

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for November 17, 2020 Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Seven CCE, Inc. supporters were present at the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Ken and Lita joined the Zoom meeting via phone from Virginia. Rich thanked David Saslav and Melissa Smith for allowing CCE to use their Zoom setup. Rich also thanked Melissa for running for the Montana Legislature; Melissa said she appreciated all the support she received from CCE members.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman reviewed the October 13th CCE meeting minutes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the October 13, 2020 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Lita Sharone seconded.** Rich called for discussion; there was none. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer: Kathy G. reported, for Mary Nicholson, that as of November 5, 2020, the checking account balance showed no change from the October CCE meeting.

CCE Website/Communications: Check out the new CCE website at <https://www.ccemontana.org/> - new items of interest are added weekly so please visit the website for informational updates.

The original CCE website address is: <http://www.cce-mt.org/>. David S. suggested some ideas for the new website. Kathy said she has been working with Jerry Taylor to redirect the old website and would talk to Sandra about promoting the new website with Google.

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

Unfinished Business:

Energy Sustainability Committee: Ken Palisin, Chair of the Energy Sustainability Committee, planned to gather the committee over Zoom and discuss their future goals. The group discussed the Aquatic Park proposed by the City and links to the topic would be added to the new CCE website: <https://www.ccemontana.org/news-of-interest.html>

New Business:

Rich L. said he met Ken P. at one of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) meetings a few years ago and invited Ken to join CCE. Melissa said she joined the Billings chapter. David is also a member of CCL. The group had a short discussion about CCL and how they work with both political parties to find common ground on climate change solutions. <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Virtual Science Fair 2021: Mike Enk sent emails noting the Science Fair is going virtual for 2021. Judges and students would interact through virtual interviews. Mike wasn't sure how CCE judges could integrate with the official judges on the zFairs platform. Mike also enjoyed the in-person interaction with the students which would be hard to replicate via Zoom. Lita noted alternative energy projects are more critical than ever and thought it best to go ahead and participate to encourage student participation. Kathy thought the logistics of the Zoom meetings would be very hard to work around for CCE judges and read the following email from Mike dated Nov. 13, 2020. "Lita, I share your feelings, but...our judging process is very different from the scoring used by the official judges. We have to conference together to pick the winners. How and where could we do that with COVID concerns? How will we screen projects for meeting our CCE criteria, beyond what we're given in the title and abstract? How do we integrate/ compete with official judges for interview time with the students? How do we coordinate our two-person teams of judges? We only judge a subset of the projects so we'd have to ask for interruption of the sequence of official judging on specific projects in order to conduct our interviews. I just don't see how to pull this off unless we can set up a different time for CCE judges to interview specific projects, and then subsequently conduct our own virtual conference to pick the winners." Mike also asked if someone else would take the lead for CCE if the group decided

to participate. Kathy noted CCE could still be a sponsor for the Science fair and perhaps award a prize to one or more of the winners who meet CCE's environmental criteria. The group discussed the problem but came to no decision.

Nominations Committee: Kathy G. said January is when CCE is supposed to hold elections. Please let her know if you no longer wish to serve on the Steering Team; Mary Nicholson said she was stepping down as Treasurer and the position is open. If you are not on the Steering Team and wish to join the team, please send Kathy an email!

Reports:

Government: David S. said Great Falls Resolution 10333 deserved a new hearing since the City is now working on non-COVID-19-related items. The group discussed the issue. Rich said organize, educate, activate.

David suggested members look into the Great Falls Rising Dec. 1st meeting that will look into dark money used in the last election and how it affected transparency.

Check out Montana Legislature's Homepage <https://leg.mt.gov/> where you can find more information on remote participation in the upcoming legislature, Bill Search, Legislator Search, Session Information, and Revenue and Budget Information, and where to click to Watch/Listen to all meetings. Call (406) 444-4800 for more information.

Legal: Rich L. said there wasn't an update from Earthjustice this month but the new administration might end the litigation.

The next CCE meeting was scheduled for January. This would be another Zoom meeting that people can access via computer or phone.

Kathy G. moved to adjourn the Zoom meeting, Lita S. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

- Nov 18 – Cascade County Commission Zoom Mtg 5:30 p.m. Find links for Zoom meeting at County website <https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/>
- TBA – Check emails and website for more information

Update: The Steering Team decided the next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting would be held February 9, 2021 at 7 p.m. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wwranch@3rivers.net.

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you”

- RBG