



Core Stakeholder Group Meeting Notes
Centralina COG Offices
March 31, 2010
10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Attendees

Mike Keziah, Chair
Dave Navey, Vice-chair
Rich Deming
Alan Giles
Walt Hovis
Larry Lane
Laura Mundell
Dan Nuckolls
Marcie Smith
Robert Taylor
Grady Truett
Rod Trump

Guests

Regina Cousar, Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities
Darlene Heater, Charlotte Center City Partners
Gene Jordan, City of Rock Hill

Staff

Jason Wager
Emily Parker

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Introductions & Latest News

Chairman Mike Keziah started the meeting by welcoming everyone present and thanked them for attending. As part of introductions, he asked everyone to share a brief update on the latest news relevant to the group. The group provided update information and Jason Wager proceeded with the agenda.

CCFC Subcommittee Updates

EV Subcommittee Update

Jason gave an update on EV Subcommittee news. He reviewed the EV Subcommittee summary document (see attached) and mentioned that holding an EV event focused on infrastructure for code and elected officials and other interested parties – tentatively slated for June 2010 – is one of the next main goals. He talked about the streamlined permitting process available online and automated through Mecklenburg County. Another goal would be how to expand that service out into other counties in the region. Jason also noted that we have been contacted by Praxis out of Raleigh (see attachment). Praxis could be in the position to provide 25 charging stations around North Carolina using NC Green Business Fund (NC GBF) monies – but NC GBF would first like to know where these charging stations would be located. If you can provide the power, it appears that Praxis can provide the charging station. Please let us know if your organization or municipality is interested. Another key sentiment that has emerged from the EV Subcommittee is that education (of elected officials, code personnel, general public, et al.) is absolutely critical to having success in this EV readiness process and after.

EV Update: City of Charlotte's EECBG & other EV matters

Darlene Heater (Charlotte Center City Partners) provided the group with an update on EV activities happening in the City of Charlotte related to the Department of Energy EECBG funding. The application was approved by Charlotte City Council in December 2009, was submitted to DOE, and they expect to hear in April 2010 if this funding has been approved. The Implementation group (comprised of local partners) has convened and next meeting has been scheduled. This group has been involved in research towards figuring out a suitable timeline that will align the EV roll-out (Nissan) and EECBG funding/projects. The ten (10) EECBG funded charging stations will be in public right of way – and will be matched by Wells Fargo, Duke Energy, Bank of America – so that there will be approximately 40 charging stations across Charlotte (some in public view, some in parking decks). The Implementation group is looking at several installation sites – in center city Charlotte, at light rail stations, and/or at a shopping mall.

The Implementation group is in conference with the City of Raleigh, as they are a bit further along in the EV readiness process. Through talking with Raleigh, our group found out about the issues of ADA compliance (each parking space/charging station for EVs must be ADA accessible), or “wand vs. cord” – if an EV is plugged in to a charging station using a cord, there is the issue of people tripping on cord (but not so if charging by wand overhead). Other issues are lighting and charging station protection, charging station etiquette, and where do EV parking spaces go – in the front or back of a building? The Implementation group is gathering specs from several different kinds of charging stations to see what seems to work best/best practices thus far. Darlene added that biggest piece of preparing the Charlotte market for EVs is residential charging readiness. The issue of who pays for the power (kWh) used at public charging stations also emerged. This question is currently being addressed by Duke Energy and the Implementation group. Paying for power in this scenario would involve an “access fee,” because only utility companies can charge for kWh used per hour.

Policy Subcommittee Update: Energy Independence Days 2010

Rich Deming provided the group with an update on Energy Independence Days, which happened 2/28 – 3/3 in Washington, DC (see attachment). Jason, Emily and Rich traveled to this annual meeting of Clean Cities Coordinators and stakeholders to learn about the latest in relevant policy, and to meet with congressional representatives from the Centralina region. This trip was a great success in that we visited with eight (8) of our representatives and overall, the 40 Coordinators gathered visited nearly 200 congressional offices.

Presentation – Greater Charlotte Region Biofuel Facility Project

Regina Cousar (Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities) delivered a presentation on the Greater Charlotte Region Biofuel Facility Project. This presentation (see attached) addressed Charlotte's wastewater treatment plant system, the issue of grease (from homes and restaurants) being poured into the sanitary sewer, the clogging and overflows that then occur, and why the team comprised of members from CMU, CCOG, CPCC, and UNC Charlotte are endeavoring in this project that could transform a problem into an valuable commodity.

Lunch & Coalition Projects Update

NGV Event Update

The group took a brief break for lunch and then Dave Navey made a brief report (see attached) on the NGV event that happened in Raleigh on March 16, 2010 (the Compelling Case for NGVs Workshop). If the group wants more info on natural gas vehicles, please let us know.

TSE–Derrick Truck Stop: Grand Opening Event

Emily Parker updated the group on the status of the Derrick Travel Center Truck Stop Electrification project in Rowan County at Exit 71 (Peeler Road) off of I-85. This project is finally wrapping up, so a Grand Opening event is now being planned for the end of April or early May. The event will be held at the truck stop, and will most likely be in the morning. We will keep you posted on date and time.

Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative

Jason provided a very brief update on this grant as at this point there was not much to report since DOE still has the contracts and projects under review. We will keep the group posted as to any change in project status.

United Soybean Board Grant

Emily provided a brief overview of this grant. The idea behind this project is to educate stakeholders about benefits of using soy biodiesel. The CCFC is working in conjunction with Triangle Clean Cities in the RTP and the project period is January 1, 2010 – September 30, 2010. In this time, two workshop modules will be created. One will be geared towards convenience store owners/fuel providers to address the (perceived) barriers that may be in place to offering biodiesel. The other workshop will be for fleet managers and those who work in the public and private maintenance sector. The focus will be to dispel myths about biodiesel and maintenance related issues. In addition to these four (4) workshops – 2 in the Charlotte region and 2 in the Triangle – the project team will generate factsheets and will attend workshops and events and

display educational information on soy biodiesel (the next event will be the NC MobileCARE Workshop on May 26 in Raleigh).

Demonstration Projects

Rich Deming and Grady Truett updated the group on their respective demonstration projects. For one project Rich is working on moving Metrolina Biofuels' biodiesel pump from its current location to the Habitat for Humanity Restore on Wendover. The details of this project are being hashed out at the present time. The second demonstration project Rich is involved in (with CPCC), is the Biobox which is a "biorefinery in a box." The Biobox would produce sustainable biodiesel to be used by CPCC's fleet and for other projects. Currently, project milestones are being proposed. Grady's demonstration project is to build a mobile biodiesel producing facility to be used in Gaston County and the region. He has the demonstration trailer, which is an enclosed trailer with a side view opening so observers can see in from the side instead of going into the actual trailer. Grady reported that in the next month he would have all project components together in a functional fashion.

CCFC Action Planning

Jason introduced the idea of CCFC Action Planning. The CCFC has done this over the years and now the DOE has made Action Planning a requirement for all Clean Cities groups. This document (see attached draft) is due to the DOE by late summer, so we need your thoughts and comments in the present time. This topic will be one of the key items discussed at the next CCFC Core Stakeholder Group meeting.

Stakeholder Dues Proposal

A section on "Annual Membership Fees" has been in the by-laws since 2006 (see attached). The CCFC would like to enter into a discussion and process which its core stakeholders (and eventually stakeholders) about the idea of collecting membership dues. Part of the preparation for this discussion involves finding out what other Clean Cities coalitions (like Triangle Clean Cities) are doing in this regard, and looking at different membership scenarios (e.g., if you're a member of the Centralina Council of Governments you already pay dues, so would you pay again to be a CCFC member? How would this work?). Chairman Mike Keziah has volunteered to work with Jason and Emily on this process – to outline a proposed schedule, to accept input/questions/comments from the group, and to distribute a Q & A sheet back to the group to promote further discussion. This process will most likely take several months to complete. And *if* it turns out that we go to collecting dues, there will be a grace period involved so members can have time to (re)allocate funds if need be.

Next Meeting

CCOG offices will be moving to center city Charlotte (525 N. Tryon Street) in May 2010. The next CCFC Core Stakeholder Group meeting could be held in conjunction with an Electric Vehicle Event planned for June 2010. Stay tuned for dates and details!