MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*
Commissioner Jackie McCowen, Crawford County*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Brenda Williams, Field Representative for Senator Raphel Warnock
Kelly Sheckler, EPA Region 4
Jameson Hamilton, Georgia EPD
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Councilman Mike Dodd, City of Forsyth
Charise Stephens, Macon-Bibb County
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Philip Mccreanor, Mercer University
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Jon Ringler, Yunex Traffic
Grady Smith, VHB
Rutha Jackson, Houston County NAACP

***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

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the April meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:05 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was not immediately present, and so the committee began with discussion rather than business.

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. Mr. Clark also discussed interviews that he had already had and was in the process of setting up over the next several weeks.

Southeast Rail Forum

Greg Boike reported on the Southeast Rail Forum that he attended on March 22 – 24 in Arlington. The Forum was to bring focus to the efforts made by the Southeastern States to unify their visions for the role of rail in the region and it also highlighted the economic benefits of a coordinated approach to regional rail planning. More information can be found at https://southeast-rail-forum.constantcontactsites.com.

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.

Mr. Boike stated that the MGRC would move forward with putting out an RFP to assist with the implementation of deploying new EV charging stations in underserved areas throughout the region. Sam Kitchens suggested that the RFP also include an option for solar-powered charging stations, rather than requiring connection into the grid.

Discussion

At this time, Vice Chair Holmes opened up the meeting for general discussion from the members. Dr. Mccreanor from Mercer University noted that the university's technical communication department could be a resource for work on documenting the history and accomplishments of the MGCAC over the past 20 years.

Establishment of Quorum/Call to Order

At 4:45, a quorum of the membership was determined to have been reached and Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the business meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Jackie McCowen and a second by Sam Kitchens.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $439.90 and expenditures in the amount of $12,905.11; the ending balance as of March 31, 2023, was $148,784.21.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Jackie McCowen and a second by Eric Wilson.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the April 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 May 11, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.