

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for November 9, 2021 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 attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you David Saslav and Melissa Smith for setting up the Zoom meeting. Rich mentioned the international climate negotiations taking place in Glasgow, Scotland and said there are actions we can take here in Montana and asked David to read his climate letter to Senator Tester. David said on Oct. 28th Caitlin Piserchia with the Sierra Club asked him if CCE would like to sign on to an open letter to Senator Tester asking him to advocate for the clean electricity component of the Build Back Better program as it works it's way through reconciliation. David mentioned several key points: achieve 100% clean energy by 2035; repeal federal fossil fuel subsidies; invest in improved access to public transit and union built electric cars, trucks, and buses; replace 100% of all lead pipes in America; retrofit and electrify public housing, schools, and hospitals; and create a civilian climate corp dedicated to work like cleaning up abandoned mines and wells. David said some of the groups that signed on with the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club were Forward Montana, Climate Smart Missoula, Montana Women Vote, MEIC, Families for a Livable Climate, Western Native Voice, Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, 350 Montana, Gallatin Valley Sunrise Movement, MontPIRG, and Citizens for Clean Energy. Rich said he wanted to formalize CCE's participation with this letter to Senator Tester. The group discussed the international climate conference and local political issues and how they impact us all.

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman summarized the October 12, 2021 CCE meeting minutes. David S. asked to amend the minutes in the section under new business and replace 'Express' with SolarApp+ to clarify the DOE program name found at <https://solarapp.nrel.gov/> **Melissa Smith moved to accept the amended October 12, 2021 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Mike Enk seconded.** Rich called for additional discussion; **the motion was approved.**

Treasurer: Shannon Wilson said she deposited a \$50 donation from Melissa Smith earmarked for a one year membership to Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) and sent NPRC a \$50 check. The balance in the checking account remained the same. **Kathy Gessaman moved to accept the treasurer's report and Ken Palisin seconded; the motion was approved.** David said increasing CCE membership was the reason behind the NPRC membership donation. Rich said Melissa could be CCE's ambassador to NPRC and Kathy said she would send CCE's agenda to NPRC if Melissa would give her an email address of someone at NPRC who would be interested.

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. Please check out the new website to view links to current events.

CCE Facebook: Shannon Wilson is the administrator of CCE's Facebook site and David is a co-administrator. Please visit the site and give Shannon and David a thumbs up! <https://www.facebook.com/Great-Falls-Citizens-for-Clean-Energy-CCE-110217491438621/>

Shannon Wilson moved to allocate \$50 to an initial boost on Facebook and revisit the results before going forward, Melissa seconded. Rich asked if there was more discussion. **David moved to amend the motion to allocate \$50 to an initial boost on Facebook superseding any previous motion to allocate \$50 for a boost on Facebook with analysis to follow the boost; Shannon agreed to the amendment and Melissa seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

Energy Sustainability Committee - Aquatic Center (ARC): Rich L. asked about the center's progress and Melissa said the ARC was already almost half a million dollars over budget. David suggested CCE may want to turn attention to new building proposals like the new medical school. David said the City's conditional use permit (CUP) ordinances don't require builders to improve energy efficient and suggested the health section in the CUP ordinance

could be revised to encourage new construction to try not to add to the City's carbon footprint. The group agreed focusing on conservation and reducing the use of energy was critical.

C-PACE: Rich said the next step is to encourage County Commissioner, Joe Briggs, to endorse C-PACE. Ken P. thought the downtown area was ideal for C-PACE. Melissa suggested working with the Great Falls Pachyderms.

Ken P. said the City has a six year contract from 2017-2023 with Energy Keepers, Inc. (a corporation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) and the City has saved over \$750,000 compared with NWE. Ken said the City's electrical supply is currently 100% hydropower. David said we need to focus on conservation and perhaps encourage Neighborhood Councils (NCs) to encourage the City to cut carbon/energy use by 10%. Rich said getting NCs as partners to help with conservation was worth a try but he was going to focus on C-PACE.

New Business:

City Election Results, Build Back Better: Election results: Bob Kelly won a fourth 2-year term as mayor. Joe McKenney and Susan Wolff were elected to 4-year terms as City Commissioners replacing Commissioners Mary Moe and Owen Robinson (Rich Tryon remains on the City Commission). The group wondered who would replace Tracy Houck who resigned on Nov. 4th. Ken P. said at the Country Club gathering, Susan Wolff, one of the newly elected City Commissioners, was very open to what was good for the community. Rich thought Susan Wolff would be receptive to conservation too. David suggested focusing on the demand side vs. the supply side of energy.

Cascade County Land Use Plan for ACM Smelter/Refinery site: Rich L. said there would be a special County Commission meeting on Nov. 16th to discuss the final land use plan for the former Anaconda Copper Mining Company (ACM) Refinery smelter site. Rich said Jenn Rowell had a great article on the meeting: <https://theelectricgf.com/2021/11/06/plans-for-former-smelter-site-considered-at-nov-16-county-commission-meeting/>

Reports:

SIP - 2022 Science Fair: Mike Enk, Chair of the SIP Science Fair Committee, said the Great Falls College - MSU Science Fair would be held during the second week of March in 2022. Mike said it would be a hybrid Science Fair where some participants would appear in person and others would appear virtually online. Registration for the Science Fair will begin in February.

Legal: Rich L. did not have additional information on the Coal Lease Moratorium lawsuit at this time.

Nominations: Kathy G. asked all supporters to ponder joining the Steering Team; the Board is nominated in January. Kathy will contact all current Steering Team members; please contact her if you wish to join the Steering Team.

Rich L. suggested holding a special work session on membership in December - the date and time to be announced.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wyranch@3rivers.net.

Kathy G. moved to adjourn and David S. seconded; the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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

- Nov 16 – Cascade County Commission hearing on former ACM Land Use Plan, 6 p.m.
- Dec ?? – To be announced special membership work session
- Jan 11 – CCE Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.

“Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm.” Ralph Waldo Emerson