

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for November 15, 2022 Meeting

Location: Great Falls Zoom meeting and 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 meeting to order at 7 p.m. Five CCE members attended the in-person meeting (no one attended the meeting via Zoom); a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav and Melissa Smith, for setting up the Zoom meeting and making the in-person meeting available to those who wished to use the Zoom option.

Rich said if people wanted to extend condolences to Aart Dolman's family they should contact Croxford Funeral Home [<https://www.croxfordfuneralhome.com/obituary/Arthur-Dolman>]

Secretary: Kathy Gessaman briefly reviewed the September 13, 2022 CCE meeting minutes. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the September 13, 2022 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Ken Palisin seconded.** David hoped to see Shannon's notes on the April 2022 Drought and Human Health Workshop; to date Shannon has not been reimbursed for the Workshop expenses. **The minutes were approved.**

Treasurer: Shannon Wilson was out of state. Kathy said there was no change in the available balance since the last CCE meeting. Kathy volunteered to pay the Black Bear Diner's meeting room fee of \$25 for the CCE meeting.

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. Visit the site at <https://www.facebook.com/Great-Falls-Citizens-for-Clean-Energy-CCE-110217491438621/>. If you get a chance, please send photos of energy efficient appliances, solar installations, wind turbines, or other energy conservation or alternative energy ideas/projects you may see around the city or state to David or Shannon to post on the CCE Facebook page. David suggested we look into using another credit card besides Shannon's to boost important news on the CCE Facebook page; perhaps use CCE's debit card.

Unfinished Business:

Conservation Outreach and Resolution 10333: David said we should try to enlist a City Commissioner to help resurrect Resolution 10333 and make sure no money is needed to implement a resiliency plan. Ken P. agreed to ask City Commissioner Dr. Susan Wolff about what the City of Great Falls is doing about resiliency, sustainability, and if anyone is keeping track of the city's overall energy efficiency. Commissioner Wolff made the Great Falls College - MSU more energy efficient, saving over \$100,000/year when she was CEO and dean of the College. Rich suggested Ken also mention the McKinstry Report [see 9-6-2016 Journal of Commission Work Session for outline of the McKinstry Report], and the City's contract with Energy Keepers, Inc. for electricity from the Kerr Dam which expires in 2023. Melissa noted North Western Energy is raising electricity charges 25% on city residents and businesses in Great Falls. David suggested conservation and resiliency be integrated into the growth policy.

The conservation outreach group still plans to visit Neighborhood Councils to involve the public in a resolution promoting cost-effective energy and developing solutions for conservation and sustainability. Melissa suggested when CCE goes to Neighborhood Council meetings the group could also present something like 5 simple ways to lower your energy bill.

Energy and Water Conservation Ideas: Melissa said a furnace repair person encouraged them to try a heat pump for use down to 32 degrees F along with a gas or electric furnace for colder temperatures as the heat pump would reduce wear and tear on their furnace. Melissa and David said they would continue to research heat pumps.

[Note: check out the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA) included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/policy/high-efficiency-electric-home-rebate-act>]

New Business:

City, County Board Vacancies: Rich reported the county has vacancies on the County Planning Board (though you need to live outside the City of Great Falls) and on the County Zoning Board where you can be a resident anywhere in the county; check city and county websites for open board positions. Rich said Ken Thornton's term on the County Zoning Board expires soon. Rich suggested citizens join these boards to get involved in planning for future growth in the city and the county. David mentioned updating Conditional Use Permits to make new projects more energy efficient and diverse. Melissa said all the new construction around town gives the city a chance to push resiliency and energy conservation. Melissa volunteered to encourage people to join boards in the city and county.

Montana Constitution: Rich suggested people keep their eyes on the legislature to watch for modifications to the Montana Constitution - in particular the right to a clean and healthy environment. David volunteered to research changes made to the Montana Constitution since 1972.

GTRC: Rich asked for comments about renewing the \$50 annual membership with Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC). David said he had hoped CCE membership in GTRC would encourage some of the GTRC members to join CCE and to date this hasn't happened. Rich suggested CCE members attend GTRC's December meeting to see if this group was a good fit for CCE; he committed to attending the next GTRC meeting. Rich thought membership might give CCE members standing with the group. **David Saslav moved to renew the \$50 membership with Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC) and Kathy Gessaman seconded.** Discussion: Kathy said she could pay the membership fee and get reimbursed. **The motion passed.**

Reports:

CCE History: David said he wanted to document the history of CCE's accomplishments and planned to start with Sandee DiMauro's scrapbooks which are in the Great Falls History Museum's collection. Rich said he has been working with Kristi Scott, Executive Director, at the History Museum, and she's a great source of information.

The next CCE, Inc. meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in-person at the Black Bear Diner with a Zoom connection for remote attendees.

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 Melissa seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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

- Check online calendars for City, County Commission meetings and advisory boards
- Jan 10 – CCE tentative in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. Dinner at Black Bear Diner at 6 p.m.

***“There is no progress without struggle.”** Frederick Douglass*