

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

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

## Minutes for January 9, 2024 Meeting

**Location:** Great Falls CCE Zoom meeting.

**Welcome:** Rich Liebert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Seven CCE members attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav, Vice Chair, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich congratulated Kathy for her election to the NC3 Board and David for running for NC1 and Shannon for her election to the City Commission. Rich expressed concern about Shannon serving on the Commission and on the Steering Team and hoped she could avoid any conflict of interest.

**Secretary:** Kathy G. reviewed the minutes of the November 15, 2023 CCE meeting. **David Saslav moved to accept the November 15, 2023 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Lita Sharone seconded.** There was no discussion. **The minutes were approved.**

Kathy G. briefly summarized the minutes of the October 10, 2023 CCE meeting. **Melissa Smith moved to accept the October 10, 2023 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Lita Sharone seconded.** David hoped MREA's Clean Energy Fair could be held in Great Falls in 2025. **The minutes were approved.**

**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](mailto:cce.secretary@gmail.com). Please visit the CCE website to view links to current events.

Check out what's happening in Great Falls at: <https://kgpr.org/electron/>

**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.

### Unfinished Business:

**City of Great Falls Growth Policy:** Rich asked if the RFP had been issued and no one had seen it yet. Rich asked if anyone had heard about growth policy ideas. Some of the ensuing discussion points: Melissa said Rick Tryon wanted to take 7 mills away from the GF Public Library because energy costs will be going up and Public Safety needs the revenue; Melissa noted the public nationwide seems to be hostile towards clean energy improvements like making more electric vehicle charging stations available as cities grow; Ken T. said there is little snow in the mountains and if 2023 was the hottest year on record people's eyes might be opened if 2024 is even hotter and dryer it could be a year from hell; Rich said he's hauling water in the winter; Ken T. said the economics for solar are incredible with the tax credits and grants – the City really needs to look into solar; Rich said the Transit District could benefit from changing to smaller mobile electric buses; Ken P. said Duke with Cascade Electric said the paperwork was a real problem for his company to install solar panels; Ken T. said Duke installed the solar panels on the roof of the First United Methodist Church; Melissa said Havre has electric school buses; Melissa said we need to talk about water usage in regards to the growth policy; Kathy said an article in MEIC's Dec. 2023 *Down to Earth* said the exempt wells (small wells pumping less than 35 gals/minute) are a problem for aquifers when growth outside of cities acts like multiple straws all pulling water out of the aquifer; and Rich said that's the 302 exemption that was a problem with the proposed slaughter house development which would have a huge draw on the Madison Aquifer.

## **New Business:**

**MEIC Petition:** Rich asked the group if CCE should sign on to MEIC's confidential petition; the group approved CCE signing on with MEIC's petition. More information will be forthcoming when MEIC gives permission to go public with this. David said he could be the official contact from CCE to work with MEIC on this project.

**Nominations:** Nominations Chair, Kathy Gessaman, said Shannon Wilson wanted to run again for Treasurer and she expressed confidence she could manage the CCE position and the City Commission. Kathy asked those present who were serving on the Steering Team if they would like to be nominated again and Rich Liebert, David Saslav, Kathy Gessaman, Ken Palisin, and Ken Thornton all agreed to be nominated to the Steering Team. Kathy said she would check with Mike Enk who was out of town to see if he would serve again; two positions on the Steering Team Committee are open. Kathy asked if anyone who is interested in joining or knows of someone who might be interested in joining the Steering Team to contact her. Kathy added we need to vote on the nominations at the Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> CCE meeting so she could file the 2024 Annual Report with the Secretary of State; it's free this year if we file before April 15, 2024.

**Science Fair:** Lita asked when the Science Fair was going to be held. Kathy said Mike Enk will be the Chair for the Science Fair which will be held at Great Falls College – MSU on March 5, 2024.

## **Reports:**

**GTRC (Golden Triangle Resource Council):** David said GTRC meets at 7 p.m. on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. David said the latest project is reviving curbside recycling.

**Legal:** Rich noted the Coal-leasing moratorium case is still pending and the case MEIC v DEQ about the two bad bills (HB 576 and SB 392) is waiting for the Federal government's Office of Surface and Mining to rule on the legality of the two state bills.

**Grassroots:** David said the greenhouse gases from all the wars around the world amounts to about what the fourth largest country in the world would emit similar to the greenhouse emissions from Russia and India. David said perhaps CCE could join with the peace activists to save the planet. Ken T. said it's time to protest again about the climate. Ken T. said we truly need to reduce our fossil fuel use by 50% in seven years since the scientists say the climate situation is far worse than their models developed 20 years ago predicted.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 at 7 p.m. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions which will be included with the CCE agenda. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

**The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Please check your email, CCE website, and/or Facebook Page for additions or updates.

- City and County Commission Meetings at: [greatfallsmt.net](http://greatfallsmt.net); [cascadecountymt.gov](http://cascadecountymt.gov)
- 13 Feb – CCE Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.

*“The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves.” Rachel Carson*