

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



ATTENDEES:

Grady Truett
Dean Jones
Larry Lane
Dave Navey
Rich Deming
Marcie Smith
Laura Mundell
Robert Taylor
Rod Trump
Butch Pearson
Roger Cable
Dan Nuckolls
Lou Lambruschi
Keith Ratliff
Marcie Smith
Jason Wager
Sarah Niess

MINUTES:

Welcome/Introductions:

Vice-Chairman Dave Navey welcomed the group and gave an overview of the agenda. Each attendee introduced themselves to the group.

Subcommittee Activities:

Electric Vehicle Subcommittee

Dave Navey gave an overview of the need for a subcommittee to be formed to focus on electric vehicles. He mentioned the recent electric vehicle conference in Raleigh and that Raleigh has taken a leading role with "Project Get Ready" to help plan for the required infrastructure needs. He emphasized our region's need to have a similar plan for Charlotte. Jason and Sarah outlined the objectives and commitments required of this group – namely, that the group will convene monthly for a trial six month period and will focus its efforts on developing a workshop event for the Fall, participating in statewide discussions and seeking funding for targeted, high-profile electric stations around the region. Jason asked the group for input on the subcommittee's objectives. Laura Mundell suggested that the group look at manufacturers of electric vehicles and infrastructure in the region as well as training programs for installation of infrastructure.

The following people volunteered to be a part of this subcommittee:

Dave Navey, Robert Taylor, Rich Deming, Larry Lane, Lou Lambruschi, Butch Pearson and Rod Trump.

Legislative Subcommittee

Sarah reviewed with the group the subcommittee's activities since the last Core Stakeholder Group meeting. Sarah and Rich Deming attended Energy Independence Day in Washington D.C. and met with each of the region's federal representatives. This was part of an effort coordinated by the Clean Cities coalitions across the nation. In late March, CCFC sent a letter to every state legislator from the region introducing the coalition and outlining the three priority policy initiatives the Core Stakeholder Group adopted in February. Emily Livingstone, a COG employee, is assisting the coalition in setting up meetings this summer with legislators to help educate them on alternative fuels and present our coalition as a resource for them. Sarah circulated a list of tentative dates and asked that anyone interested in attending the meetings to contact her. The legislative subcommittee (consisting of Larry Lane, Marcie Smith, Dave Navey and Rich Deming) will be attending these meetings with Sarah and Jason. Most meetings are scheduled for the last two weeks in July.

Coalition Projects:

Pilot Project Program

The coalition has received a grant from the NC State Energy Office that includes \$15,000 for demonstration or pilot projects in the region. Sarah outlined what has been done in the past with similar funds (a biodiesel pilot project with Gaston County and Matthews) and asked for input on developing a pilot project program in the coming year. Larry Lane mentioned a project he is involved in a project at UNC Charlotte that is putting conduits into a parking structure being built so that down the road electrified parking spaces can be easily installed. Jason thought that this would be a good project submittal and suggested that the coalition do a call for project ideas later this summer to see what types of projects are out there. The group agreed that this would be a good way to both evaluate projects and to information gather. Sarah and Jason indicated that a RFP could be made available in time for the August meeting

Biodiesel Quality Issues

Several fleets and fuel providers have mentioned problems with biodiesel quality in the past few months. These calls made it to Jason and Sarah after the fact but raised a question whether there might be some education needed in the region on biodiesel quality. Dean Jones said Duke has not had any problems with its biodiesel but emphasized that fleets need to know and make sure they are getting biodiesel that meets ASTM specifications. The fleets using biodiesel in attendance include Concord, Gaston County, York Tech and Duke – none of these indicated any issues with biodiesel. Dean mentioned that if there was more infrastructure for biodiesel in the region that they would use more biodiesel. There was also a discussion of OEM's and their stance on biodiesel – most now are ok with B20 with only Ford is sticking with B5. Rich mentioned that Pike is looking at biodiesel and wanted data on maintenance. Several in the group suggested that the stigma from two winters ago when there was a gelling issue with biodiesel in the state may still be present – the state contract now

requires biodiesel to be soy-based in the winter months. Most thought that a workshop was not needed but instead maybe a one page fact sheet on fuel quality and some success stories in the e-news would be helpful.

Action Plan and Website

The majority of the next meeting will be dedicated to the coalition's action plan. Sarah circulated last year's action plan for everyone to review in preparation for the next meeting.

CCFC is redesigning its website. Sarah asked the group what they would like to see on the site. Dave would like directions to COG on the site and also a link to DOE's new interactive fuel station map. Dave also mentioned a website he found that lists all electric vehicles – Larry asked for a link to this site.

Coalition and Stakeholder Updates:

- CPCC: Keith Ratliff from CPCC's Center for Sustainability attended the meeting. Keith mentioned that CPCC is adding a 2-year sustainability degree starting in Fall 2009. There will be four tracks in this degree including a renewable energy track and green building track.
- Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition: The main focus of the coalition over the last few months has been developing a grant proposal in response to DOE's Clean Cities stimulus funding opportunity. TJCOG was the lead applicant in the proposal with CCFC acting as a subawardee. There is requested \$2.1M in grant funds for projects in the Charlotte region with \$4.6M in matching funds. The proposal was submitted on May 29th and the coalition should know whether it has received funding by the end of July.
- City of Concord: Dan mentioned that the City is continuing with its biodiesel and hybrid program. In addition the City is building a LEED certified transit building. Some discussion about Concord's anti-idling policy and its effectiveness. In addition, Concord now shuts its fueling stations down in the middle of the day to lower VOCs. New station open with CMAQ funds – do not have to drive across town to fuel so save there too.
- Charlotte Truck Center: Dave outlined the Green Truck Initiative and his transition from mechanic to working mainly on green initiatives. Dave is also working with manufacturers on plug-in electric commercial vehicles.
- York Technical Institute: Rod is now focusing his efforts as the Director of the Energy Resource Center. He outlined a couple of new programs he is working on. The first is an Energy Star training program (RESNET) that should obtain certification in the coming weeks. This allows York Tech to certify student to do Energy Star rating audits. York Tech is also now making biodiesel from waste oil and using B100 in all campus equipment. So far no problems have been reported. One thing that concerns Rod is that there is a lot of good training right now in the "green" area but still no jobs.

- City of Gastonia: Butch Pearson is new to the group and introduced himself. Roger Cable mentioned that the City has successfully installed 6 DOCs on its dump trucks and also purchased a new hybrid Prius since our last meeting. The City has also implemented a new tracking system for its idle reduction policy.
- Duke Energy. Dean reported that the two hybrid-electric bucket trucks funded in part from the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grant will be in service this week. One truck will be in Greensboro and the other in Kannapolis. Duke has 5 PHEV and has applied for 25 PHEV F-150s with stimulus funds. Duke has a goal of reducing its fleet emissions by 35% between the baseline year of 2006 and 2012.
- City of Charlotte: Robert Taylor mentioned that a grant received by the City for natural gas vehicles has been put on hold by the State. Several others in attendance have received similar notices and it is unclear whether these projects will be funded. Mecklenburg County is putting a RFP out in July called "GRADE Plus" that might be a funding source for these projects. More details are coming. The City is also working on a biomethane project with CCFC.
- Parker Hannifin: Lou Lambruschi, from Parker Hannifin's electronics division, joined the group for the first time. Lou described what Parker Hannifin is working on related to electric transportation. The company makes power conversion devices for Designline, a hybrid electric bus company located in Charlotte. Proterra, another hybrid bus company, is also a client and moving to Charlotte. They also retrofit bucket trucks to allow the trucks to use the boom without having the engine running. They are also doing work on power grid storage and the electronic conversion of renewable energy to the grid.
- Gaston County: The County is continuing with its project at the landfill for an eco-park and is currently selling the carbon credits from burning the methane gas from the landfill. Marcie said that they want to capture the methane to convert it to electricity and are still working on this plan. They have also considered installing solar panels on the landfill cap to generate additional energy.

Grady Truett is retiring from Gaston County Schools this June. Grady pioneered a unique project producing biodiesel from used oil at the schools and fueling the buses. Jason and Sarah recognized Grady's service to the schools with a small gift and hope that Grady will continue to work with the CCFC in his next endeavors.