

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

Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, June 11, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Green 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

- Karen Owen, Longview MPO
- Norman Schenk, Tyler Transit
- Bart Howlett, Tyler Pipe
- Michael Siewert, Tyler Pipe
- Roxanne McKinley, 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 April 9, 2003.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the April 9, 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

Discussion followed regarding alternative fuel and air quality activities in East Texas, legislation, and new funding opportunities. Rick McKnight state the Texas Legislature has approved measures that will fully fund the Texas Emission Reduction Program. TERP will be funded in two phases, HB 1 provides \$31.5

million for the biennium for grants. HB 1365 by Dennis Bonnen, designed to provide a constitutionally acceptable funding source, may provide up to an additional \$220 million over the biennium for the grant program. The bill directs 87.5% of the revenue obtained through TERP to the diesel emissions reduction incentive program administered by TCEQ and 9.5% to the new technology research and development program administered by the Texas Council on Environmental Technology. HB 1365 expands the use of diesel emissions reduction program funds under TERP to provide grants for the purchase or lease of on-road diesel vehicles as well as replacement of on-road or non-road diesels with newer diesels. The bill also directs TCEQ to make grants to small business to encourage the use of vehicles that produce fewer emissions.

Also discussed was the “Clean Efficient Automobiles Resulting from Advanced Car Technologies” (CLEAR ACT). This legislation will bolster America’s energy independence and protect the environment by boosting the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles and paving the pathway to the hydrogen future. The Senate Finance Committee has included the CLEAR ACT incentives in its energy bill (S.597).

Other discussion followed regarding the Seattle Regional Office (SRO) of the U.S. Department Energy compiled funding opportunity newsletter, the May/June 2003 Clean Bus Update Newsletter, the Texas ethanol and biodiesel production incentive. The ethanol and biodiesel program will establish a produce fee program of 3.2 cents per gallon, and a grants program of 20 cents per gallon, on up to 18 million gallons of fuel ethanol or biodiesel per year per registered production plant.

5) ETCCC Program Plan Update

Rick McKnight stated that the DOE Regional Support Office had officially approved the ETCCC Program Plan submitted in February. The plan has been submitted to National Clean Cities Staff in Washington D.C. for approval. Once approved in Washington D.C. the Coalition will be officially designated a Clean Cities Coalition. During a phone conversation, ETCCC received comments regarding the plan from DOE. Discussion followed on how to address the comments given by DOE. Changes will be made to the plan and an updated version resubmitted to the DOE by July 2003. ETCCC anticipates be approved for official designation in the Fall of 2003.

6) Other Business

The next meeting of the ETCCC Steering Committee will be on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. at the ETCOG Offices in Kilgore, Texas.

7) Wrap-up and Adjourn

There being no further items or suggestions, the meeting was adjourned.