

ROGUE VALLEY CLEAN CITIES COALITION REPORT

January to June 2010

Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition has had a very successful six months as you can see from our newsletter, The Chronicle and our website: www.roguevalleycleancities.org. I have attached minutes of meetings and some of the newsletter issues because you probably can't log on while you are at the meeting. I would urge you to take a look when you have a chance.

RVCCC has monthly meetings at noon on the third Wednesday when that date works. The Executive Committee decided to address the topic of electric plug in vehicles and compressed natural gas vehicles in the first three meetings. The January meeting, we met with the utilities to discuss the additional stress put on delivering power and CNG if a large percentage of the population converted to these two alternatives. There was a robust discussion from Avista and Pacific Corps, who generally explained how the system dealt with new additional demands. Kelly Madding, Development Services Director for the county was there as well as representatives from the NW Gas Assn and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories. We discussed supply, demand and public and private fueling options.

The February meeting covered fire code interpretations, building code modifications, so we invited fire marshals, city, county and state regulators to discuss what the building industry needs to know to adapt to the new alternative fueling of vehicles.

The March meeting was to get this information to home builders and to hear from a manufacturer of the Nissan Leaf, about the car and the requirements for plugging it in. Also we discussed CNG fueling with Smokey Stover, a consultant who installs and maintains fuel maker units. He also does conversions. A State DOE employee, Rick Wallace covered the state and national tax credits and incentives for converting to alternative fuels. RVCCC was complimented by many who participated, about having the vision and contacts to inform the stakeholders of the new trends, incentives, regulation and supply.

The speaker at the April meeting was Travis Hamlyn, Hellgate Excursions, who is proposing converting gas jet engines in their jet boats to propane. He is developing the prototype marine engine. He had just successfully tested the engine in Canada. He is working with the US Coast Guard to look at meeting their specifications so their marine vessels could possibly look at conversion. There is no precedent in the US, even though the technology is used in other countries. The engine must meet US specifications. RVCCC has agreed to at least help connect Travis with potential funding sources.

Travis would write the grant and handle the money or if RVCCC obtains a 501 (c) (3) non-profit status, we would be able to handle grant writing.

The May meeting included reviewing some federal reporting requirements for all the Clean Cities programs and also some of the required activities of the coordinator. In March, Sue Kupillas, Coordinator, attended a legislative meeting in Washington D. C. In June she will attend a Regional Coordinators meeting in Denver Colorado. Travel, hotel and meals are paid for by the Department of Energy. In addition to required national and regional meetings, DOE requires an Annual Survey that outlines how effective RVCCC is in reducing reliance on foreign oil and increase domestic alternative fuels. The added requirements include a quarterly fuels report, monthly conference calls, completing at least four Clean Cities University classes on line where each coalition gives a report on their progress, and the application for a grant to cover coordinator and staff activities. Additional grants are given for maintenance of website, newsletter and training. Melissa and Sue have now had training for Dreamweaver, a web site tool, and Photoshop. (see attachments for examples of requirements)

Melissa Stiles, staff has completed the packet required for obtaining a 501 (c) 3 non-profit status. Sue, Steve and Mike are researching a cost effective D & O insurance.

RVCCC will participate in Odyssey Days on October 15 this year. This is a date picked where each coalition plans a local event. There is a \$1000 grant to help pay for this. Melissa is pulling together some plug in electric vehicles to be on display for the public to view and ask questions about.

Chairman Mike Montero was invited to make a presentation to the Oregon Transportation Commission when it meets in Southern Oregon on June 9 and 10. His presentation will be about the RVCCC activities and how the strategies and activities relate to Rogue Valley strategies and the regional planning efforts.

This first six months Rogue Valley Clean Cities has achieved moving toward the goal of excellent education about issues that will help our area reduce reliance on foreign oil, and embrace domestic alternative fuels. It is a strategy toward energy independence in the United States. There are 88 coordinators in large and small cities across the nation that are daily working to meet this goal. Rogue Valley Clean Cities is learning effective measures to contribute.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Kupillas, Coordinator