

## Interfaith Earthkeepers Hybrid Meeting

July 23, 2025

Attendees: Dennis R, Sue C, Geoff K, Ron H, Kenneth W, Mari, Susan G, Theresa O, Mark L, Charlie Q, Sarah W, Yohann H, KC H, Cynthia B, Carl B, Katharine H, Tom B, Barb R

Moderator: Dennis      Minutes: Britni

Special Guests: Sarah Wheeler and Charlie Quinn from McKenzie River Trust

MRT is a local land trust that protects over 10,000 acres of watershed from the upper McKenzie to the coast. The organization purchases land to put under protection. Some of this land is owned by the trust and some is conservation easements. There are legal restrictions about what can and cannot happen on the land. They also work with local tribes. Large scale restoration projects return the land closer to its natural state. For example, they create side channels for fish, insects, and other living beings. MRT also provides community outreach and educational events. Each acre of the confluence property sequesters the equivalent of 6000 miles driven.

Some of the money from the Earth Care Interfaith Fund was used to purchase tools for restoration projects. McKenzie River Trust and Long Tom Watershed Council are partner organizations that manage some properties together. Since 2017, \$20,000 has been donated.

The properties are not open to the public outside of planned events and work parties. They have volunteer work parties on the First Friday of each month at the Willamette Confluence as well as Watershed Wednesdays (most Wednesdays) at Green Island. See the volunteer sign up and calendar [here](#). They also collaborate with local groups to do other volunteer events.

MRT has recently been focused on equitable access to the properties, including limited mobility access. Some events provide transportation in collaboration with the City of Eugene.

### Updates and Continuing Issues

**1. Turtle Flats:** The next restoration event is scheduled for September 27th from 9am-12pm. They are also looking for a small group to restore the footbridge during the last week of August or first week of September. They are especially looking for people with some carpentry skills.

**2. Interfaith Potlucks:** These will begin again in September. A survey was sent out. They will have a speaker who will be talking about white nationalism.

**3. Forest Bathing:** KC is leading forest bathing practice on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10am-12pm at Armitage Park. Email KC if you plan to attend so she can send you more information: [kchancockart@gmail.com](mailto:kchancockart@gmail.com)

**4. EK Banner:** Barb has been designing a new banner. She will reach out to Merrily to see if she has the old banner before ordering a new one.

Due to time, the group agreed to table the remainder of the agenda until the August meeting.

**Next Meeting: August 20th at 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at First Congregational Church)**

Moderator: Mark/Dennis

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: Chapters 10-14 of Hope in the Dark