

Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

www.ccemontana.org

Minutes for February 13, 2024 Meeting

Location: Great Falls, Montana CCE Zoom meeting.

Welcome: Rich Liebert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Four CCE officers and one guest attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav, Vice Chair, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

David noted the Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC) had moved their meetings to 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month which probably accounted for the light turnout at the CCE meeting.

Rich welcomed guest, Terri Nelson, to the meeting and asked her what brought her to the CCE meeting. Terri said she reads the CCE emails she receives and knows many people who belong to CCE so she decided to see what a meeting was like and attended tonight's Zoom meeting. Terri noted she is a member of GTRC and it was difficult finding a time to meet, members voted on the date change after a survey.

The group briefly discussed the Feb. 6th City Work Session where the City Commission listened to a proposal by PowerGas Consulting to help the City save over \$100,000 annually with improved energy management. The consultants said they could calculate potential energy savings by installing solar panels on buildings. Rich noted it would have been great to have them calculate solar for the ARC – David said the Aquatic Center is now called the Scheels Aim High Big Sky Aquatic and Recreation Center; Scheels donated \$1 million to the Aquatic Center.

Secretary: Kathy G. reviewed the minutes of the January 9, 2024 CCE meeting. **Shannon Wilson moved to accept the January 9, 2024, CCE Inc. electronically distributed minutes; David Saslav seconded.** David noted GTRC was considering curbside recycling and soil health and food distribution (Food Hub) as possible projects for the upcoming year and it looks like all these projects may be considered this year. **The minutes were approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Shannon W. said no money was spent since the last CCE meeting. **Kathy Gessaman moved to pay Sandra Guynn for the 2024 CCE annual website maintenance fee (\$300) and the 2024 annual Weebly monthly hosting fees (\$96) for a total of \$396.00. Shannon Wilson seconded the motion.** Shannon asked for another copy of the invoice and Kathy said she'd email her a copy. **The motion passed with no further discussion.**

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 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:

Nominations: Nominations Chair, Kathy Gessaman, read the slate of nominations: Steering Team officers - Rich Liebert, Chair; David Saslav, Vice Chair; Kathy Gessaman, Secretary; Shannon Wilson, Treasurer; Steering Team members - Mike Enk, Ken Palisin, and Ken Thornton. Kathy asked for nominations from the floor and no one volunteered to run for the two open spots on the Steering Team or any other position. **Kathy Gessaman moved to accept the slate of nominations: Rich Liebert, Chair; David Saslav, Vice Chair; Kathy Gessaman, Secretary; Shannon Wilson, Treasurer; and Steering Team members: Mike Enk, Ken Palisin, and Ken Thornton. Shannon Wilson seconded. The motion passed.**

MEIC Petition: Rich thanked David for working with MEIC on the petition. David said the petition asks that the Held decision be taken into account whenever the PSC makes a ruling but he didn't think the PSC would pay any attention to the petition.

Science Fair: Kathy G. said the Dr. David W. Baker Student-Science Foundation approved CCE's request for a \$500 grant for Science Fair awards. Mike Enk, Chair for the Science Fair, was in Yellowstone Park. The Science Fair will be held at Great Falls College – MSU on March 5, 2024. The CCE judges will gather at 8 a.m. most likely in one of the library meeting rooms at GFC-MSU on Tuesday, March 5th. Mike will send out emails with more information.

Rich wondered where the Science Fair award winners of the past are today. David said it would be good to research where the past CCE winners are and invite them to join CCE. Rich said a Google search might locate some of them.

MREA (Montana Renewable Energy Association): David and Melissa attended the MREA Zoom meeting about 4- hours ago. David said some of their programs in Billings train single mothers in renewable energy construction. Rich and David said they talked to Makenna Sellers after the meeting about finding a solar installer in Great Falls. David hoped to convince MREA to host their Clean Energy Fair in Great Falls in August 2025. David said he might be able to shadow the 2024 Clean Energy Fair in Billings to see how MREA sets up the Clean Energy Fair.

City of Great Falls Growth Policy: Shannon said the earliest a qualified consultant could be chosen to update the City of Great Falls Growth Policy would be late March. The whole process could take 18 months to update the growth policy. David said the upcoming MAFB missile construction could help focus attention on the City's growth with almost 9,000 temporary workers coming to the area.

Rich noted David S. is now the host of KGPR's "Voices and Views" and David recently interviewed Ken Robison, a very prominent local historian, who put the City's growth in a historical perspective.

Membership: David suggested CCE spend some money to attract new members or continue using available funds to last for another ten years at the current spending level. Shannon said having a springtime outdoor 'meet and greet' at a park with refreshments might encourage people to sign up with CCE. Kathy said CCE's original purpose was to keep the coal plant away from Great Falls while promoting clean energy. David said we need to use our imaginations to better promote the need for clean energy and conservation. Terri noted people draw people so we need to invite friends to the meetings.

New Business:

MEIC Nuclear Energy Presentation: Rich said MEIC is hosting a presentation, "Moving Forward without Nuclear – Montana's Path to Clean, Reliable Electricity," together with the Sierra Club Montana Chapter and CCE. The event will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Public Library in the Cordingley Room (301 2nd Ave N, Great Falls). David said he and Melissa would like to help out. Rich asked if Melissa could reach out to Katy Spence at MEIC. Kathy said CCE usually spent around \$75 for refreshments for similar events in the past. David volunteered to make a new CCE tri-fold for the March 4th MEIC presentation. **Rich Liebert moved to spend up to \$300 on a new CCE tri-fold in color with new content. David Saslav seconded.** Rich called for discussion and said the tri-fold was for the March 4th MEIC Presentation and David agreed with the clarification of the motion. **The motion passed.** Rich said we need a motion to collaborate with MEIC on this event. **Shannon Wilson moved that CCE collaborate with MEIC on the Nuclear Energy Presentation on March 4, 2024, Kathy Gessaman seconded.** Rich asked for further discussion and there was none. **The motion was approved.**

Reports:

Earth Day April 22, 2024: Rich said he'd work on an Earth Day Proclamation and consult with Lisa Kunz, City Clerk, about the best day to present it to the City Commission.

Legal: Rich noted the Coal-leasing moratorium case is still pending before the Ninth Circuit of Appeals; CCE's involvement began in 2017. Rich commented on the MEIC v DEQ case and said Judge Morris' office said it might be 50-60 days before the Federal government's Office of Surface and Mining rules on the legality of the two state bills, HB 576 and SB 392.

The next CCE, Inc. Zoom meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 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.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 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; cascadecountymt.gov
- 4 Mar – MEIC “Moving Forward without Nuclear” Great Falls Public Library 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Mar – Science Fair 8 a.m. Great Falls College - MSU
- 13 Mar – CCE Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.

"Change is coming, whether you like it or not. " Greta Thunberg