

**Core Stakeholder Meeting
COG Offices
February 18, 2009**



ATTENDEES:

Grady Truett
Alan Giles
Mike Keziah
Dean Jones
Larry Lane
Dave Navey
Rich Deming
Marcie Smith
Andrew Street
John Fragola
Grady Truett
Jim Burke
Greg Johnson
Laura Mundell
Cynthia Moseley
Robert Taylor
Johnny Wear
Jason Wager
Sarah Niess

MINUTES:

Welcome/Introductions:

Chairman Mike Keziah welcomed the group and introduced Dan Shanahan from Cabaire. Dan gave a presentation about truck stop electrification and spoke about their 50 space project off I-85 in Salisbury.

Meeting Logistics:

Jason and Sarah made two suggestions that the group agreed upon for future meetings:

- Offer a conference call option for those you cannot travel or have a tight schedule
- Develop a consent agenda for meetings that contains updates from everyone (make Roundtable sessions shorter in future meetings)

CCFC Legislative Subcommittee

Since the last Core Stakeholder Group meeting several members have been participating on a legislative subcommittee. The need for the subcommittee arose out of several requests from federal, state and industry partners for coalition input on policy

initiatives. The subcommittee is comprised of: Dave Navey, Rich Deming, Larry Lane and Marcie Smith.

The group has met twice and developed a list of three priority policy initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. There are only three due to time and resource constraints and the subcommittee felt that it was more manageable. The subcommittee developed the following priority policy initiatives:

- **Biodiesel:** Seek incentives, funding and support for local fleets to switch from traditional diesel to using sustainable biodiesel. The air quality benefits, ease of use and availability of biodiesel make it an attractive option for many fleets. The focus will be on large end-users including school buses, local government fleets and transit and on biodiesel that is produced and distributed in an sustainable manner.
- **Infrastructure:** Seek incentives, funding and support for the development of additional alternative fuel fueling infrastructure. There is growing demand from end users who are interested in using biofuels and natural gas in their vehicles, however, the cost of the fueling infrastructure has slowed the growth of public and private fueling stations. In addition, there are opportunities for small scale pilot programs to show how public/private partnerships can help to expand everyone's access to alternative fuels.
- **Diesel Emissions:** Seek incentives, funding and support for programs that encourage the use of tailpipe emission reduction technologies and engine repowers for both on and off-road equipment. While engine and fuel standards have improved, many fleets have older diesel vehicles and equipment that will remain in their fleet for years and will continue to emit harmful diesel emissions. There are several successful programs encouraging fleets to reduce emissions from their legacy diesel fleet, however, there is a much greater demand than these programs can accommodate.

Suggestions from the group included compiling a list of legislative actions taken by other states; to try to find fuel neutral solutions (for example HOV lanes that can be used by any alternative fuel); need to more infrastructure in state.

The group voted to adopt these priority policy initiatives. The subcommittee will continue to work with Jason and Sarah on these policy initiatives with periodic reports to the Core Stakeholder Group on its progress.

Stimulus Discussion:

Jason and Sarah shared all the funding opportunity information that had received to date under the stimulus package. There will be \$300M in funding for Clean Cities projects. Alan Giles gave an update on Diesel Emission Reduction Act funding saying that there will be a total of \$300M, with around 30% going directly to states and 70% for a nationwide competitive process. The RFP is expected soon with a 30 day turnaround. The combined 2009/2010 DERA funds will be part of a RFP process in September 2009.

Jason and Sarah asked for volunteers for a subcommittee on stimulus opportunities. At this point there is not a clear set of responsibilities/tasks for this subcommittee but will be used as a resource by Jason and Sarah. The following people volunteered: Rich Deming, Greg Johnson, Dave Navey, Robert Taylor, Marcie Smith, Dean Jones, Mike Keziah and Grady Truett.

Other Updates:

- Mecklenburg County Air Quality received GRADE funding from EPA. In addition, they are submitting a VALE program proposal for the airport.
- COG was the lead applicant for two NC Biofuels Center proposals submitted for regional biodiesel feasibility analysis and a pilot project.