

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

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

## Minutes for January 11, 2022 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 attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav and Melissa Smith, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich welcomed everyone and asked what they would like to see in 2022. Some of the responses were: would like to see more attendees at the CCE meeting, an updated Resolution 10333, Jerry Taylor getting an ECAT unit, and NWE cancelling the Laurel Gas Plant. Rich mentioned some good news - MEIC is hiring a new Clean Energy staffer to replace Connor. Rich suggested CCE invite MEIC to Great Falls for a joint presentation in the future. Rich spoke to Andrew at MREA (Montana Renewable Energy Association) and would like to invite him to a future event as well. Rich thanked David for the link to the proposal to put a new generator on the Gibson Dam that could generate power to help with dam repairs and power about 2300 homes. [https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/hydropower-proposal-calls-for-work-at-sun-river-s-gibson-dam/article\\_89e73a35-1d92-5ceb-aa71-726c79d28886.html](https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/hydropower-proposal-calls-for-work-at-sun-river-s-gibson-dam/article_89e73a35-1d92-5ceb-aa71-726c79d28886.html)

**Secretary:** Kathy Gessaman reviewed the November 9, 2021 CCE Zoom meeting minutes. **David Saslav moved to accept the November 9, 2021 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** Rich called for additional discussion; **the motion was approved.**

**Treasurer:** Shannon Wilson said there were no changes in the CCE checking account since the last meeting. **Kathy Gessaman moved to accept the treasurer's report and Mike Enk seconded; the motion was approved.**

**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). 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 at <https://www.facebook.com/Great-Falls-Citizens-for-Clean-Energy-CCE-110217491438621/>

Shannon said she tried to boost the CCE Facebook page but Facebook considered the page to be too political and rejected the boost. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Shannon tried to boost the link to KRTV and their geothermal program and it took Facebook 18 hours to approve the boost but shut it down 2 hours later. However, over 550 people saw the boost and 3 people liked it. **Shannon Wilson moved to purchase two (2) "business email" addresses for \$47.76 and David Saslav seconded.** Discussion: 1/6/2022 email from Sandra Guynn said that two (2) "business emails," which are needed for Facebook to contact the CCE website, would cost \$47.76 per year on GoDaddy - the email address needed to be something like admin@ccemontana.org. **The motion passed.**

### Unfinished Business:

**Energy - Sustainability Committee:** Rich L. asked Susan Effertz if she would be interested in joining the Sustainability Committee and she said yes. Ken Palisin, Chair, welcomed Susan to the committee. Ken P. noted the committee plans to look at what meaningful steps CCE might take to encourage sustainability in the City's growth planning. Lita mentioned the committee could study water conservation and the slaughter house project. Conservation is the CCE theme for 2022.

**C-PACE:** Rich said County Commissioners Joe Briggs, Don Ryan, and Jim Larsen are all on board with the C-PACE program. Rich thought since the census was completed, the City and County should review their growth policy; the group preferred slow development in Great Falls vs. rapid growth and the associated problems. A discussion ensued: The group noted County Commissioner Briggs broke up the City-County Planning Board in 2005 possibly so the County could pass more developments without the usually stricter regulations required by the City, the GF Development Authority has been holding public sessions but not publishing the results, conservation is

critical for future growth, in 2032 there is a provision in the MT Constitution that another Constitutional Convention request could go on the ballot, the DEQ is being minimized as the Zortman Landusky mine might be reopened, every dollar toward conservation of energy can save three dollars, C-PACE can't be used for government or school projects it's for commercial projects, and it helps if the public thanks politicians who support policies like C-PACE.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Reports:**

**SIP - 2022 Science Fair:** Mike Enk, Chair of the SIP Science Fair Committee, said the Great Falls College - MSU Regional Science and Engineering Fair would be held March 8, 2022 for middle and high school students (grades 6-12). Mike said it would be a hybrid Science Fair where some participants would appear in person and others would appear virtually online. Registration information for the Science Fair has been added to the CCE website. Please contact Mike ([trouter@q.com](mailto:trouter@q.com)) if you are interested in helping judge for CCE at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Science Fair.

**Mike Enk moved for the Secretary to request \$300 from the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation to bring the total award amount from the Dr. Baker Foundation to \$600 for the 2022 Science Fair. Shannon Wilson seconded the motion.** Discussion: The Student Incentive Program (SIP) fund has money left over from the 2021 Virtual Science Fair where participation in the Science Fair was lower than previous years and the SIP committee hopes \$600 would cover awards to students who meet CCE's award criteria. **The motion passed.**

**Legal:** Rich L. said he had discouraging news that the Biden Administration was not defending the Coal Lease Moratorium lawsuit and might not reinstate the moratorium. David wondered if the coal unions were putting pressure on the administration. The group expressed concerns about the effect of using more coal on the climate.

**Nominations:** Kathy G. said she sent out an email asking those holding CCE Board/Steering Team positions if they wished to remain on the CCE Board. David said since it was an opt out email, if people didn't reply, we should first confirm their agreement to serve on the board. Kathy said she would call Aart since he was the only person she hadn't heard from. [Aart Dolman agreed to serve on the CCE Board per phone call on 1-12-22.] **Melissa Smith moved to approve the slate of nominations as presented with conditional approval for Aart Dolman until he confirmed he wanted to stay on the CCE Board. Lita Sharone seconded. The motion passed. Melissa Smith nominated Ken Thornton, after getting his permission, to the CCE Board of Directors/Steering Team. David Saslav seconded; the motion passed.** Officers: Rich Liebert, Chair; David Saslav, Vice Chair; Shannon Wilson, Treasurer; and Kathleen Gessaman, Secretary. Directors: Aart Dolman, Michael Enk, Ken Palisin, and Ken Thornton. The CCE Steering Team has four officers and five directors; there is one director position open if anyone is interested in applying for it.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 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).

**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.

- Jan 18 – City of Great Falls Commission meeting, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Jan 18 – Cascade County Planning Board, 9 a.m. (*Growth Policy discussion*)
- Feb 8 – CCE Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.
- Mar 8 – Great Falls College–MSU Regional Science & Engineering Fair for grades 6 - 12

***“The question is whether any civilization can wage relentless war on life without destroying itself, and without losing the right to be called civilized.”***

– Rachel Carson