

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.cce-mt.org

Minutes for February 11, 2020 Meeting

Location: Black Bear Diner, 1420 Market Place Dr, Great Falls, MT 59404 (no-host dinner at 6 p.m. in the Black Bear Diner meeting room).

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed three guests. Eleven CCE, Inc. supporters attended the meeting; a quorum was present. Rich introduced CCE's guests Gary Smart, Director of Facilities Services at Great Falls College - MSU, Karry Hardman, GFC-MSU Program Director Industrial Technology, and Karry's wife, Tonia. Rich noted GFC-MSU has saved around \$40,000 implementing common sense conservation ideas like using more LED lighting and using motion detectors to turn off lights when no motion is detected in a room. Gary highlighted some of the cost savings ideas implemented at GFC-MSU like upgrading motors whenever possible to variable speed motors and replacing fluorescent lights with LED lights - the LED lights were brighter so they didn't need as many bulbs and NWE gives them rebates on LED lights. Karry passed out the class curriculum that he's helped teach since 2017 for the Industrial Technician and Renewable Energy Technician Associate of Applied Science degree programs. Karry said they would like to bring in a certification program for residential solar. David JC MacKay's book, "Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air" was highly recommended as it covers the sustainable energy crisis and how to make changes. Basically they said we all need to take steps to use less energy by making simple changes such as turning off lights, making fewer car trips per week, using less heat or air conditioning, and converting to more energy efficient equipment (furnace, oven, refrigerator, etc.) when you can.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman summarized the December 10th CCE meeting minutes. **Stuart Lewin moved to accept the December 10, 2019 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes. Melissa Smith seconded.** Rich Liebert asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes; there were none. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer: Kathy G. passed around a copy of the letter from Stuart Lewin's client, Solo, LLC, gifting CCE, Inc. \$3,500 "... in support of your good works to develop and protect a sustainable environment through renewable energy promotion and by providing support to local student fair renewable energy projects." Kathy sent around a copy of the CCE, Inc. thank you letter sent to Solo, LLC in care of Stuart Lewin. Stuart L. said his client appreciated the thank you letter.

Kathy passed around copies of the \$500 grant letter received from the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation and the thank you letter from CCE, Inc. The money is earmarked for the upcoming Region II Science Fair awards.

Kathy said the \$3,500 check from Solo, LLC and the \$500 check from the Dr. David W. Baker Foundation were deposited; there were no expenses since the Dec. 10th CCE, Inc. meeting.

Webmaster: Visit the CCE & Bio-fuels website at: <http://www.cce-mt.org/>. If you wish to submit CCE-related information for website posting, email Jerry Taylor at neiltaylor1@mac.com.

Communications Secretary: Please email articles of general interest and notices about CCE activity to Kathy G. at cce.secretary@gmail.com.

Unfinished Business:

Student Incentive Program (SIP) and 2020 Region II Science Fair: Kathy G. recommended CCE, Inc. donate the \$200 we usually donate to the (presently cancelled) Great Falls Public Schools STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) Expo to the Region II Science Fair organized by GFC-MSU because they are trying to raise \$10,000 to cover the travel expenses for the top two grand award project winners from the Montana Region II Science and Engineering Fair to compete at Intel ISEF (the 2020 event will take place in Anaheim, CA on May 10-15, 2020) and they still need more donations. **Lita Sharone moved to donate \$200 to the Region II Science Fair put on by Great Falls College - MSU, Mike Enk seconded the motion.** Discussion: This is a good way to promote CCE's name and objectives in the community. **The motion passed.**

Mike Enk clarified the 2020 Region II Science Fair will be held on the Great Falls College - MSU campus on Thursday, March 12 for the Middle and High School students. Mike said the judging pairs would be similar to last year: Rick Kerr and Susan Hillstrom, Lita Sharone and Robin Strathy, Ken Palisin and David Saslav, Mike Enk and Kathy Gessaman. Mike asked the judges to meet in the GFC-MSU library meeting room at 8 a.m. He'll have the judges' identification tags. Judging begins at 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. when the deliberation process needs to start.

Energy Sustainability Committee: Ken Palisin, Chair of the Energy Sustainability Committee, presented the committee's sustainability resolution. Ken said the City Commission will vote on the resolution now labeled Resolution 10333 at the Feb. 18, 2020 City Commission meeting. The group discussed how to present the Resolution to the Commissioners to get them to adopt Resolution 10333. Some discussion comments: The resolution is very cautious and doesn't use the words "climate change"; we should recognize the positive steps the City has taken already like putting LED lights in the parking garages and in some of the parks; \$12,500 is a reasonable price for a part-time Energy Corps worker; conserve energy and save money; don't directly compare other Montana cities with Great Falls or have accurate facts; encourage City to implement the resolution near Earth Day; this resolution will help the City plan for future weather extremes; and ties in with Gov. Bullock's Montana Climate Solutions Council to prepare for climate impacts, etc.

Stuart Lewin moved to approve Resolution 10333 for presentation to the City Commission on Feb. 18, 2020. Kathy Gessaman seconded. Rich called for discussion: Commissioner Mary Moe rewrote much of the original resolution to reflect what this commission might approve; more groups need to have input into the resolution; the urgency to do something cannot be greater as the environment is at the tipping point; focus on the money savings from Energy Corps suggestions; and Gov. Bullock's Climate Council has a draft out with their recommendations. Kathy G. called the question. **Aart Dolman said let the record show that the vote was unanimous.**

At the end of the meeting, **Melissa Smith moved to increase the total amount of money for the CCE, Inc. Student Awards at the Region II Science Fair from \$500 to \$580. Ken Palisin seconded.** Discussion: Mike Enk said the extra \$80 would make the award distribution much fairer and easier to distribute. **The motion passed.**

Nominations Committee: Kathy G. listed the current Steering Team members: Officers: Rich Liebert, Chair; Robert Nicholson, Vice-Chair; Kathleen Gessaman, Secretary; and Mary Nicholson, Treasurer. Elected Steering Team Members: Aart Dolman, Michael Enk, Donna Kramer, and Shannon Wilson. Appointed Steering Team Members: Jerry Taylor, Webmaster. Please let Rich L. or Kathy G. know before the next CCE, Inc. meeting if you are interested in serving on the nine member Steering Team. Elections will be held at the next meeting.

The next CCE, Inc. meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2020 at Black Bear Diner at 7 p.m.

Ken Palisin moved to adjourn; Lita Sharone seconded. Rich L. accepted the motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Please check your email and the CCE, Inc. website for additions or updates.

- **Feb. 18 – City of Great Falls Commission – Vote on Sustainability Resolution**
- March 12 – Region II Science Fair at GFC-MSU starts at 8:00 a.m. for judges
- April 14 – CCE, Inc. meeting tentatively scheduled for Black Bear Diner at 7 p.m.

Update: The next CCE, Inc. meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at Black Bear Diner. No host dinner hour starts at 6 p.m. and the CCE meeting will start at 7 p.m. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wwranch@3rivers.net.

“Don’t let the perfect plan that never gets done be the enemy of a good plan that gets action.”