

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

Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, April 9, 2003, 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

- Tracy Harper, Railroad Commission
- Steven Pratt, U.S. EPA Region 6
- Karen Owen, Longview MPO
- Susan Decell, Railroad Commission
- Norman Schenk, Tyler Transit
- 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 11, 2002 and February 12, 2003.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2002 and February 12, 2003 ETCCC Steering Committee and Stakeholders meeting. A second was made and the minutes passed without any dissent.

4) Update on alternative fuel related events

Various activities related to alternative fuels are taking place in East Texas. The Longview City Transit project began operating a fixed route transit system. The City purchased 8 buses that are dedicated propane transit buses. In addition to the 8 buses purchased by the City of Longview, the ETCOG Rural Transit District has purchased 6 dedicated propane buses to operate in the 14 county region. The

City of Tyler has recently approved the purchase of 2 similar dedicated propane buses to add to its fleet of transit buses. ETCCC also attend the Dept. of Energy's Western States Regional Clean Cities Conference in San Antonio in early March. Rick McKnight gave a presentation on the activities of ETCCC for CY 2002 during this conference.

5) National, regional, and local Clean Cities Action Plan for FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005

Rick McKnight reviewed the National, regional, and local Clean Cities Action Plan for FY 2003, FY 2003, and FY 2005 distributed at the DOE Western States Regional Meeting in San Antonio.

6) 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 will now be forwarded 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. ETCCC expects to receive comments regarding the plan from DOE by the end of May 2003.

7) Funding Opportunities

A memo from Elizabeth Munger of Gladstein & Associates was distributed that summarized potential federal, state, and local funding opportunities for alternative fuel projects. Potential State of Texas incentives include Senate Bill 5's Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP). TERP provides for three incentive programs that are designed to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from mobile sources. These include a heavy-duty emission reduction grant program, a heavy-duty purchase or lease incentive program, and a light-duty purchase or lease incentive program. The lease or purchase programs are available statewide, while the grant program is limited to nonattainment and near nonattainment areas. Other funding opportunities include supplemental environmental projects (SEPs). SEPs are under the jurisdiction of the TCEQ. Through a SEP an alleged violator of environmental regulations can offset a portion of their monetary fine by doing an environmental enhancement project in, or near where the violation occurred.

8) Other Business

The next meeting of the ETCCC Steering Committee will be on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. at the ETCOG Offices in Kilgore, Texas.

9) Wrap-up and Adjourn

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