MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 12, 2023, 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 *
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Commissioner Wade Yoder, Peach County*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Toya Key, Student from Fort Valley State University
Reggie Cofer, Field Representative for Senator Jon Ossoff
Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphel Warnock
Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4
Tamara Smith-Hayes, Georgia EPD
Tiffany Davis, Jones County*
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions

***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

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 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 December 8, 2022, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Wade Yoder and a second by John Harley.

Financial Report

Greg Boike provided the Financial Report beginning December 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $937.90 and expenditures in the amount of $15,666.00; the ending balance as of December 31, 2022, was $185,989.39.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Henry Ficklin and a second by Clifford Holmes.

Ned Sanders Scholarship Presentation

Ned Sanders introduced the recipient 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 Toya Key from Fort Valley State University. Toya Key thanked everyone for being a recipient of the scholarship and reported on several projects that she is currently working on for clean air.

MGCAC 20-Year Report Overview

Ray Clark gave an overview of the history and charter of the Middle Georgia Clean Coalition over the past 20 years. Mr. Clark also reported on the accomplishments and working with the local governments to create a healthier environment.

PM 2.5 Air Quality Standards

Ray Clark and Greg Boike reported on EPA's proposed updates the air quality standards for particulate matter (PM 2.5) and some of the sources of emissions that impact air quality in the Middle Georgia region.

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.

2023 MGCAC Goals

After further discussion, the coalition agreed to continue the goals of 2022 but to prioritize the goals for 2023 goals.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress reported on pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence. He also discussed the importance of local communities prioritizing sites for EV charging stations.

Ed Barbee discussed some of the latest updates in tax credits that can support new electric vehicles. Wade Yoder also discussed the impact of hydrogen power on the work of the MGCAC and impact on the air quality.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the January 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 February 9, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.