

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

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

## Minutes for March 13, 2024 Meeting

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

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

Rich invited Ron Paulick, a long-time CCE member, who is running for HD22 to introduce himself. Ron said he is a graduate from MSU and has a Master degree in Wildlife Management. Ron enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, and energy projects that help reduce energy consumption. If elected, Ron would work to improve communication and find common ground between all the political parties and hoped to increase public participation in government. Ron thanked Rich and David for inviting him to the CCE meeting.

**Secretary:** Kathy G. covered the highlights of the February 13, 2024 CCE meeting minutes. **David Saslav moved to accept the February 13, 2024, CCE Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Lita Sharone seconded.** Rich called for discussion; David wanted to clarify that it was an organizational decision where MREA would hold the 2025 Clean Energy Fair. **The minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Shannon W. reported \$500 was received from the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation and deposited on 2-20-24; \$38.81 was spent on new checks on 2-27-24; \$396 check #1050 to Sandra Guynn cleared on 2-28-24; and \$480 in cash for the Science Fair Awards was withdrawn on 3-4-24. **Kathy Gessaman moved to pay Sandra Guynn \$71.88 for the 2024 Microsoft 365 Email Essentials for info@ccemontana.org. David Saslav seconded the motion.** Rich called the question. **The motion was approved.**

[The Annual Report for Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. was filed on 2-22-24 and the filing fee was waived.]

**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.

Rich thanked Kathy for getting the CCE logo updated; he said he noticed it on the thank you letter to the Dr. David W. Baker Foundation. Kathy said Jolene Monheim was able to find the 2007 logo in her files and replaced the original CCE website with the new CCE website address and she brightened up the graphics. David said the updated logo was what he needed for the new CCE tri-fold.

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:

**MEIC Petition:** Rich thanked David for working with MEIC on the petition to the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC). David said the petition asks that the Held decision be incorporated in future rulings from the PSC and that the climate and clean energy be taken into account.

**MEIC Nuclear Energy Presentation:** Rich said most of the people present attended the MEIC (with Sierra Club Montana Chapter and CCE) presentation, "Moving Forward without Nuclear – Montana's Path to Clean, Reliable

Electricity” held on Monday, March 4, 2024 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Public Library in the Cordingley Room. David and Melissa provided some refreshments. David said over 20 people attended. Rich noted that the last legislature with a supermajority threw out the 1978 initiative that required a majority of Montana voters to approve any nuclear energy facility before it could be built in Montana (the story was told in the PBS video shown at the beginning of the presentation). The PBS video by Anna Rau can be found at: <https://watch.montanapbs.org/video/112-nuclear-power-in-montana-g6wiya/> and the slides of Nick Fitzmaurice’s presentation can be found on CCE’s website. Nick is MEIC’s energy transition engineer. The presentation noted that energy sharing across states would make all the regions more resilient and flexible and the energy more affordable and reliable. Ken Palisin pointed out no one wanted nuclear waste in their backyard not even the Colstrip native who wanted nuclear power.

**Science Fair:** Rich thanked Mike Enk for chairing the Science Fair Committee. Mike said the students really appreciated the monetary awards and the Outstanding Participation awards. Mike thanked the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation which approved CCE’s request for a \$500 grant for Science Fair awards. The Science Fair was held at Great Falls College – MSU on March 5, 2024. The CCE judges gathered at 8 a.m. in one of the library meeting rooms. Mike said Rick Kerr judged and awarded all the high school awards and the other judges went in pairs to judge the middle school projects; Lita S. and Kathy G., Ken P. and Jerry Ness, and Mike said he helped out where he was needed. The CCE award winners are attached at the end of the minutes.

**MREA (Montana Renewable Energy Association):** David said he attended the committee meeting on the 2024 Clean Energy Fair in Billings. [Note: Makenna Sellers, MREA Executive Director, thoughtfully sent out CCE’s agenda for this Zoom meeting to their membership.] David said MREA is still looking for a solar installer for Great Falls.

**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. Shannon said Brock Cherry, Director of Planning and Community Development, is putting together a large 12-person committee to help provide input and direction for the growth policy.

David S. recently interviewed former City Commissioner, Bill Bronson, for KGPR’s “Voices and Views V2.0.” The podcast can be listened to at: <https://kgpr.podbean.com/>

#### **New Business:**

#### **Reports:**

**Earth Day April 22, 2024:** Rich said he hoped to have the Earth Day Proclamation updated by the end of the month so Lisa Kunz, City Clerk, could review it and finalize the Proclamation.

**Legal:** The Ninth Circuit of Appeals ruled on Feb. 21, 2024 that a lawsuit from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and conservation groups (including CCE) that had successfully reinstated the Obama-era coal leasing moratorium is moot; visit the CCE website for the press release. The MEIC v DEQ, 23-CV-28 (D. Mont.) case is waiting on the Federal government’s Office of Surface Mining to rule on the legality of the two state bills, HB 576 and SB 392.

**New CCE Meeting Place: David moved to set the next in-person meeting at the R&R Casino meeting room. Mike Enk seconded.** Rich called for discussion and it was noted that there was a large meeting room in the basement just under the casino. David said there was no charge to use the meeting space and another group uses the room on Tuesdays. **The motion passed.**

The next CCE, Inc. in-person and Zoom meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 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).

**Lita Sharone moved to adjourn the meeting and Kathy Gessaman seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:57 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)
- 10 April – CCE in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. (no-host dinner at R&R Casino, 3801 10<sup>th</sup> Ave S, at 6 p.m.)
- 16 April – Earth Day Proclamation at the City Commission meeting at 7 p.m.
- 22 April – EARTH DAY

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

## **CCE Merit Awards for 2024 GFC-MSU Regional Science & Engineering Fair**

Citizens for Clean Energy of Great Falls ([ccemontana.org](http://ccemontana.org)) evaluated 22 student projects addressing renewable energy, sustainable development, resource conservation and environmental protection at this year’s science fair. Nearly 200 students from area schools participated in the event, hosted by Great Falls College MSU. Judging for CCE were Kathy Gessaman, Ken Palisin, Lita Sharone, Rick Kerr, Jerry Ness and Michael Enk. Award funding was provided by the Dr. David W. Baker Student-Science Memorial Foundation.

The following students received CCE merit award certificates and cash:

### **High School**

First Place (\$120):

Michael Miller, 10th Grade, Sunburst, “The Effect of Glyphosate on the Health of Soil Micro-organisms”

Second Place (\$100):

Sayre McElroy, 11th Grade, Cascade, “Mushrooms as Oil Remediators: Exploring the Soil Purification Potential”

Third Place (\$80):

Lily Johnson & Brenya Thompson, 11th Grade, Simms, “Fertilizer and pH Levels of Water Runoff”

### **Middle School**

First Place (\$80):

Cheyenne Miller & Kaley Sandon, 7th Grade, Sunburst, “Effects of Microplastics on Planaria Regeneration”

Second Place (\$60):

Halle Rogers, 8th Grade, Sunburst, “Skin to Fin” (toxicity of insect repellents and sunscreens to aquatic organisms)

Third Place (\$40):

Sam Fallo, 7th Grade, Moore, “The Zephyr Project” (windmill efficiency)

Fourth Place (\$20):

Raya Sagnella, 6th Grade, Sunburst, “Mitigating Oil Spills Using Bubble Technology and Collection System”