

Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition
Meeting April 14, 2010

Translink on Barnett.

The meeting was called to order by Mike Montero, Chairman. Mike asked that we go around the table to introduce ourselves for the benefit of our guest speaker, Travis Hamlyn. John Becker, Gary Hall, Julie Brown, Steve Vincent, Mike Montero, and Sue Kupillas were present. Mike gave opening remarks informing Travis about the Clean Cities organization.

Sue Kupillas gave the Coordinator's report, showing the April 2010 Fuels Report, the Progress Report and the Survey, that are mostly completed. We discussed the amount of reporting required for the amount of money in the grants.

Steve Vincent reported a cash balance of \$14,183.66 (see attached report). The monthly expense of the organization is about \$1700, between Melissa and Sue.

Sue Kupillas then introduced Travis Hamlyn, from the 51 year old jet boat company, Hellgate Excursions, located in Grants Pass. Hellgate Excursions has always been a "green" company, looking for the most environmentally safe ways to operate on the special Wild and Scenic stretch of the Rogue River. Hellgate is developing a modified LY6 VVT (variable valve timing) GM engine to be a dual fuel that, is gas and propane, which will meet the Coast Guard specifications. Travis explained that propane is not a new fuel, but that the marine application of using the fuel is new for the United States. Other countries, like Canada, Australia and New Zealand are using propane for marine engines. The United States does not have an approved standard, so has no applications here. Why propane? The fuel is safe, efficient and has the power (BTU output) of gasoline. The marine engines burn about 10% more propane than if they used gas. In testing the revolutions and torque, there was no performance loss by converting to propane. (Testing was done in Canada, just a couple of weeks ago).

In developing engines, the marine industry follows the automobile industry. So this will be the first marine application in the US. The goal of Hellgate is to reduce the cost of operating their jet boats. In addition the following are the advantages of propane: it is domestically produced; reduces pollution as emissions are CO2 and water vapor; it eliminates the risk of spill contaminants; if the vessel sinks, propane will off gas to the atmosphere and not remain in the water; significantly reduces the amount of oil to service the engines; reduces wear and tear on engines; reduces oil changes, so reduces labor costs; reduces fuel costs by half. Propane doesn't have the fluctuations in price that oil does, even though the cost increases and decreases follow oil prices.

Hellgate's goal is to convert entirely to propane. They use over 100,000 gallons of gas in their annual four month operation, just for the Grants Pass company. They can use alternative fuel tax credits which help with fuel costs. There are 70 engines that need to

be converted. The very significant difference in this dual fuel engine is that it uses computers to gauge exactly the amount of fuel needed to meet the power requirements. There is redundancy built into the system and with dual fuel, if they run out of propane the engine automatically switches to gas. When Mike asked what Hamlyn was asking RVCCC to do, he suggested that grants to speed up the conversion would be helpful. If RVCCC could write a letter of support for the project and assist in seeing what funding might be available, that would be a start. He further suggested the RVCCC might want to consider partnering with Hellgate and the City of Grants Pass in a grant application. Mike suggested that within our board, we do have expertise that could help with a grant. Mike also said that there are things that drive us that might not be happening in other places. He noted legislation recently passed requiring among other things, that ODOT on new projects be able to show reduction in GHG and reduce dependency on foreign oil. With the inclusion of RVCCC in showing this in projects, we might leverage more money for projects. Mike said it is critical that we know how to get recognized for new actions and that we recognize what we can leverage from our actions. He said it is critical for us to capture and get credit for that new leverage.

Steve Vincent said he would recues himself from the discussion, as he represents a competitor, but that he would like to have a private meeting with Avista and Hellgate.

We had to adjourn but the discussion concluded with our promise of great interest, and that we had consensus that we want to play a role in helping the Hamlyn's and Hellgate succeed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted
Sue Kupillas, Coordinator.