

MEMO TO: Business/Technology Subcommittee
FROM: Dave Grimes
SUBJECT: Meeting Summary
DATE: July 8, 2009

The Business/Technology Subcommittee had its initial meeting on July 8, 2009. The meeting began at 11:00 a.m. In attendance were:

Chauncy Buchheit – SEMO RPC Executive Director
Tim Dobbelare – Tower Rock Stone Company
Schuyler Johnson – Chemical Lime Company
Terry Miner – Saberliner Corporation
Sheila Trowbridge – Procter and Gamble
David Grimes – SEMO RPC Staff

The meeting focused on what elements to include in the Clean Air Action Plan. Since regulation of point sources is the province of the State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the focus of the meeting turned to what local actions could be undertaken. Relevance to rural areas was the key as ideas were suggested.

The committee consensus was that for rural areas education and getting citizens to adopt voluntary measures was probably the most direct and effective approach to addressing air quality issues. Under this general idea were a variety of specific education items. Specifically mentioned were:

1. A “stop at the click” campaign;
2. A “yard care late in the day” campaign;
3. Work with schools to develop locally produced educational video presentations;
4. Preparation of press releases;
5. Preparation of Public Service Announcements;
6. Work with local access cable stations to get the message out;
7. Work with commercial television and radio stations to get the message out;
8. Check on the possible use of Interstate roadside signs to “get the word out;” and,
9. Use a “chimney” instead of charcoal starter campaign.

Other more specific programs or projects that could be included in the plan were discussed as well. Among these:

1. “Right sizing” fleets. This would be applicable to local governments, school districts and the private sector;
2. Replacing worn out gasoline vehicles with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquid Propane (LP), or electric vehicles. This would also be applicable to local governments, school districts and the private sector;

3. Gas can exchange program;
4. Provide formal support for a “clunker exchange” program; and,
5. Upgrading fleets with higher efficiency vehicles.

Discussion then turned to how to fund these various things. Several potential sources were discussed including:

1. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funding is a specific source;
2. Tax incentives may be available;
3. The Solid Waste Management District might well participate;
4. Missouri DNR funding might be available for specific projects.

Discussion regarding other sources of information/support followed. Several potential sources were identified including:

1. Southeast Missouri State University Center for Business Development;
2. Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla;
3. University of Missouri at Columbia; and,
4. Senator McCaskill’s office.

Finally, for the near term, Mr. Grimes was charged to prepare a preliminary draft for review within the next two weeks. This would allow for at least a preliminary draft to be available for discussion at the next Air Quality Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.