

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for September 9, 2020 Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7 p.m. Nine CCE, Inc. supporters were present online during the meeting; a quorum was present. Rich thanked David Saslav and Melissa Smith for allowing CCE to use their Zoom setup. Participants had the option to join the Zoom meeting via computer or via phone.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman gave an overview of the June 9th CCE meeting minutes. **Charles Bocoock moved to accept the June 9, 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: Kathy G. reported, for Mary Nicholson, that on 6-5-2020, check #1031 for \$50 was mailed to MTPR for use of the KGPR conference call line; on 7-2-2020, check #1032 for \$443.85 was paid to Sandra Guynn to manage the CCE Website for a year; on 7-27-2020, debit card payment for \$11.95 was paid to Mecca Hosting for the CCE domain name; on 7-28-2020, debit card payment for \$59.95 was paid to Mecca Hosting for the original CCE website for another year. [Note: The second approved \$50 payment to MTPR for the 6-9-20 CCE meeting will be sent as part of the Fall MTPR pledge drive for the use of KGPR's conference call line.]

Unfinished Business:

CCE Website/Communications: Visit the new CCE, Inc. website at <https://www.ccemontana.org/> Sandra has done a fantastic job getting the new website up and running with current information posted weekly. Please check out the new website - any suggestions for improvements or additions would be welcome. Cheryl Reichert asked if we could get reports on website visitors like the impressive reports Jerry Taylor used to present at CCE meetings. Kathy G. said she would look into what reports on website visitors are available and agreed to work with Sandra to transfer important archives from the old site to the new one.

The old website address will be active for at least another year at: <http://www.cce-mt.org/>.

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

New Business:

Energy Sustainability Committee: Ken Palisin, Chair of the Energy Sustainability Committee, would like his committee to focus on networking, developing resources, a new vision, and setting up practical goals. Lita Sharone said she was discouraged by the sidelining of Resolution 10333 by the City Commission and thought a new direction was needed. Kathy said the committee did a great job working with the City on the resolution and might want to promote solar projects on the CCE website to show what people are doing right now to promote sustainability. Rich asked Melissa Smith and David Saslav what solar company installed their solar panels and they said Solar Montana did the work and they seemed to be competitively priced - <https://solarmontana.com/>. Cheryl and Charles said Mark Ray with Alternative Energy Systems put in their system about 20 years ago but he no longer installs solar systems; they have been pleased with their system and enjoy watching the meter run backwards. Cheryl noted NorthWestern Energy strongly promoted residential solar systems when they installed their system.

Rich suggested the committee talk to Commissioner Mary Moe again to see if there is any hope of reworking the resolution. Rich also noted the Commissioners said the City is already doing sustainability and perhaps the committee might encourage Commissioner Rick Tryon to report on how the City is meeting the goals of the 2016 McKinstry study to make the City more energy efficient. Rich also noted Paul Skubinna was appointed as the new Great Falls Public Works Director and he has an environmental background. There was discussion on how to reach out to the City.

Solar Victory at MT Supreme Court: Rich L. said the Montana Supreme Court ruled that NorthWestern Energy cannot shut out competition from local or customer-owned solar projects and Earthjustice's attorney, Jenny Harbine, represented clean-energy advocates in the case. The group was proud of Jenny and thought the decision leveled the playing field. Visit the new CCE website and look under News of Interest for the August 24th article from Earthjustice on the Court ruling.

Reports:

Grassroots - Initiative 187: Melissa said I-187 did not get on the ballot. David noted the Initiative was very complex but if the Governor's Interim Committee's goals are met, it should cover many of the I-187 goals.

Government: Rich encouraged CCE members to attend the City and County Commission Zoom meetings. Carolyn Craven said she preferred to appear in person to address the Commissioners saying it was hard to hear the proceedings over the phone. The group discussed the challenges people and communities face dealing with remote meetings over the internet.

Legal: Rich L. said Earthjustice, representing a coalition that includes CCE, filed a new lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's order to open public lands to coal leasing; this action continues litigation over the ending of the Obama administration's coal leasing moratorium.

Rich encouraged citizens to support candidates who support clean energy and noted MEIC's website has past records of Legislators' voting records on critical energy legislation.

The next CCE meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. This will be another Zoom meeting that people can access via computer or phone.

Ken P. moved to adjourned the Zoom meeting, Kathy G. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

- Oct. 13 – CCE Zoom meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. watch for an email with access instructions.
- TBA – Check emails and website for more information

Update: The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wwranch@3rivers.net.

“The greatest tragedy is for somebody to do nothing because they thought they could only do a little”
- Edmund Burke