

Minutes of the Montana Renewable Energy Association
Quarterly Meeting, July 7, 2004
Sage Mountain Center

Present:

Dave Ryan (NCAT), President and Board Member
Chris Borton (SMC), Vice President and Board Member
Patrick Judge (MEIC), Secretary
Georgia Brensdal (DEQ), Board member
Kathy Hadley (NCAT), Board member
Mikey Strickland, Board member
Kathi Montgomery (DEQ)
Lu Marie Strickland
John Campbell (NorthWestern Energy)
Tom Butts (AERO)
Joe Prete
Matt Elsaesser

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 pm, after a tour of the Sage Mountain Center.
The members voted to accept the minutes from the April 14 meeting in Missoula.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Daum was not present, but Dave Ryan reported that he had purchased the Christmas lights. Dave reported that there was about \$2500 left in the account after the light bulb purchase. Dave purchased 17 cases of light bulbs (each containing 12 strings), with the following break down:

Type A = Sapphire Blue, 70 Lights per String
Type B = Red / White / Blue, 70 Lights per String
Type C = Four color multi (Red / Green / Gold / Blue), 70 Lights per String
Type D = Five color multi (Red / Green / Gold / Blue / Orange), 70 Lights per String
String
Type E = Five color multi (Red / Green / Gold / Blue / Orange), 100 Lights per String
String

3 cases Type A @ \$178.99 / case = \$536.97
4 cases Type B @ \$183.48 / case = \$733.92
3 cases Type C @ \$100.19 / case = \$300.57
4 cases Type D @ \$105.60 / case = \$422.40
3 cases Type E @ \$122.10 / case = \$366.30
= \$2360.16 Total

These will sell for:

36 strings Type A @ \$23 / string = \$828.00
48 strings Type B @ \$23 / string = \$1104.00

36 strings Type C @ \$13 / string = \$468.00
48 strings Type D @ \$13 / string = \$624.00
36 strings Type E @ \$15 / string = \$540.00
= \$3564.00 Total, for a profit of \$1203.84

Dave urged everyone present to take boxes to sell. Dave also reported that the MREA trailer is complete, as is the mister (for use at the Sustainability Fair).

Executive Committee:

Dave Ryan reported that there were 6 members who had paid their dues, and he distributed invoices.

By-laws need to be reviewed at an upcoming board meeting.

Membership Committee:

Membership database is set up.

Brochure in word format was sent from DEQ (Georgia Brensdal) to Dave Ryan for updates. Kathi Montgomery moved that we offer a free string of \$13 lights to anyone who purchases a new membership at the Sustainability Fair. Kathy Hadley seconded, and the motion passed.

Education Committee:

Chris Borton provided tour of the Sage Mountain facility.

Chris also reported that site assessment requests are up. 150 have been completed. 50 more are waiting. Most requests are from serious project developers. Sage Mountain has a USB contract with NorthWestern Energy to conduct renewable energy site assessments and community presentations.

There is a need to develop a contractors list to complement the current dealers list on NCAT's Montana Green Power website.

Policy Committee:

Environmental Quality Council Meeting in Helena with actions on proposed changes to the Alternative Energy Loan Program, and the development of the Alternative Energy Legislative Report. Comments to the committee were due July 1.

Patrick Judge reported on the Helena launch of NW Energy Coalition's "Energy Matters" campaign. Pat also reported that both gubernatorial candidates have indicated support for a Renewable Portfolio Standard. Also, MEIC's "Citizens Guide to Energy Self-Sufficiency" is now available. Finally, Pat reported on the continued threats to the USB program.

There were also a number of other updates and discussion items, including:

- Joe Prete reported on his new business, based out of Anaconda. Joe is a master electrician, and has done mostly off-grid systems but is doing some grid-tie projects as well (such as the firehall solar PV projects).

- Kathy Hadley gave updates on the Sun 4 Community and Solar Meals programs.
- Kathi and Georgia discussed the planning for the Harvesting Clean Energy 5 Conference, which is scheduled for January 20-21 in Great Falls in conjunction with the annual Montana Agriculture & Industrial Expo (MAGIE).

Old Business:

Sustainability Fair: There was significant discussion regarding preparation for the upcoming Sustainability Fair. Kathy Hadley moved that MREA purchase a tarp and an extension cord for use at the Fair. The extension cord was to be 12 gauge, 100 feet, and the combined cost of the cord and tarp was not to exceed \$300. Georgia seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Motion made and seconded that MREA would sponsor the Harvesting Clean Energy Conference in some manner with cash and/or in-kind services with membership volunteers. Cash to be decided later. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 13, in Helena, at 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch (the new DEQ digs, in the old Armory Building) at 12:30, Room 112.

Meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were prepared by Patrick Judge, Secretary, with assistance from Georgia Brensdaal.