

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 18, 2009
H-GAC, Conference Room B
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Christine Smith called the meeting to order and all attendees introduced themselves.

PRESENTATION

“TEXAS & HYDROGEN” – David Hitchcock, Houston Advanced Research Center

(Please refer to handout.) Mr. David Hitchcock delivered his presentation “Texas & Hydrogen”. Mr. Hitchcock spoke on topics such as: 1.) Hydrogen 101 2.) HARC 3.) Presentation Outline 4.) What is it? 5.) Texas and H2 Factoids 6.) Production Methods 7.) U.S. Hydrogen Production 8.) Hydrogen Use 9.) Safety 10.) Hydrogen and Gasoline Intentional Fuel Tank Releases 11.) Distribution and Fueling 12.) Production/Distribution/Fueling Options 13.) Distribution and Fueling Plans 14.) Fuel Cells 15.) Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Fuel Tank 16.) Austin Fuel Cell Bus & Fueling 17.) Fuel Cell Applications 18.) Fuel Cell Vehicles 19.) Example Fuel Cell Applications 20.) Costs and Funding 21.) Ideas for Texas Projects. For more information please contact Mr. David Hitchcock, Project Manager of Texas Hydrogen Education Project, Houston Advanced Research Center, 4800 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77381, (281) 364-4007, dhitchcock@harc.edu, <http://www.harc.edu>.

UPDATE

a. **COALITION UPDATE**

i. *Membership Update*

H-GAC received two stakeholder applications and the applications are basically complete except for the organizational letters of support for the coalition. H-GAC received numerous notices of support forms from different supporters and companies. Two individuals have expressed interest in helping to establish the advisory panel; the principles and guidelines call for three individuals to be on the advisory panel.

Question:

Ms. Christine Smith was hoping to have more responses to the stakeholder classification. Ms. Smith asked the stakeholders opinion regarding the setup of the stakeholder requirements that were established in October.

Answer:

It was suggested that more outreach would be helpful.
Meeting more frequently would be more helpful.
More getting on the ball and getting the applications completed.
More promotion of successes.

Question:

One of the requirements of the Advisory Panels Member is that the member must be a stakeholder first; and it is hard to have a panel if there aren't any stakeholder members.

Answer:

The private and public sector is distracted because of the market turmoil at the moment.

ii. *Advancing the Choice Planning Updates*

The Draft 2009 ATC Agenda was reviewed and the speakers and organizations that will be represented were confirmed. In total, 21 of the 31 speakers/moderators were filled. The topic list for the agenda is available on the ATC website and Clean Cities website. The speakers will be provided with a travel stipend to help attract out of town speakers.

This year's ATC theme is "Rock n'Roll". Information is posted on the website if your organization or fleet would like to be involved with displaying some alternative fuel or advanced vehicle technology. Recommendations for speakers are highly encouraged. List of publications to advertise the ATC for outreach was requested. Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles awards recognition candidate and criteria suggestions were requested.

iii. *Annual Survey Update*

Ms. Christine Smith is required to submit the Clean Cities Annual Survey to DOE which is due March 31, 2009. The Clean Cities Annual Survey information is post on the website. The response rate for the Annual Survey is typically low and Ms. Smith would like to see that improved. Ms. Christine Smith would like develop the Annual Survey into a more comprehensive tool for collecting data for our fleets and alternative fuels in our regions with reliable data. Please contact Ms. Smith if there is anything in particular that as a fleet manager, vendor, or interested member in Clean Cities that would be good information to have that could be collected through survey and/or that would serve as an incentive to get it submitted.

Question:

What are some suggestions for how to improve the Annual Survey response rate?

Answer:

Reminder emails.

Go around and talk to counties and local governments to sign memorandums.

This Stakeholder Committee should have Clean Air Champions recognition.

b. **GRANT FLEETS UPDATE**

i. *DERA Funding*

EPA was given an allotment of fifty million dollars in funds for Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Funding (DERA) last year and again this year to reduce diesel emissions. EPA received the yearly typical allotment for DERA along with receiving an allotment of three hundred million dollars in funds from the Stimulus Bill.

ii. *Stimulus Funding*

Basically, EPA administers the funds by dividing all of the funds into four programs; EPA Regions, EPA Finance Program, EPA Emerging Technology Program, and some distributed directly to the state environmental entities. The biggest pot of money is the one that goes to Regions 6 and 7 which is the Blue Skyway Collaborative. A link to the Blue Skyway Collaborative is located on the Clean Cities website. The Blue Skyways Collaborative has all of its 2008 guidelines posted for review. The Blue Skyways Collaborative does not focus on cost effectiveness as much as public health benefits, attainment vs. nonattainment region, population, etc. Any government entity can apply directly for funding; the timeframe should be a quick process, and the RFA should open soon and the deadline would be 40 days from opening.

iii. *Clean Cities RFP*

The US Department of Energy's has a pot of stimulus funding that is labeled Clean Cities and is separate from the stimulus funding. The Clean Cities has 4 areas of interest and the fourth area was added because of the stimulus bill was not there to begin with. The first three areas of interest are due March 31, 2009 and the fourth area of interest first round is due May 29, 2009. Areas 1 and 2 indicate that diesel electric hybrids and other non-alternative fuel projects are not eligible, however, area 4 indicate that hybrids are eligible. There is a cost-share requirement of 50% for every area of interest except education. Area 1-3 indicates that private businesses can apply directly, while the

stimulus funding is restricted to governmental entities only for lead applicants. Links to the RFP's are available on the Clean Cities website.

c. CLEAN FLEETS UPDATE

Over the past several months there were 12 projects that went to the Board including several that went yesterday, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, representing 22,416 tons per year NOx reductions. A project for Trimac Transportation involved the deployment of natural gas vehicles and the construction of a LNG Station in the Houston region; Trimac will be refueling 24 of their trucks at that station. Local governments have expressed interest in natural gas. There isn't any multi fuel station in the Houston area at this time. Suggestions requesting increasing the number of alternative fuel and advance vehicle technology projects would be appreciated.

d. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of the end February 2009, there were over 30 Air Quality Bills that was filed with the State Legislative. The increasing bill submittals had to do with the new ozone standard preparing to enforce stricter guidelines and carbon trading. The main bill that everyone is focusing on is the Senate Bill 16 that Senator Averitt generated; which not only relates to the enhancement of air quality, but a continuation of the TERP Program and the LIRAP program. A large amount of the TERP funds came from the fee charges of diesel engine sales that TCEQ was not initially allocated to disburse. In addition, Senator Averitt wanted to include the capture of carbon dioxide and development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry Emissions Reduction Technologies and the improvement of energy efficiency within the Senate Bill 16. The Legislation named different state agencies that would have authority and enablement to go forth with establishing registries; the different state agencies included TCEQ, the Texas State Energy Conservation Office, and the Railroad Commission. Texas contributes enormously to the carbon emissions than any other state and our business industry is recognizing that this is a way to make money. The TERP program was extended thru 2013 and the LIRAP Program was extended to 2019. The Houston area was officially elevated to severe with the new attainment date for the 1997 ozone standard is 2019; meaning, Houston has to be in attainment by 2018. Additional information is available on the Texas Legislation website.

e. SIP UPDATE

H-GAC submitted a commitment for On-Road Mobile of 4 tons per day of NOx emission reductions to TCEQ by February 20, 2009. Ms. Shelley Whitworth spoke with many of the local governments in trying to obtain signatures for Memorandums of Commitments to contribute to the 4 tons per day. By 2018, as vehicles come cleaner, the decrease in emission inventory for on-road mobile will decrease by 50%. The Transportation Policy Council (TPC) requested the outreach to local governments to recruit commitments, and anticipate the use of local dollars in addition to offered incentives. Also, a new ozone standard is in place at 75 ppb.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

a. OCTOBER 22, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

The Houston Clean Cities Stakeholders attendees unanimously approved the Greater Houston Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholders meeting summary for October 22, 2008.

b. STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE LETTER

The Clean Cities Stakeholders members motioned and approved to adopt the State Procurement Office Letter, with revisions.

OTHER BUSINESS

a. GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS

b. UPCOMING EVENTS

i. Fresh Air Friday will be March 27, 2009

- ii. Compelling Case for Natural Gas Workshop will be April 09, 2009*
- iii. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute Conference will be April 19-22, 2009*
- iv. Clean Technology Conference will be May 03-07, 2009*
- v. Next Stakeholder Meeting will be Wednesday, June 17, 2009*

c. ADJOURNMENT

If you have an item you wish to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, please e-mail Christina Smith at christine.smith@h-gac.com.