

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

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

## Minutes for January 14, 2026 Meeting

**Location:** CCE in-person and Zoom meeting at the R&R Restaurant (downstairs Banquet Room), 3801 10<sup>th</sup> Ave South, Great Falls, MT.

**CCE members:** Mike Enk, Kathy Gessaman, Rich Liebert, Ken Palisin, Ron Paulick, David Saslav, Lita Sharone, Larry Stimac, Ken Thornton, and Shannon Wilson. **New CCE supporters:** Jeff Griffin, Sharon Patton-Griffin, Jeannie Hansen, Steven McGregor, Jasmine Miller, Rose Schuster, Emily Stewart, and Dan Wilkinson.

**Welcome:** Rich Liebert, Chair, and David Saslav, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order around 7 p.m. Eighteen CCE supporters attended the meeting; a quorum was present. David and Rich welcomed all the new CCE supporters listed above. Thank you, David, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich said he had served as Chair of CCE since 2006 and Kathy had served as Secretary since 2006 as well. Rich welcomed all the new supporters and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Rich asked how many people attended the ‘Rikki Held Speaks!’ event and the majority had and more than half of the people present attended the Data Centers presentation. The new CCE supporters ranged in age from under 20 to over 70 and all were interested in protecting the environment and keeping Montana the Last Best Place.

**Secretary:** Kathy Gessaman summarized the November 12, 2025 CCE meeting. **David Saslav moved to accept the November 12, 2025 CCE Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Shannon Wilson seconded.** There was no discussion. **Shannon called the question. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Shannon reported the expenses for the ‘Rikki Held Speaks!’ event and said David paid all the expenses and was reimbursed for a total of \$995.82. David said MEIC and Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC) covered all the expenses for the Data Centers event and he donated the poster expense. Shannon presented Sandra Guynn’s invoice for the website expenses for 2026 which included \$300.00 for the annual website maintenance and \$96 for the annual Weebly monthly hosting fees for a total of \$396.00. Shannon said if CCE wants to keep Microsoft Essentials which boosts the [info@ccemontana.org](mailto:info@ccemontana.org) email address, the 2026 annual fee would be \$95.88. After a brief discussion the group decided to keep the MS Essentials for 2026 and review the issue at a later date. **Kathy Gessaman moved to pay the 2026 Annual website maintenance fee of \$300.00, the 2026 annual hosting fee of \$96, and the 2026 Microsoft Essentials fee of \$95.88 for a total of \$491.88. David Saslav seconded.** Discussion: Dan Wilkinson and Jasmine Miller said they might be able to help review the need for MS Essentials. Jasmine and Emily noted a problem with opening pdfs on the website; the pdfs tended to open all at once. **The motion passed.**

**The checking account balance on November 7, 2025 was \$5,903.27. The checking account balance on January 8, 2026 was \$4,907.45. (Check #1058 for \$995.82 to reimburse David Saslav for the expenses for the Rikki Held Speaks event (\$833.65 for Last Best Place expense, \$43.09 for posters from Staples, \$41.20 for text banking, and \$77.88 for Fire pizza).**

**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 Melissa Smith at [mis3ster@gmail.com](mailto:mis3ster@gmail.com). Please visit the CCE website to view links to current events.

December Statistics: 259 unique visits, 283 page views, and 1.12 avg. page/visit

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:**

**Recap of the 'Rikki Held Speaks!' event and the 'Data Centers and Great Falls' event:** Rich asked people what brought them to the two events. Some of the discussion comments: We need more information on Data Centers and what they entail, i.e., water use, power needs, etc.; Data Centers need to be held accountable for power and water usage; water usage is critical to Montana; Karen Thornton did a great job moderating the panel; it was an intellectually stimulating discussion; Rikki Held was very inspirational at her event; Rikki was delightful, very bright, humble, and encouraging of everyone to do something; it was good to experience young people's open minds; we all have a carbon footprint; and we need to take back our clean environment. MEIC has published a recording of the Data Centers event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg6y5jw3r6k>

### **New Business:**

**Nominations:** Rich asked Kathy to present the nominations for the Steering Team. The Nomination Committee consisted of Kathy, David, and Melissa. Kathy read the list of nominations: Officers: David Saslav for Chair, Jasmine Miller for Vice Chair, Melissa Smith for Secretary, and Shannon Wilson for Treasurer; Steering Team Directors: Jeff Griffin, Jeannie Hansen, Rich Liebert, Sharon Patton-Griffin, Hilary Ransdell-Lewin, and Ken Thornton. Kathy said there were only nine positions available on the Steering Team four officers and five directors (CCE Bylaws Article VII Section 2) and she said she had ballots for the election. Sharon announced she was withdrawing her nomination so there wouldn't be a need for a ballot vote. **Kathy Gessaman moved to accept the slate of Officers and Directors as presented; Sharon Patton-Griffin seconded the motion.** Discussion: There was no discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**CCE Meeting Location:** David said the current location for CCE meetings was not handicap accessible and the stairs are very steep. David suggested CCE hold meetings at the Meadow Lark Country Club because he and Melissa were members and they could use the conference room free of charge. David noted there was a good menu selection that was not too expensive. Shannon suggested the group meet an hour earlier too. People suggested other possibilities: the Ursuline Center rent was \$15/hour; and the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church meeting room with an attached kitchen was free. Rich agreed 5 p.m. for dinner and 6 p.m. for the official start of the meeting would be easier for people living out of town to get home before dark. **David Saslav moved to hold the CCE meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Meadow Lark Country Club with (no-host) dinner at 5 p.m. and the CCE meeting starting at 6 p.m. Shannon Wilson seconded.** Discussion: there would be plenty of parking in the lot next to 10<sup>th</sup> Ave S; and the room was on the second floor reached by stairs or the elevator. **The motion passed with one Nay vote.** Rich wanted to thank the R&R Restaurant for letting CCE meet in the banquet room free of charge and David said he'd take care of it.

**NorthWestern Energy IRP Presentation:** David said NorthWestern Energy was holding a meeting to present their 2026 MT Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) at the Great Falls Public Library on January 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. David said what is missing from the IRP is any substantial commitment to renewable energy. Ron Paulick suggested people present written comments for the record at the NorthWestern Energy meeting. Ron noted MEIC has information on their website about the IRP and there will be a MEIC Webinar on Jan. 22, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. online. <https://meic.org/events/meic-webinar-what-you-need-to-know-about-northwestern-energys-irp/>

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256330180?pwd=EBrLvblk2iwXeqnoJxxbnea42c6tMr.1>

Meeting ID: 862 5633 0180

Passcode: 733577

**Science Fair:** Rich said Mike Enk is passing the torch for leading the CCE Student Incentive Program (SIP) Committee which promotes student involvement at the Regional Science Fair held at the Great Falls College Montana State University and provides cash awards to students with the help of the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation. Mike said he would be able to coach someone to Chair the committee. Mike said the Great Falls College – MSU team is having their planning meetings now and the Science Fair for the Middle School and High School students will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Shannon said she was able to visit all of the student projects the year Mike was in Patagonia and it was very interesting and she was able to pass out the CCE awards. David encouraged people to consider helping out at the Science Fair as judges and CCE could funnel money to the Science Fair. Shannon said she could write to the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Student-Science Foundation and request a grant to help fund the student awards. Those expressing interest in helping with the Science Fair were Shannon Wilson, Jasmine Miller, Jeannie Hansen, David Saslav, Emily Stewart, and Dan Wilkinson. Ron encouraged everyone to visit the Science Fair and talk to the students about their projects as they really appreciate the attention. <https://www.gfmsu.edu/home/science-fair/>

The next CCE, Inc. in-person and Zoom meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Meadow Lark Country Club, 300 Country Club Blvd, Great Falls. Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions which will be included with the CCE agenda. Please email agenda items to David at [dsaslav@gmail.com](mailto:dsaslav@gmail.com).

**David Saslav moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and Kathy Gessaman seconded; the motion passed.**

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

- City and County Commission Meetings at: <https://greatfallsmt.net/>; <https://cascadecountymt.gov/>
- Jan 15 – City Planning Dept. Growth Policy Open House (Thur.) at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Gibson Room
- Jan 22 – MEIC Webinar at 4:30 via Zoom see info above
- Jan 27 – NorthWestern Energy IRP Presentation from 5:30 – 8 p.m. at Great Falls Public Library
- Feb 11 – CCE in-person and Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. (no-host dinner at Meadow Lark Country Club, 300 Country Club Blvd, Great Falls, at 5 p.m.)

**“Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.”**

*Winston S. Churchill*

**Save this information as the zoom link / dial-in for all 2026 CCE meetings:**

CCE 2026 Monthly Member Meetings:

Second Wednesdays:

1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14, and 11/11 (no meeting in December)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84746782220?pwd=3kZzHatTecIDtnkWwmPEONrxOIUcra.1>

**By phone only:** 720-707-2699

**Meeting ID:** 847 4678 2220

**Passcode:** 064661

Warm Regards,  
Kathy Gessaman  
Outgoing CCE Secretary