

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for June 8, 2021 Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7 p.m. Ten CCE, Inc. supporters were present at the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Two guests, Jason Cohn and Tyrel Hlaynicka, attended the meeting. Many thanks to David Saslav and Melissa Smith for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman reviewed the May 11, 2021 CCE meeting minutes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the May 11, 2021 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** Rich called for discussion; David Saslav noted Kristen's last name should be spelled Walser not Waiser. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer: Kathy summarized the treasurer's report. Check #1035 to Claire for \$80 cleared, check #1038 for \$919 to Sandra Guynn for CCE website final construction and yearly fee cleared, and check #1039 for \$50 to Cheryl Reichert for reimbursement for the appreciation gift to Mary and Bob Nicholson also cleared. Kathy noted the check book is balanced to the bank account statement. Kathy said the CCE IRS Form 990-N for tax year 2020 was accepted by the IRS on 5-27-2021. Rich thanked Karen Gessaman for helping to file the tax form for CCE.

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.

Unfinished Business:

Energy Sustainability Committee - Aquatic Center (ARC): Rich welcomed two guests. Jason Cohn is Cheryl Reichert's cousin. Jason received his mechanical engineering degree from MSU. Jason has worked on hydropower and solar systems and he shared some funding opportunities for alternative energy projects. Jason works in a public utility district in Washington state but still has property in Great Falls. Tyrel Hlavnicka works with Aquasource Drilling <https://www.aquasourcemt.com/> and his engineering expertise is in drilling - Cheryl had contacted him about using a geothermal system for the proposed Aquatic Center (ARC). Tyrel presented some fascinating background of drilling in the Great Falls area; Paris Gibson drilled down 3600 ft in 1915.

Tyrel answered questions about using geothermal wells to heat and cool the ARC. Tyrel said there would be no net usage of well water for a "pump and dump" system using water from the Madison Aquifer; a pair of 1700 ft pump and dump wells would cost around a million dollars and a pair of 600 ft wells would cost around \$250,000. Tyrel noted the water rights for a pump and dump system was not covered in the early Montana water rights laws; he said laws about injection wells are a gray area. Jason said the ARC would need to get a nonconsumptive water right. Ken T. noted earlier attempts at injection well in the Great Falls area failed.

Rich noted the ARC was scheduled to start construction at the end of September 2021 and had hoped the City would "green up" the design of the ARC. Rich noted discussions with the architect and the City hadn't provided information about the costs involved or the amount of energy needed to run the ARC so green ideas could be presented based on real energy use. The group discussed options for finding out the energy costs for the ARC including getting an estimate from LPW Architecture since they built the Peak and might give CCE an estimate of their energy use.

[FYI - from an email from Cheryl R. after the June 8th CCE meeting: "I have received information from my cousin, engineer Jason Cohn, of how to contact engineers Adam Hawks and Mike Foran, both of Energy-1 in Bozeman Montana, <https://www.energy-1.net>. According to their impressive website, this company is "focused on driving smart energy solutions, promoting sustainability across the industry, and meeting the unique needs of clients in the most sensitive and challenging environments". They specialize in geothermal and have done projects in Montana and across the country." Cheryl said Mike and Adam would be willing to participate via Zoom at the Sept. CCE meeting.]

New Business:

Nominations: Kathy said the positions for Treasurer and Vice President were open for nominations from the floor.

- **Kathy Gessaman nominated Shannon Wilson for Treasurer, Cheryl Reichert seconded the nomination. Rich called the question and the motion passed unanimously.**
- **Lita nominated David Saslav for Vice President, Kathy Gessaman seconded the nomination. Rich called the question and the motion passed unanimously.**

Rich welcomed David as the new CCE Vice President (Vice Chair) and Shannon as the new CCE Treasurer.

Commercial Property Sustainability (C-PACE): Rich discussed how Connor Ploeger, the Clean Energy Analyst with MEIC who took over from Brian Fadie, is working to help cities endorse SB147, a bill that passed this legislative session that promotes energy conservation in commercial buildings also known as C-PACE. Rich said local governments need to facilitate C-PACE in their communities and Connor is checking to see if there is any financial liability for the City if they implement C-PACE.

[For more information on C-PACE, please visit: https://northernplains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CPACE_factsheet_FNL_2021.pdf]

Reports:

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

Legal: Rich updated the group on the Coal Lease Moratorium lawsuit. Rich said Jenny with Earthjustice was working to reinstate the coal leasing moratorium put on under the Obama Administration and cancelled by the Trump Administration; Judge Morris denied DOI's/BLM's request to stay Earthjustice's federal coal-leasing moratorium litigation. Jenny said this is a positive development.

Memorial Day 2021: Ken P. and Lita reported Rich and other veterans were prayed over by Chief Earl Old Person. Rich was given the name "Mountain Shield" and a Pendleton blanket for his service to the country and his help in creating the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 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.

- Sept 14 – CCE Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.
- TBD – Public Hearing City Commission, ARC "decision"

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

Martin Luther King Jr.