

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

[www.cce-mt.org](http://www.cce-mt.org)

## Minutes for May 12, 2020 Meeting

**Location:** AT&T Conference Call in Great Falls, MT 59404

**Welcome:** Rich Liebert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the unprecedented CCE meeting via conference call. Ten CCE, Inc. supporters attended the meeting; a quorum was present. Rich quoted Theodore Roosevelt, “Do what you can, from where you are and with what you have.” Rich noted this quote was appropriate for the current COVID-19 quarantine situation.

**Secretary:** Kathy Gessaman briefly reviewed the February 11th CCE meeting minutes. **Jerry Taylor moved to accept the February 11, 2020 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes. David Saslav seconded.** Rich Liebert asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes; there were none. **The motion passed.**

**Treasurer:** Mary Nicholson summarized the status of the CCE checking account. Kathy G. reported the \$20 Annual Report fee was paid to the Montana Secretary of State on 3/10/2020 and the Form 990-N (e-Postcard) was accepted by the IRS for Tax Year 2019 on 3/4/2020. Mary said \$580 in cash was withdrawn from the checking account for the 2020 Region II Science Fair awards on 3/11/2020.

Kathy G. noted that Rich L. hadn't been reimbursed for the supplies he purchased for the presentation at the February CCE meeting and Rich said he preferred that CCE send Great Falls Public Radio a donation for the MTPR Spring Pledge Drive. **Kathy Gessaman moved to donate \$50 to Montana Public Radio in lieu of the \$42.71 reimbursement to Rich Liebert for supplies for the Feb. 11, 2020 CCE meeting. David Saskav seconded.** Rich called for discussion and there was no further discussion. **The motion was affirmed by voice vote.**

**Kathy Gessaman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ken Palisin seconded. The motion was affirmed by voice vote.**

**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](mailto:neiltaylor1@mac.com).

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

### Unfinished Business:

**I-187:** David S. reported that Initiative 187 hopes to establish a cohesive renewable energy policy; fund fossil fuel and railroad worker retraining and pension security; and replace coal tax revenue. David suggested people check out the website for I-187 to read the initiative and download forms to sign: <https://www.mtcares.org/initiative-187/#>. David said I-187 received an exemption from the Office of Political Practices for the usual signature gathering practices. People can download I-187 forms for the household to sign and download the affirmation form so people don't have to go door-to-door to collect signatures but can gather signatures through the internet. All the signed petitions and declaration/affirmation pages must be returned before June 18, 2020. The website has very detailed information about the Initiative and how to sign and gather signatures for I-187. David sent a letter to the editor of the Tribune encouraging people to sign I-187 before the June 18th cut off.

**Legal:** Rich L. said the Coal Leasing litigation is in the remedy briefing stage and Earthjustice along with the California deputy AGs drafted a remedy reply brief for a May 5th deadline. Earthjustice has argued that the Zinke Order (Department of the Interior) ending the coal-leasing moratorium should be vacated and the moratorium re-instated.

**Government:** Rich L. said NorthWestern Energy can buy Colstrip for \$1 and there is no roadblock to this course of action. The group discussed the issue.

**Student Incentive Program (SIP) and 2020 Region II Science Fair:** Mike Enk reported on the 2020 Region II Science Fair held on the Great Falls College - MSU campus on Thursday, March 12 for the Middle and High School students. Mike said the Science Fair was the last public event at GFC-MSU before the college went to on-line learning on March 13th due to COVID-19 quarantine measures. Kathy G. read Mike's press release which is attached at the end of these Minutes. Mike briefly reviewed the award winning projects noting there was a good array of clean energy and environmental projects. Mike said many students were concerned about micro plastic pollution and remediation. Mike thanked all the judges for helping out at the Science Fair.

**Energy Sustainability Committee:** Ken Palisin, Chair of the Energy Sustainability Committee, said Resolution 10333 was side tracked by COVID-19 and the Energy Corp group included by Commissioner Moe in the Resolution was defunded at the national level. David S. said the committee needs to go back to the drawing board and perhaps present a new resolution to the Neighborhood Councils to get more feedback and support. **David Saslav moved that the Climate Committee reconvene to formulate a response to the City Commission's suspension of Resolution 10333. Ken Palisin seconded. Jerry T. called the question. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Nominations Committee:** Kathy G. said the current Steering Team members are: 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. The Steering Team will be short two members as Jerry T, said he and Donna K. plan to step down from serving on the Steering Team.

[Note, the new Webmaster, if the position is continued, would most likely work with Sandra Guynn who is setting up the new CCE website.] Jerry said he appreciated David's due diligence checking out Sandra's work on websites. Jerry is confident that Sandra can maintain CCE's website very well as she has taken over the Monarch-Neihart Historical Group's website that Jerry started (<http://www.mnhg.org/>). Jerry also said Sandra is offering a very low price to maintain the CCE website. Jerry strongly advised the group to keep the original CCE, Inc. URL and the archives. Kathy said she spoke with Sandra last week and Sandra said she can link the new and the old websites together and she doesn't have a problem adding new items to the website within 2 or 3 days. Sandra said she would prefer to work with a limited number of people who were authorized to make changes to the website.

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 June meeting.

Rich L. adjourned the teleconference meeting at 8:12 p.m.

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

- June 9 – CCE, Inc. teleconference meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m. Check the June 9th Agenda for the toll-free teleconference number and access code

**Update:** The next CCE, Inc. teleconference meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020; the CCE meeting will start at 7 p.m. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at [wvranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wvranch@3rivers.net).

***“Do what you can, from where you are and with what you have.” TR***

March 13, 2020 For Immediate Release:

## **CITIZENS FOR CLEAN ENERGY ANNOUNCES 2020 CENTRAL MONTANA SCIENCE FAIR AWARDEES**

Volunteer judges from Citizens for Clean Energy (CCE) evaluated 32 student projects in the fields of renewable energy, resource conservation and environmental protection/remediation at this year's Regional Science Fair. The Middle and High School portion of the Fair was hosted by Great Falls College-MSU on March 12, attracting over 225 student science projects from twelve regional schools. After interviewing the students, CCE judges selected nine projects and eleven

students to receive cash awards totaling \$580. Additionally, many students received Outstanding Participation Certificates for demonstrating environmental awareness and exploring clean energy subjects with their projects. CCE judges also selected the student recipient of the RICOH Sustainable Development Award, which provides opportunities for further recognition and scholarship support.

Judging for CCE were Rick Kerr, Susan Hillstrom, Ken Palisin, Kathy Gessaman, Ken Thornton and Michael Enk. Monetary awards were made possible by a grant from the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation. The CCE 2020 place winners are:

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

**First Place (\$120)** – Georgia Balius, 10th Grade, Foothills Community Christian School  
“Oil Spill Cleanup”

**Second Place (\$80)** – Josey Hinderager and Laura Zietzke, 9th Grade, Simms High School  
“Microplastic Pollution Remediation”

**Third Place (\$60)** – Sam Mishler and Orion MacDonald, 11th Grade, Simms High School  
“Alternative Wind Turbine Designs”

**Fourth Place Tie (\$20)** – Alex Dixon, 10th Grade, Foothills Community Christian School  
“Burning Biofuels”

**Fourth Place Tie (\$20)** – Wyatt Manthey, 10th Grade, Sunburst High School  
“Hydroelectric Home”

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**First Place (\$100)** – Nicole Nau, 8th Grade, Sunburst Middle School  
“Re-engineering a Wind Turbine for Increased Energy Output”

**Second Place (\$80)** – Claire Bucklin, 8th Grade, Sunburst Middle School  
“Hidden Dangers” (microplastic pollution)

**Third Place (\$60)** – Braedyn Johnson, 8th Grade, Cascade Middle School  
“Plastique” (biodegradable plastic)

**Fourth Place (\$40)** – Hudson Rohrer, 8th Grade, Simms Junior High School  
“Sun River Runoff Microplastic Detection”

### **RICOH Sustainable Development Award**

Jaden Koon, 11th Grade, Sunburst High School, “A Blue Greener Battery”

Michael Enk  
[trouter@q.com](mailto:trouter@q.com)