

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for May 10, 2022 Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting in Great Falls, Montana

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 7 p.m. Six CCE supporters attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. John Mues, with PSAPLING, was a guest speaker. Donna and Glen Gleaves, Meghan Rearden, and Shelly Kelly were welcome guests who were interested in learning more about CCE. Thank you, David Saslav and Melissa Smith, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich welcomed John Mues and asked him to talk a little about his background and tell the group about PSAPLING. John said he grew up in Wolf Point and majored in English at college, has a master's in Business Administration, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, was a Navy Seal, received a post graduate degree in Nuclear Engineering and became a U.S. Dept. of Energy-certified Nuclear Engineer. John said after his time in the Navy, during which he earned a teaching certificate from MSU, he taught on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation for a few years. John worked for Exxon Mobil before deciding to work on a solar energy system that would be an alternative to conventional roof-top and pole-mounted solar installations. John shared information that can be seen on his user-friendly website: <https://psapling.com/>. John said the 26% Federal Solar Tax Credit applies to PSAPLING. John said PSAPLING can do more than just provide clean energy; they can be used as carports or covers for walkways, patios, and porches, etc. John said 12 panels could cover about half of the usual house electricity needs. A group discussion ensued - some answers to questions were as follows: The materials used are wood or steel, a picnic table with a solar cover would have to be located near a building like the Aquatic Center so an underground cable could connect to the building, PSAPLING must be installed by a certified contractor and electrician, PSAPLING supports both off-grid use and connected to the grid use, John is talking to the University of Montana about an array for the Mansfield Library, Ken T. and John discussed tilt angles for the solar array and John hoped he could continue the discussion with Ken T., the panels are HOAC certified and rated for hurricane areas because the lower tilt angle decreases the soil loading effect, etc. More information can also be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/psapling>

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman reviewed the April 12, 2022 CCE Zoom meeting minutes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the April 12, 2022 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** There was no discussion; **the minutes were approved.**

Treasurer: Shannon Wilson said no expenditures were made since the last CCE meeting and thanked Kathy for putting the Science Fair costs in the April minutes.

CCE Website/Communications: Please visit the active CCE, Inc. website for the latest updates on CCE activities at <https://www.ccemontana.org/>. The original CCE website address continues to be used as a historical archive along with current LENR info at <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 at <https://www.facebook.com/Great-Falls-Citizens-for-Clean-Energy-CCE-110217491438621/> Shannon said there was some glitch with the boost for Earth Day and she spent \$20 to boost the CCE May meeting.

Unfinished Business:

NPRC: Rich said Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) launched their latest affiliate - Golden Triangle Resource Council at the Celtic Cowboy on April 28, 2022 from 6-8 p.m. Rich said CCE does not charge fees to join and encouraged people to join MEIC, NPRC or other environmentally focused organizations.

Earth Day Proclamation: Rich asked David to tell how the Earth Day Proclamation presentation at the April 19, 2022 City Commission meeting went. David said he and Gerry Jennings accepted the Proclamation at the podium, and Gerry read a three-page history of Earth Day to a fairly large in-person gathering.

New Business:

Conservation Outreach and Resolution 10333: David gave a brief overview on Resolution 10333. David said the plan was to have the City of Great Falls pass a non-binding resolution to have audits on City departments to see if they are using clean energy wherever possible. David said the committee would like to get support from the community to communicate to the City that the public is interested in conservation. David said Resolution 10333 was tabled indefinitely two years ago plus the Energy Corps, who was proposed to have done the audit, is no longer in business. The audit was going to be based on the 2016 McKinstry study of the City of Great Falls. [Note: a presentation of the 2016 McKinstry study of the City of Great Falls can be reviewed at: https://greatfallsmt.net/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_commission/meeting/95001/090616ws_attachment_mckinstry_presentation.pdf] David said committee members were told the actual final written report can't be found on the City's computers.

Melissa found an interesting link on the City of Great Falls' website: <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/2022-week-one-building-technology-innovation/> The International Code Council (ICC) looks to be a good source of sustainable planning for the City of Great Falls.

Reports:

Grassroots: Rich reviewed C-PACE for Meghan and Shelley and noted Cascade County has implemented C-PACE.

David S. said Jason Kunz was unable to attend the CCE meeting due to an emergency. Jason was going to update the group on the Blue Scooter program. David said he would invite Jason to the June meeting.

Coal Lease Moratorium: Rich said there hasn't been any changes in the status of the Moratorium.

The next CCE, Inc. meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in-person at Black Bear Diner with a Zoom connection as well.

Watch your email for location and Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at wwranch@3rivers.net.

Kathy Gessaman moved to adjourn and David Saslav seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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

- May 17 – City of Great Falls Commission meeting, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Jun 14 – CCE in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. Dinner at Black Bear Diner at 6 p.m.
- Sept. 13 – CCE tentative in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. Dinner at Black Bear Diner at 6 p.m.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead