MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 9, 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*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*
Commissioner Jackie McCowan, Crawford County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Councilman Mike Dodd, City of Forsyth
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Charise Stephens, Macon-Bibb County
Mark Strozier, Macon Transit Authority
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD

***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 February 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 January 9, 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 January 1, 2023, through January 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $440.67 and expenditures in the amount of $12,739.00; the ending balance as of January 31, 2023, was $173,691.06.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Henry Ficklin and a second by John Harley.

Set Dues Rate for FY 2024

The approval to keep the rate of 25 cents per capita to calculate dues was approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and a second by Sam Kitchens.

MGCAC 20 Years in Pictures

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

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.

EECBG Program Overview

Greg Boike reported on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds that are available to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. Macon-Bibb and Warner Robins are eligible for direct allocations of funding and other entities can compete for funding through the State of Georgia later this year.

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. Eric Wilson also discussed the progress being made on small module nuclear reactors.

Adjournment

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