage up to $150 (300 mile x 2 (roundtrip) x .25 a mile.
Hotel up to $300 per night.
A $150 stipend.

**The total expenses and stipend would be costs up to $500.**

The motion to adopt the travel stipend/reimbursement was unanimously approved on a motion by Dan Perdue and a second by Clifford Holmes.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress about electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence. This included articles on efficient street lighting.

Adjournment

A motion to pay all bills was unanimously approved on a motion by Clifford Holmes and a second by John Harley. There being no further business, the January MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on February 8, 2024, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.