

**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
East Texas Clean Cities Coalition (ETCCC)**

Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
Large Conference Room
East Texas Council of Governments
3800 Stone Road
Kilgore, Texas**

MINUTES OF MEETING

1) Call to Order: Clean Cities Coordinator Rick McKnight, ETCOG

Mr. McKnight called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

2) Welcome and Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves and stated the organization they represent.

Attendees

- Jim Schick, BAF Technologies
- Dietrich Johnson, City of Longview
- Shelpa Ravandi, Longview MPO
- Mike Murray, East Texas Council of Governments
- Mark Sweeney, East Texas Council of Governments
- Rick McKnight, East Texas Council of Governments

3) Discussion and approval of ETCCC Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 10, 2003.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2003 ETCCC Steering Committee and Stakeholders meeting. A second was made and the minutes passed without any dissent.

4) Update on Alternative Fuel and Air Quality Activities, Legislation, and Funding Opportunities

Rick McKnight gave an update by regarding relevant alternative fuel and air quality activities, legislation and current funding opportunities. A list of new resources and publications from the Alternative Fuels Data Center was distributed as well as copies of the Seattle Regional Office (SRO) of the U.S. Department of Energy funding opportunity newsletter.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has announced the availability of grants for projects in the state's air quality non-attainment and near non-attainment areas. The goal of these grants is the reduction of emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Eligible applicants include individuals, governmental agencies, non-profit entities, or private companies that own and operate on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles or non-road diesel equipment, including marine vessels and locomotives, primarily in the non-attainment and near non-attainment areas of the state.

5) Discussion and approval of plans for Designation Ceremony for ETCCC

The U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) National Clean Cities Staff has approved the ETCCC Program Plan. Since the inception of the program the initial goal was to obtain status as an "official" Clean Cities Program. This now allows stakeholders to submit yearly grant applications in the Special Energy Projects (SEP) funded through DOE. The grants are a competitive process that allows for the expansion of local AFV markets by helping to fund projects. The Designation Ceremony will be held on May 19 at the Tyler Rose Garden Center. Plans will be finalized and announcements mailed by the end of April. AEP/SWEPCO has agreed to sponsor the event and will provide a catered lunch for those in attendance.

6) Discussion of Clean Cities Expanded Portfolio of Technologies

Clean Cities has expanded its' portfolio of technologies to offer a more comprehensive approach in promoting the reduction of petroleum use in the transportation sector. While alternative fuels and vehicles will continue to be the cornerstone of Clean Cities, the program is expanding its focus to include fuel blends, hybrids, fuel economy, and idle reduction. Blending relatively low levels of alternative fuels with conventional fuels is an important option for reducing petroleum use. Examples of blends include E10 (10% ethanol/90% gasoline), B5 (5% biodiesel/95% diesel), and B2 (2% biodiesel/98% diesel). Blends can also consist of two types of alternative fuels, such as hydrogen/compressed natural gas (HCNG), which might be a combination of 20% hydrogen and 80% CNG, for example. Many coalition stakeholders use blended fuels in their fleet vehicles. Clean Cities will work with fleets to increase demand for hybrids, especially as new hybrid vehicle classes are introduced. We will also explore opportunities to educate consumers about the benefits of hybrid technologies and will track product availability, growth potential, and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) fleet marketing plans.

7) Other Business

The next meeting of the ETCCC Steering Committee will be on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. at the ETCOG Offices in Kilgore, Texas.

8) Wrap-up and Adjourn

There being no further items or suggestions, the meeting was adjourned and approximately 3:30 pm.