

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

[www.ccemontana.org](http://www.ccemontana.org)

## Minutes for March 2, 2021 Meeting

**Location:** Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

**Welcome:** Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7 p.m. Twelve CCE, Inc. supporters were present at the Zoom meeting as well as David's guest, Mary Catherine Dunphy; a quorum was present. Thanks go to David Saslav and Melissa Smith for setting up the Zoom meeting. Rich welcomed two guest speakers, Tim Peterson and Tom Coburn with LPW Architecture, who planned to speak about the Aquatics Center they designed for the City of Great Falls.

**Secretary:** Kathy Gessaman reviewed the February 9, 2021 CCE meeting minutes. **David Saslav moved to accept the February 9, 2021 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** Rich called for discussion; there was none. **The motion passed.**

**Treasurer:** Kathy G. reported for Mary Nicholson, who was unable to attend the meeting. Kathy said check #1034 for \$20 was electronically paid to the Montana Secretary of State for the 2021 Annual Report.

**CCE Website/Communications:** Please visit the new CCE, Inc. website for the latest updates on CCE activities. <https://www.ccemontana.org/>

The original CCE website address continues to be active as an archive along with current LENR info: <http://www.cce-mt.org/>. Send articles of general interest and notices about CCE activity to Kathy G. at [cce.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:cce.secretary@gmail.com).

### Unfinished Business:

**Energy Sustainability Committee:** Rich welcomed Tim Peterson, President of LPW Architecture, and invited him to speak about the Aquatic Center scheduled to be built in Lions Park in Neighborhood Council 9. Tim said the building was designed as a high performance building, which means it is about 40% more energy efficient than a basic building but is not a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. The building is designed to minimize the energy requirements with insulation, heat exchange equipment, and special programming to control the whole system. Tom Coburn spoke about the mechanical and electrical systems and the different equipment they planned to use to meet the high performance standard for buildings over \$10 million dollars. The discussion that followed the presentation included questions about solar, using geothermal, horizontal wind turbines, etc. The presenters said they had studied the use of geothermal but the cost was over a million dollars; they asked for more information from Ken Thornton about the parking lot photovoltaic system used in the Albuquerque, NM five pool projects; the buildings were designed to have high air turnover and have MERV 13 filters to pick up virus carriers (i.e., droplets or dust) to reduce the chance of Legionnaires disease; they plan to look at the use of horizontal wind turbines; and the presenters hope to set up the design to allow for future solar panels if the City doesn't want to pay for them now. The presenters said the project should be shovel ready by September 1, 2021. The design presentation shows the Aquatic Center using 8 acres of the 14 acre Lion's Park and includes a lazy river section, large slide that goes outside and lights up, a party/multipurpose room, yoga room, lap pool, fitness area upstairs, walking track above the gym, etc. Rich thanked Tim and Tom for the detailed presentation.

**Virtual Science Fair 2021:** Mike Enk, Chair of the SIP Science Fair Committee, said he had not received much information from Dr. Leanne Frost, who heads up the Science Fair at Great Falls College MSU. Mike planned to review the project abstracts to find the most likely projects that would meet CCE's environmental and clean energy criteria. Mike advised that the current plan is to award a nominal prize of \$20 (money order) to about 25 students along with an Outstanding Participation Certificate. The money for the awards would be taken from the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation's generous \$600 grant. The Middle and High School Great Falls College MSU Regional Science & Engineering Virtual Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. David S. said he was accepted as a judge for the Science Fair. Mike said he'd keep his committee members up to date with emails.

**Kathy Gessaman moved to spend up to \$600 of the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation's grant for awards for the 2021 Virtual Science Fair. Shannon Wilson seconded.** Rich called for

discussion. There was a question about reaching home schooled students which Mike Enk addressed saying there have not been any home schooled students involved in the Science Fair that he knows about; he added all awards, for privacy reasons, would be forwarded by Dr. Frost to the CCE award winners. **The motion passed.**

#### **New Business:**

**Membership - Facebook Proposal:** Rich asked the group what the mission of CCE was and the answers included stopping the coal plant and any other project that might endanger the well being of the citizens of Great Falls while encouraging the use of clean energy and being ambassadors for clean energy. Rich said MEIC consented to send out an email to their members in the Great Falls area encouraging them to get in touch with CCE. David said it's easy to invite more people to attend a meeting and noted Mary Catherine Dunphy was able to join tonight's Zoom meeting. Mary Catherine said she's interested in promoting I-84 and I-87.

David put up the proposal he received from Speaking Socially on how to find and target CCE's ideal audience, create ads to connect with website visitors, and direct more social media traffic to CCE in hopes of increasing CCE membership. The price for a 9 to 12 month campaign was \$1,500. Kathy G. suggested a Facebook page was a good place to start but as CCE's yearly budget is about \$600, this proposal uses almost three years of CCE's limited funds. Kathy G. noted that CCE does not charge an annual membership fee and the money in the bank was earned through extensive fundraising and some generous grants and cautioned about spending so much of CCE's net assets at one time. Cheryl R. related their experience with Facebook with their Backyard Chicken project; they found that the ads that Facebook helped to push to people of a certain age or area got to be very expensive over time and Cheryl R. thought that CCE members like David would be able to do this without outside help initially. Cheryl noted that for a Facebook page to be successful it required something that would bring people back to the page and noted Prevention Cascade's page languished until they notified people why the bridge lights were on and saw an increase in visits to the Facebook page. Kathy G. said Sandra Guynn said there would be no extra charge to link a Facebook page to the CCE website. Melissa said she had experience using Speaking Socially in her political campaign and thought they were very effective in increasing her exposure to voters in her area. She also volunteered to set up a Facebook page. Cheryl said CCE might have better prospects of recruiting people at the Farmer's Market but we also need to have a reason to encourage people to join CCE. Ken T. thought CCE needed to do more to encourage the City to put solar in the parking lot of the Aquatic Center and perhaps CCE could spearhead raising money for solar for the Center.

Rich cut the discussion short and asked David to invite Justin from Speaking Socially to the next CCE Zoom meeting.

#### **Reports:**

**Government:** Rich reported he was elected to the Cascade County Planning Board and Ken Thornton was elected to the Cascade County Zoning Board.

Check out Montana Legislature's Homepage <https://leg.mt.gov/> where you can find more information on remote participation in the Legislature Session, 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.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7 p.m. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

**David S. moved to adjourn the meeting and Melissa S. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

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

- TBD – House/Senate Energy committee hearings, MT legislature, 406-444-4800, <https://leg.mt.gov/>
- Mar 9 – Great Falls College MSU Regional Science & Engineering Fair - Virtual Science Fair
- Apr 13 – CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.

***“It's easy to make a buck but a lot tougher to make a difference.” - Tom Brokaw***