**HOUSTON-GALVESTON CLEAN CITIES COALITION STAKEHOLDERS**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 – 9:30-11:00 AM Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Offices

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027

(Meeting Held – Second Floor, Conference Room 2-D)

**STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT STAFF PRESENT**

Center Point Energy – Laura Irvine

U of H TxCEF – Greg Bugosh

Net G CNG Solutions – Dennis Foose

Center Point Energy – Bridgette Willendoof

City of Houston Fleet Program – Kristian Harper

Electric Interstate – Norm Whitton Freedom CNG – Eddie Murray Trillium Love’s – Ashley Duplechien Greens Blue Flame Gas – Brian Green Almeda Fuels- Luke Nooms

Metro- Vincent Sanders

Harris County Public Health- Jessica Mahana

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jim Mahood

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sandra Holliday

**BRIEFING Overview**

a. The Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition (H-GCCC) Stakeholders were presented with action items; a series of information items; and the meeting concluded with member announcements of current and upcoming activities.

b. Visit [**http://www.houston-cleancities.org/stakeholder-meetings/**](http://www.houston-cleancities.org/stakeholder-meetings/) to view the meeting materials.

**ITEM 1A. Introductions (**H-GCCC Vice – Chair, Norm Whitton)

Norm Whitton, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order, and H-GCCC Stakeholders introduced themselves.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 3A. Approval of Meeting Summary**

The Coalition Vice–Chair entertained a motion to approve the H-GCCC Stakeholders meeting summary for

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 as presented. The motion was passed with no corrections.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4. Presentation (** Ashley Duplechien, Trillium CNG)

Ashley updated the H-GCCC Stakeholders with the background on the Love’s Company, which has been in business for over 50 years. They have employed over 25,000 people. The Love’s company was founded in 1964. They just recently earned their 500 company. Trillium was founded separately in 1994.The two companies did not meet until late 2015 and Love’s acquired Trillium in early 2016. Love’s has been ranked as one of the top ten Forbes privately held companies.

Trillium has removed the CNG off their name. Now, they are known for compressed national gas, renewable, EV charging infrastructure, hydrogen, bio-diesel, and renewable diesel. These business lines are all based in their Houston offices. Their motto is to focus on their customer’s needs. To focus as a strategic partner and figure out what each fleet specific needs are and make the appropriate recommendation for fuel.

They look for the better options from an operation stand point and a cost standpoint. Trillium is concerned with designing the right station, making sure your infrastructure works for you. Not only picking the correct fuel, but they really focus on the right sizing. Trillium really maximize what they can do for their customers in a cost-effective manner.

Ashley also informed the Stakeholders that Trillium has a good mechanic support team. They have invested over

$45,000 in training mechanics. They also have a 24 hour and 7-day week desk based in the Houston office. They are a part of the general trade floor, and they are sequestered in a HVAC system. Ninety percent of customer service calls are responded to, with the average answer time of 15 seconds. In addition, they have built a customer portal inside of a salesforce. They can go in and select, which account they are working with. It will generate a to do list, that is specific to that location for the customer. Also, it will generate forms, it is useful for record keeping, customers can log in, pull reports, and see how their station is functioning. Sometimes issues can be reset remotely right from the desk.

The renewable natural gas essentially molecularly is the same as compressed natural gas. Pipeline quality gas that would fuel your stove or bus. Whatever makes it into the pipeline, you usually have to clean it up at the source site. It can be

put in place of regular compressed natural gas. You take the gas from the source, you clean it up and you upgrade it to pipeline quality gas. It is injected into a common carrier pipeline and it is used for compressed natural gas.

A lot of people get confused having to match up physically a R & G source with a R & G consumption. You can create renewable natural gas in Nebraska and inject a pipeline to use it in California. As long as you can draw a line from that source through common pipelines to your dispenser, you can do that. It is called generating a Ren.

As a result, R & G, can actually save fleet a lot of money. The rent program is also the low carbon fuel program. Programs in Washington and Colorado can create jobs. Love’s is a perfect example of not only traditional fuels, but alternative fuels creating jobs in the United States. You can also lower your greenhouse gas admissions.

In the case of compress renewable natural gas, you can lower your NOx admission. NOx is a health hazard, so if your burning renewable natural gas or electric vehicles your reducing NOx locally. Trillium offers a mix of everything. If you want to run it, they sell it. Primarily a diesel company. As well as, bio-diesel.

**ITEM 5. Current Funding Announcements and Updates** (H-GAC Staff,)

Andrew DeCandis has listed several funding opportunities that are available. For more information, please visit the website [**http://www.h-gac.com/clean-cities/default.aspx**](http://www.h-gac.com/clean-cities/default.aspx)

**ITEM 6. Announcements of Current & Upcoming Activities**

1. Evolve Houston, Workshop-November 6, 2019- University of Houston, -Evolve Houston is a new electrical vehicle advocacy group that includes a large number of entities such as, CenterPoint Energy, City of Houston, University of Houston, and Shell Oil. The workshop will help to understand how to change your fleet to electric with a pilot test. There will be people to explain the procedure. OM’S will be present to tell you what to buy. Other’s will be present to discuss how to run the project.

2. Survey on Station and Vehicle Cost-A general problem, it is hard to know how much it cost to build a CNG station. We have been asked to survey our local fuel provider and vehicle purchasers. To help us understand what it actually cost to put a station together and get a station running. I am hoping for a few more responses this year. So, if anyone is interested in giving some input, we have a spreadsheet,

that you can put your information on. We are interested in getting this information on how much the infrastructure actually cost. If you are interested in giving your input contact, Andrew DeCandis.

3. Annual Survey-In January, H-GCCC will do an annual survey for alternative fuel fleets in the region and alternative providers. We look at numbers of how many vehicles we have out there. Also, how much fuel you have used and how much fuel you have sold. This will be coming up in January. We will start to send emails out in November and December.

**ITEM 7. Adjourn meeting**

Next meeting will be January 22, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 A.M