MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 3:30 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*
Commissioner Wade Yoder, Peach County*
Commissioner Jackie McCowan, Crawford County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Tiffany Davis, Jones County*
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Claudette Ayanaba, Georgia EPD
Anna Aponte, Georgia EPD
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD
Melvin Harris, Oglethorpe Power
Mark Strozier, Macon Transit Authority
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
Sarah Bauer, Mercer University
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4

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

Support Staff Present

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

Welcome/Call to Order

Greg Boike called the November meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 3:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was determined that a quorum was not present at the moment, and the committee was not yet able to conduct business.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)

a. Presentation by Georgia EPD

Anna Aponte and Claudette Ayanaba with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division reported on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds that are available to focus on Greenhouse Gas reduction measures and reduce hazardous air pollutants. Ms. Ayanaba talked about the eligibility, application process, and the evaluation criteria. More information can be found at https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants.

b. Discussion of MGCAC Opportunities

Greg Boike reported to the Coalition that the MGRC can assist the local communities with this grant process or that MGRC could take the lead on a regional coalition application. He highlighted the importance of communities identifying their top priorities for grant funding.

Establishment of Quorum

Following the discussion of Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, Greg Boike determined that the Coalition had attained a quorum of its membership and was able to conduct business.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the October 12, 2023 meetings; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and a second by John Harley.

Financial Report

Greg Boike provided the Financial Report beginning October 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $19,621.86 and expenditures in the amount of $5,853.00; the ending balance as of October 31, 2023, was $101,931.23.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Jackie McCowan and a second by Wade Yoder.

MGCAC 20-Year Review

Greg Boike and Ray Clark reported on the 20th anniversary special event celebration that will take place on December 14 at the MGRC. The group discussed the general plans for the evening and the event.

MGRC Activity Report

Greg Boike reported that they are still waiting to hear from DOT regarding the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant that was submitted in June. Mr. Boike is continuing to attend sessions on the CPRG program. He also reported that the regional plan stakeholder meetings were about to begin and that air quality would once again be a topic.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence. This included articles on energy for the future, natural gas, and carbon reduction.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the November 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 December 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm to celebrate the MGCAC's 20th anniversary celebration at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.