

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for May 11, 2021 Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Ten CCE, Inc. supporters were present at the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Three guests attended the meeting. Thanks go to David Saslav and Melissa Smith for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich welcomed Kristen Waiser with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), Charles Kuether, and Susan Effertz to the meeting and asked each person present to briefly share some background information. Charles, retired attorney, and Susan, retired physician, both would like to see the Aquatic Center install alternative energy solutions like ground source heat pumps to the project initially since the initial cost can be defrayed by heating and cooling cost savings.

Rich asked Kristen to update CCE members on what CCL was doing about climate change. Kristen said CCL works with groups all over the country to address climate change - this decade is critical to slowing down climate change. CCL hopes to convince Congress to adopt CCL's market based solution to reducing fossil fuels; it involves a carbon tax that could work worldwide. Kristen invited CCE members to join in an upcoming CCL community event with panel speakers from around Montana called "Conserving our Future." The event will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 20th from 7-8:15. Zoom registration: bit.ly/ConservingOurFuture More information about CCL can be found at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/> Kristin's phone number is 406-551-0388 if you have more questions and she said Melissa Smith is a local member of CCL.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman reviewed the April 13, 2021 CCE meeting minutes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the April 13, 2021 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** Rich called for discussion; there was none. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer: Kathy reported Mary and Bob Nicholson called to say they no longer have the time and energy to serve on the CCE Steering Team. I told them CCE members would miss their insight and help with all the projects they have worked on through the years. Kathy said check #1035 to Claire for \$80 had not yet been cashed. Otherwise, there was no change in the checking account. Sandra Guynn sent the final website construction invoice for \$919 which includes this year's website maintenance and hosting fees. [Earlier, Mary said she would cosign the check.]

Rich thought we should give Bob and Mary a token of our appreciation for all they have done since 2006 for CCE. Cheryl Reichert volunteered to write a letter of appreciation to Mary and Bob and pick up the gift certificate and submit a receipt to Kathy for reimbursement. **David Saslav moved to allocate \$50 to Bob and Mary for their services rendered to CCE in the form of a \$50 gift certificate for The Black Bear Restaurant. Shannon Wilson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

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.

David asked when we'll boost CCE on social media and Kathy said Shannon needs about 20 hours to set up a Facebook page. Shannon said she attended a webinar on social media and it covered Facebook boosting where she learned new ways to boost CCE's Facebook page.

Unfinished Business:

Energy Sustainability Committee: Rich said Tim Peterson, President of LPW Architecture, liked the acronym ARC for the Aquatic Recreation Center and Rich told him to feel free to use the acronym. No one on the energy committee was able to find out what the energy costs to run the ARC would be. Rich said he would ask Tim about using a geothermal system in the ARC like the geothermal system Susan said was being used at MSU in some of the dorm buildings. <https://www.montana.edu/news/19588> Cheryl and Charles noted they looked at geothermal for their

house but ran into problems. Susan said usually the geothermal wells and piping were put under parking lots. Ken Thornton said the best heat transfer was in wet soil and dry soil was not as effective for transferring heat and solar would be cheaper than geothermal. Shannon will call Greg Doyon about energy costs for the ARC. Cheryl suggested Susan and Charles contact one of the City Commissioners like Tracy Houck and outline their personal experience with geothermal to get her feedback.

Earth Day 2021: Rich said the presentation of the Earth Day Proclamation went well at the April 20, 2021 City Commission meeting. Rich said Gerry Jennings spoke about the history of Earth Day.

New Business:

Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing for the COGF/MAFB “ARC” (Aquatic Recreation Center): Rich said citizens have three minutes to present their views to the Commissioners on May 18th about installing alternative energy systems on the ARC from the beginning to save the public money in the long run. Rich said if you can't attend the meeting please send an email before May 18th.

David recommended people use the following email address for comments to the City Commissioners before the May 18th City Commission meeting: citycommissioners@greatfallsmt.net Information (including a phone number) about the City Commissioners can be found at <https://greatfallsmt.net/citycommission/city-commissioners-about-us>

Reports:

Grassroots: Rich said KGPR (FM 89.9) sent out a public service announcement (PSA) for CCE and the Neighborhood Councils; KGPR is the only local media to report local activities for no charge including the meeting time and location.

Government: Rich said the legislature had good, bad and ugly bills this session. Kathy said she received a newsletter from MEIC with a list of bad bills headed to the Governor's desk. Please email or call the Governor asking him to veto these bills. Email: governor@mt.gov or call Gov. Gianforte and Lt. Gov. Juras at (406) 444-4800.

Land Use & Water

- HB 599 - Eliminate environmental protections, public notification and involvement in gravel pit permitting
- SB 165 - Eliminate water quality protections for development over 500 feet from surface waters
- SB 231 - Expand the “family transfer” exemption for subdivisions
- HB 527 - Eliminate citizen-initiated zoning (CIZ) districts for the entire state
- SB 284 - Allow gravel pits to destroy critical sage grouse habitat without mitigation

Environmental Policy

- HB 481 - Attacking freedom of speech and right to associate

Clean Energy

- HB 188 - Additional registration fees for electric vehicles
- SB 237 - Eliminate NWEnergy's shareholders obligation to pay \$2.5 million to low income and tribal energy efficiency programs
- HB 576 - Repeal Montana's renewable energy standard

Fossil Fuels & Nukes

- HB 498 Oil and gas interests trump local communities
 - HB 273 - Overturn citizens' initiative and eliminates public vote on nuclear energy projects
- Please call or email the Governor as soon as possible. www.meic.org/master-veto-list

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wwranch@3rivers.net.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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

- May 11 – City Commission Meeting in Commission Chambers starting at 7 p.m.
- June 8 – Tentatively scheduled CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting starting at 7 p.m.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”
Martin Luther King Jr.