

# Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc. (CCE)

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

## Minutes for May 9, 2023 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. Eight CCE members attended the Zoom meeting; a quorum was present. Thank you, David Saslav and Melissa Smith, for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Rich welcomed Richard Mousel, a CCE member from the active ‘stop the coal plant’ days, to the CCE Zoom meeting. Everyone briefly introduced themselves.

**Secretary:** Kathy Gessaman noted three people attended the March 14, 2023 CCE meeting and five people attended the April 11, 2023 CCE meeting. Journal entries for both of those meetings were emailed to CCE members. Kathy G. summarized the February 21, 2023 CCE meeting minutes. **Shannon Wilson moved to accept the February 21, 2023 CCE, Inc. electronically distributed minutes; Melissa Smith seconded.** There was no discussion. **The minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer:** Shannon Wilson reviewed the expenditures since the last meeting. Shannon said the CCE debit card was used to pay the Montana Secretary of State \$20 for the Annual Report on 2/24/23; on March 6, 2023, \$400 in cash was withdrawn from the CCE Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Science-Student Foundation Grant account to fund the CCE awards for the Science Fair winners (a list of winners was attached to the March 14<sup>th</sup> Journal Entry). Shannon paid Sandra Guynn with check #1045 for \$396 (\$300 for 2023 annual website maintenance and \$96 for the annual Weebly monthly hosting fees) and check #1044 for \$143.76 for 2023 Microsoft Essentials renewal from GoDaddy for the two business emails ([admin@ccemontana.org](mailto:admin@ccemontana.org) & [info@ccemontana.org](mailto:info@ccemontana.org)). Shannon talked to Sandra about the Microsoft Essentials bill and they decided to cancel it for next year as they thought the email addresses were only necessary to start up the CCE Facebook page. Check #1046 for \$90 was paid to David Saslav to reimburse him for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research’s Economic Outlook Summit registration fee – the summit was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Great Falls on 1/24/23.

**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 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. Shannon boosted the FB page \$15 last month and \$35 this month. Shannon noted she can control the comments by only allowing people who like or follow the FB page to make a comment if the FB page gets too many hateful comments.

### Unfinished Business:

**GTRC (Golden Triangle Resource Council):** Rich noted the Golden Triangle Resource Council (GTRC) has a Facebook page. David said they post local legislators’ votes on FB. David said about 50 people attended the GTRC meeting at Annie’s Taphouse on Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> during which they selected a new solar installer for central Montana, Bozeman Green Built, for their Solarize Campaign. David thought about seven people signed up for solar installations on their property.

**2023 Legislative Session:** Rich asked people their thoughts about the results of the Legislative session. The group briefly discussed the problem bills that need the public to comment on to the Governor to encourage him to veto them.

**2023 Science Fair/SIP:** Science Fair was Thursday, March 9, 2023, Shannon said she coordinated with Chuck Merja and he highlighted the projects that had an environmental theme. Shannon looked at every project and was able to select the best projects to award with the help of the Science Fair Judges. Shannon spoke with Rai Hahn, President of the Dr. David W. Baker Memorial Foundation, and together they picked a special needs student and gave his project, “Wind Turbine Wonders,” a 4<sup>th</sup> Place Award because he presented his project so well. Not many high school students had environmental projects.

#### **New Business:**

**City of Great Falls Growth Policy:** Rich said the City needs to have another town hall meeting to discuss the growth policy. David asked how much growth are people willing to pay for in Great Falls. Shannon said it seems to her that Brett Doney was setting the growth policy and she said Craig Raymond did not disagree. The group thought it might be helpful for the Council of Councils to look into how to update the growth policy and perhaps get feedback from the nine Neighborhood Councils. CCE could work with the Interim Planning & Community Development Director, Tom Micuda, on ideas for a new growth policy. Rich said the City didn’t follow the law five years ago when they should have updated the growth policy. He noted if you fail to plan - plan to fail. The group discussed the slaughter house project - it seems the project is suffering from financial problems but could be resurrected again and could negatively affect Great Falls and our water rights.

#### **Reports:**

**Solar Homes Tour:** David said he attended the open house tour of two solar homes on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Bill Woodhouse (1 p.m. in Power) and Ted Stimac (2 p.m. in unincorporated Great Falls) opened their homes to interested members of CCE and Golden Triangle Resource Council. David said he enjoyed seeing Bill plug in his Tesla car into an outlet in his garage that is connected to his 58 solar panels (and two windmills). Bill said he started using solar on his property when he built his house in 1972. He has split circuits so he can use DC or AC currents.

**Government:** Shannon Wilson declared her candidacy for City Commission.

The next CCE, Inc. meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 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 (no-host dinner at 6 p.m. in restaurant meeting room). Watch your email for Zoom meeting instructions. Please email agenda items to Rich L. at [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

**Kathy Gessaman moved to adjourn, and Melissa Smith seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:34 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)
- 18 May – City Commission meeting, work sessions on budget
- Oct. 10 – CCE in-person and Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. No-host dinner at Black Bear Diner at 6 p.m.

*“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”* Theodore Roosevelt