MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 8, 2023, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Commissioner Jackie McCowan, Crawford County*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Commissioner Sam Kitchens, Jones County*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Councilman Rusty Adams, City of Byron*
Commissioner Wade Yoder, Peach County*
Chairman Greg Tapley, Monroe County*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Chairman Martin Moseley, Peach County
Former Mayor Robert Reichert, Macon-Bibb County
Former Chairman James Vaughn, Monroe County
Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership
Elizabeth Ruark, Field Representative for Representative Austin Scott
Jake Cox, Houston County
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Rogie Roberson, Flint Energies
Tiffany Davis, Jones County
Philip Mccreanor, Mercer University

***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
Savannah Decker, MGRC Program Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the June 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 May 11, 2023, meeting; they were unanimously approved on a motion by Sam Kitchens and a second by Ned Sanders.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning May 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $438.44 and expenditures in the amount of $13,678; the ending balance as of May 31, 2023, was $122,902.09.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and a second by Greg Tapley.

MGCAC 20-Year Review

Ray Clark gave an overview of the history of the Middle Georgia Clean Coalition over the past 20 years. The presentation focused on the early development of the Coalition. Mr. Clark also highlighted several accomplishments and the individuals who were instrumental in spearheading the projects to bring cleaner air to Middle Georgia. Ray Clark and MGRC staff will continue working on a history document and will send out a draft for review in early July.

Smart Growth Updates

Robert Reichert reported there will be 10 corridors in the US, selected to connect cities with passenger rail and the state of Georgia has submitted the Atlanta to Savannah application to hopefully be selected as one of them. Mr. Reichert also stated that Dr. Clement Solomon, GDOT Intermodal Division will speak at the June I-75 Central Corridor Coalition meeting. He invited the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition members to attend.

CFI Discretionary Grant Program

Greg Boike reported on progress for a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program application that would deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure. He stated that USDOT extended the deadline to submit the application until June 13.

Proposed MGRC Scope of Work

In response to the change in the Clark Group contract, Mr. Boike reported that the MGRC has proposed to create a new position, an Environmental and Land Use Planner, that would assist in day-to-day work of the MGCAC, assist in the administration of I-75 Central Corridor Coalition and provide Middle Georgia communities with other technical assistance aligned with principles of smart growth, planning, and environmental management. This position would be included in the FY 2024 budget.

MGCAC FY 24 Budget for Approval

Sam Kitchens and Greg Boike presented the proposed FY 2024 budget. Included in the budget are the additional funds for MGRC staff to support the activities of the MGCAC. The proposal for FY 2024 is a balanced budget that does not require drawing from fund balance.

The FY 2024 budget was approved on a motion by Ned Sanders and a second by Greg Tapley.

July 2023 Meeting

Due to the lack of an MGRC Council meeting in July, John Harley made a motion to cancel the MGCAC meeting scheduled for July 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Henry Ficklin and passed unanimously.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress reported on pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence. This included a discussion on federal regulations regarding coal-fired power plant emissions and CDC recommendations on indoor air quality. He also discussed the numerous investments being made by private automobile manufacturers in new electric vehicles, including in support of the Georgia economy.

Dan Rhoades discussed the announcement that Ford electric vehicles would be compatible with Tesla plugs, expanding the EV network for those drivers.
Commissioner McCowen asked about the proposed solar gondola system in Macon-Bibb County. Dr. Ficklin noted that no public resources were being invested on the project and that the proposed developer was still exploring financing options.

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes requested a motion be made to approve the recommendation of paying the Clark Group contract and any outstanding bills. Greg Tapley made the motion seconded by Ned Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the June 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 August 10, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.