

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for September 13, 2022 Meeting

Location: Zoom meeting in Great Falls and at the same time an in-person meeting at the Black Bear Diner, 1400 Market Place Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404 (no-host dinner at 6 p.m. in restaurant meeting room).

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the in-person and Zoom meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. because the Secretary was slow to connect to Zoom. Seven CCE members attended the meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav and Melissa Smith, for setting up the Zoom meeting and streaming the in-person meeting to those who chose the Zoom option.

Rich passed around a sympathy card for Aart Dolman's (1933-2022) family. Those present signed it and Rich planned to mail it to Andree Deligdisch. Rich recalled Aart's help stopping the HGS coal plant and speaking on topics at the City and County Commission meetings that affected the environment and the community. Others added their memories of Aart as an environmental warrior: Rich said Aart's best quote was, "Always get it on the record"; Aart was very articulate and always had facts ready; Aart opposed the super WalMart store; Aart supplied the history behind the Lewis & Clark landmark where the HGS was going to be situated on that pathway - he used Section 106 as another way to fight the HGS; Aart helped slow down expanding coal shipments to the west coast; and much, much more. Aart will be missed.

Secretary: David Saslav kindly summarized the June 14, 2022 CCE Zoom meeting minutes to the people at the restaurant. David said he would like to see Shannon's MT Drought & Human Health Workshop notes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the June 14, 2022 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Ken Palisin seconded.** There was no discussion; **the minutes were approved.**

Treasurer: Shannon Wilson was on vacation in Scotland. Kathy reported that \$71.90 was spent since the June meeting using the CCE credit card (on 7-25-22 paid \$11.95 to Mecca Hosting for the CCE domain name for the original CCE website and on 7-28-22 paid \$59.95 to Mecca Hosting for hosting the CCE website). Rich thanked Melissa and David for paying the Black Bear Diner's meeting room fee of \$25 at the June 7th CCE meeting and he said he would pay the Sept. 13th meeting room fee (thank you, Rich).

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/>. David hoped to start boosting more articles like Talon Energy building a wind farm at Colstrip when Shannon returned. Rich said he has sent Sandra G. many good news articles to post on the new CCE website – like Judge Morris' decision to reinstate the coal moratorium.

Unfinished Business:

Conservation Outreach and Resolution 10333: Rich said the way forward is through the Neighborhood Councils. Ken P. visited Neighborhood Council 5 (NC5) in the late spring to get ideas for how to involve the public in a Resolution promoting cost-effective energy and developing solutions for conservation and sustainability. Rich said Resolution 10333 needed to be rebuilt. David, Melissa, and Ken were planning how to address the NCs.

Energy and Water Conservation Ideas: Melissa said new energy efficient appliances are available if people are planning on upgrading their appliances. She listed some examples: heat-pump water heaters and heat-pump dryers are 50% more efficient and they are carried at Lowes and Home Depot for around \$600 - \$1200; Energy Star front load washers use less water; induction cook tops are 80-90% efficient, other electric stove tops are 78% efficient, and gas stove tops are 38% efficient - even Viking offers induction burners. Melissa said Northwestern Energy wants to increase rates by 25% and advised people to look into what rebates are available. Melissa suggested some of these

energy savings could be presented at the Neighborhood Councils as part of the sustainability discussion. Ken T. noted much electricity comes from coal plants which are 28% efficient or natural gas plants which are about 40% efficient. Rich asked about using hydrogen as fuel and Ken said engineers are looking at a lot of different processes as hydrogen is an incredible fuel and current natural gas systems could be converted. Ken T. thought the market place is the best place to set rules to get rid of CO2 through some sort of carbon tax. David and Melissa thought one way to get resilience built into new City buildings is to modify the language in the conditional use permit ordinance where there is a section stating the project should not impact the general health of the community by adding “there shall be resilience or there shall be no excess carbon” so maybe the next Aquatic Park project would incorporate solar and other energy-saving heating and cooling ideas into the building. David said conservation is critical to lowering energy use (take shorter showers, water lawns less, wear clothes a little longer before washing, etc.).

NPRC: Rich said Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) was really promoting C-PACE in Pondera, Teton, and Chouteau Counties and it looks like Pondera County might approve C-PACE next. David said he learned at a Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC) meeting that C-PACE funding works best for projects costing between \$100,000 and \$1.1 million and Jolene, VP at Great Falls Development Authority, can explain how this works.

New Business:

Missouri River Bank Restoration Project: Rich said the restoration on the north bank of the river next to the refinery would begin soon near the River’s Edge Trail from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the 10th Street Bridge. Rich noted the funding has finally been secured after about five years of work by Conservation groups. [Note: Jenn Rowell’s article in “The Electric” has more detailed information on this project:
<https://theelectricgf.com/2022/09/16/portion-of-rivers-edge-trail-to-close-for-bank-stabilization-project/>]

Reports:

Coal Lease Moratorium: Rich said U.S. District Judge Morris reinstated the Coal Lease Moratorium on coal leasing from federal lands. Case 4:17-cv-00030-BMM Document 239 Filed 08/12/22 lists Citizens for Clean Energy, et al., along with The Northern Cheyenne Tribe and others as Plaintiffs vs. the U.S. Department of the Interior, et al. This was an exciting victory for Earthjustice and all the Plaintiffs.

CCE History: David said he wanted to collect the history of CCE. Kathy G. said Sandy DiMauro’s scrapbooks were donated to the Great Falls History Museum when she moved out of Great Falls. David said he will visit the museum and outline what is stored there pertaining to CCE.

The next CCE, Inc. meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. [Note: this was subsequently rescheduled; see Upcoming Events section for details of next meeting.] 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.

Mike Enk moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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

- Sept 20 – City of Great Falls Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- TBA – Redistricting hearings: MDAC – Developing Legislative Districts for MT (mtredistricting.gov)
- Nov 15 – CCE tentative in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. Dinner at Black Bear Diner at 6 p.m.

“Always get it on the record.” Dr. Aart Dolman, RIP, 1933-2022