

Interfaith Earthkeepers Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2020

Attendees: Katherine H, Rouanna G, Bob G, Ruth D, Eunice K, Phyllis W, Merrily S, Patricia M, Ani S, Phyllis H, Keith O, Sue C, Allan G, Ron H, Jerry S, Jane S. Welcome to the new members!

Drawdown presentation: Phyllis W, Tropical Forests, pp. 114-116.

Phyllis enhanced her presentation with current pictures. One was of a logging truck, caught in the headlights of ranger's truck, trying to smuggle logs out of the rain forest after dark. Ecologists fear improving highways into the rain forest will make 1000-year-old trees the "new ivory". Even people from "respectable countries" like Denmark and Sweden are profiteering at night. One tree might be worth \$20,000. Not surprisingly people are losing their lives both in stealing and defending the forest.

The second picture showed burning to clear land for agricultural expansion; McDonald's cattle for hamburger beef. All the burning trees raise the CO2 levels dramatically and loss of timber means no sequestration. This is a delusional act because the thin acid soils quickly degrade and fail. Impact: "In theory, 751 million acres of degraded land in the tropics could be restored to continuous, intact forest....committed land could sequester ...61.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide by 2050." Without land use change and eating less meat, animal and bird life won't survive. This solution is ranked #5 by *Drawdown*.

Rouanna announced that **350/Eug** is sponsoring a booth at the Eugene Home and Garden Show Jan. 24-26. They will present on electric transportation, consumerism, and the carbon challenge. A display of electric vehicles will be out front. Please plan to attend and support.

Ron opened the discussion to what our **Earth Day activity** this year might look like. Rouanna said the Corvallis group is offering movies at different churches throughout the week, and 350/EUG is planning activities which we may wish to support. After considerable brainstorming stressing need for positivity, offering educational opportunities, and perhaps focusing on new research we decided that we would do a Home and Planet Show, working title "Our Earth Home, Living in Harmony". Ron talked about a movie that promotes a vegetarian diet for muscle building called The Game Changers. We decided on April 25th, Sat. or possibly April 26th, Sun. Bob Granger will check with FUMC and Keith will check with the Faith Center to see if we can use facilities. Jan will ask someone with Sunrise if our date will conflict with any of their activities. We decided that early afternoon, 1:30 to 4:00, might be best. As EarthKeepers have ideas of offerings for our event please email them to Ron.

Stop Fossil Fuels! Ron has received an anonymous donation to cover the cost of his dramatic-looking fliers. Ron is going to show up Fridays at 4:00 at Chase Bank at 11th and Willamette Sts. to engage the public in discussion in hopes of raising awareness of how banks and fossil fuel companies are complicit. We discussed the following: 1. having at least one other person with Ron every Friday, 2. advertising in the newspapers,

3. writing a letter to the bank manager about what we are doing, 4. having a sign-up each meeting so Ron knows who to expect as a partner. Ron is making a sandwich board. He is expecting to start 1/17/20.

PIELC We have a table for March 6th and 7th. ELAW brings people from all around the world. At 12:00 noon on the 7th the Raging Grannies will perform. Merrily will contact Philip Bales to see if he can come to our next meeting to discuss whether he has something we can show on his laptop.

Tom Peck from 350/EUG is creating a **presentation to take to churches** to explain climate crisis issues. If anyone would like to work with him please contact Ron.

We voted to proceed with the **Letter to Principals** regarding idling cars. Merrily will email the letter to everyone. Eunice suggested the letter be sent to the Reg.-Guard. Keith offered his granddaughter's drawing to use in creating the flier or posters.

OR Climate Bill Sue reported that the new bill is very watered down. The League of Women Voters has said they won't support it. The idea of cap and trade is gone. At the moment it feels like a lost cause.

Merrily will check with Central Lutheran for a date for **The Pollinators** movie to be shown there. We will need to show in later March to allow time for advertising. Sue will ask for financial support from Sierra Club. If we can get money from Glory Bee then maybe EKs can contribute the remaining.

Please go to rivers@wyden.senate.gov to vote for these rivers: Breitenbush River and its tributaries, Crabtree Creek, Upper North Santiam River and its tributaries, Middle Santiam River and its tributaries, Upper South Santiam River and its tributaries, and Upper Quartzville Creek and its tributaries.

Sue was discouraged about the tone of the State Land Board Meeting regarding the **Elliott Forest** on Dec. 10th. There was no mention of the forest's capacity for sequestration. It appeared there was interest in it for logging. Sue and Merrily will work together to draft a letter from the EarthKeepers to the governor, members of the state land board, and the Dean of OSU School of Forestry stating optimal use of the Elliott Forest from an environmental point of view.

HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, continues to gain momentum in Wash. DC. A recent study from Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy showed low and middle income families benefit by dramatic reductions in air pollution by 2030 and by the dividend, which exceeds average increases in energy costs. By 2030 these changes result in greenhouse gas emissions well below Paris Accord levels.

Leftover agenda items:

- * how to testify at Eugene City Council--Rouanna G.
- * plastic recycle at First Christian--Phyllis W.
- * global strike plans--Keith
- * utility solar policies, including EWEB, Vince McClellan, Energy Design

Next Month's Meeting:

UUCE

Wed., Feb. 12, 1-3

***Please bring your name tag!**

DrawDown: Rouanna G.

Minutes: ?