MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 11, 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*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Councilman Mike Dodd, City of Forsyth
Charise Stephens, Macon-Bibb County
Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Michael Collins, Total Computer Solutions
Tiffany Davis, Jones County

***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
Laura Mathis, MGRC Executive Director

Welcome/Call to Order

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the May meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the 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 April 13, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Sam Kitchens and a second by John Harley.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning April 1, 2023, through April 30, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $438.44 and expenditures in the amount of $13,081.00; the ending balance as of April 30, 2023, was $136,141.65.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Henry Ficklin and a second by Eric Wilson.

Clark Group Report

a. 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.

b. Federal Policy Updates

Ray Clark reported that EPA has issued a more ambitious proposed standards to further reduce harmful air pollutant emissions, particularly as related to regulation of CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Mr. Clark also reported on the Miami area experiencing Black Snow, falling ash as a result of sugarcane burning. The concern is smoke ash adding new factors to air quality.

CFI Discretionary Grant Program

a. Status of Work

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 since the last meeting, the MGRC put 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.

Mr. Boike reported that they received 8 proposals. The proposals were reviewed by the MGCAC Green Team and members of the MGRC staff. Charge Point had the highest scoring proposal, so the Green Team is recommending moving forward with Charge Point and getting final approval from the MGRC Council.

b. Recommendation of Consultant

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes requested a motion be made to amend the agenda and add a vote for ChargePoint as the Consultant. Sam Kitchens made the motion seconded by Eric Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes requested a motion be made to approve the recommendation of ChargePoint to the MGRC Council. Sam Kitchens made the motion seconded by Eric Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

Clark Group Contract Update

Ray Clark reported that he has decided to move into retirement with reduced hours of support for the MGCAC and the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition. The new contract rate would be $2,500 per month to support the activities of the MGCAC.

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes requested a motion be made to accept Ray Clark's proposal. Eric Wilson made the motion seconded by John Harley. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes thanked Ray Clark for all of his support and contributions to the MGCAC for the last 20 years.

MGCAC Draft FY24 Budget

Greg Boike presented the proposed FY 2024 budget. Included in the budget are additional funds for clean air incentives to highlight ongoing activities of the MGCAC.

No action is required at this time and will be presented for final approval at the June meeting.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress reported on pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence including relevant federal legislation and tax credits, as well as the investments being made by private automobile manufacturers in new electric vehicles. He also discussed the importance of local communities prioritizing sites for EV charging stations.

Eric Wilson also provided an update on the progress at Plant Vogtle, where the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power) is one of the three major investors. He reported on the company-wide progress toward renewable and non-emitting sources of electricity. In particular, the City of Forsyth now generates 83 percent of all electricity used within their service area from non-emitting sources.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the May MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on June 8, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.