MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 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*
Chairman Greg Tapley, Monroe County**
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphel Warnock
Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Mark Strozier, Macon Transit Authority
Anthony Jackson, Bibb County School District
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 March 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 February 9, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Clifford Holmes and a second by Ned Sanders.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning February 1, 2023, through February 28, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $439.36 and expenditures in the amount of $12,881.00; the ending balance as of February 28, 2023, was $173,691.06.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and a second by Greg Tapley.

Clark Group Report

a. 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.

b. MGCAC 20-Year Review

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 and asked the coalition to forward him any pictures anyone might have over the last 20 years.

Clean School Bus Program

Sam Kitchens and Kelly Sheckler gave a report on two grant programs that will be available soon to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. More information can be found at www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.

CFI Discretionary Grant Program

Greg Boike reported on the upcoming Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program that would deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure.

After further discussion, the coalition agreed to move forward with applying for the grant. Sam Kitchens made a motion to request that MGRC provide assistance to the Coalition for moving forward to applying for the grant. A second was given by Clifford Holmes and the motion passed unanimously.

EECBG Program Reminder

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. This included an update on Senate Bill 146, related to funding of road improvements. He also discussed the importance of local communities prioritizing sites for EV charging stations. Dan Rhoades also gave a brief update on the federal budget process.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the March 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 April 13, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.