

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting  
October 11, 2023

Attendees: Britni C, Jeanne M, Cynthia B, Kristina J, Ron H, Bob G, Ron K, Charlotte, Sue C, Rouanna G, Dennis R, Brian L

Moderator: Ron H; Minutes: Britni C

**Continuing Business**

**1. September March to End Fossil Fuels:** Approximately 75,000 people gathered in NYC. A total of 189 people were arrested. Protesters blocked entrances at Citibank and the federal bank. There were also protests at Bank of America and Black Rock. More and more people are recognizing the extent of the crisis and working on this issue. People may need help with legal costs.

**2. Advocacy Updates**

- Fossil Free Eugene: They are changing their strategy. There is a new effort to electrify the University of Oregon, which is the biggest polluter in town. Here is a quick and easy opportunity to [send a letter to the UO](#).
- Divest Oregon: There is a new [petition](#) to the Treasurer and Oregon Investment Council.
- Climate Forests: 500,000+ comments were submitted to BLM in support of mature and old growth forests. They are seeking photographs for their Voices for our Forests initiative.

**3. Buford Park/Mt. Pisgah Earth Stewardship Update:** They are working on an event for November. More information to come.

**4. KEPW Radio Project:** Local youth ages 10-18 are invited to participate in KEPW's Youth Radio Show project. The show will feature topics of interest about the environment, telling stories and sharing efforts to heal the Earth. KEPW will provide a free 8 week training course beginning on November 30th. Please contact Mark at [markl@fcceugene.org](mailto:markl@fcceugene.org) if interested.

**5. Unity of the Valley Climate Group:** They are just getting started, and had 7 people at their first meeting. Is there an opportunity for potential bank actions? 350 Eugene is no longer organizing bank protests.

**6. EWEB Planning discussion of small modular nuclear reactors:** They don't pollute with carbon. Renowned climate scientist James Hansen supports this new generation of nuclear power. Radioactive material storage is a huge problem. It has the potential to contribute to nuclear proliferation with material spreading to terrorist organizations. EWEB has stated that they cannot put in new reactors until it can be proven the waste can be safely disposed of. A documentary on this topic, Atomic Bamboozle, will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene on November 14th at 6pm.

Additional discussion regarding winter electricity generation: The PNW National Laboratory received funding for offshore wind development.

**7. Interfaith Earth Summit:** Does someone want to be a liaison between EarthKeepers and Interfaith Power and Light? Discussion to be continued.

**8. Location of Next Meeting:** Unitarian Universalist Church

### **New Business**

**1. Music for Mother Earth event:** November 11th at 7pm at Unitarian Universalist Church. The performance will include a nationally renowned pianist holding master classes at the UO, as well as several other world class talents.

**2. Sunrise and Green New Deal for Schools:** In response to Republicans' recent actions to undermine education, Sunrise is pushing for a Green New Deal for schools to secure adequate climate education legislation.

**3. Plant Based Diets:** Factory farm meat production contributes greatly to methane pollution and uses a significant amount of freshwater. Some members have cut back on their meat consumption. Locally, pasture raised animal products are better for the environment.

## **Education - Nature's Best Hope** by Doug Tallamy

The book is available as an eAudiobook (free) through Hoopla via Eugene Public Library (search the title on the [library website](#)).

- Ron: Connectivity of natural habitats is important.
- Cynthia: Two missteps in the early years of conservation work: 1) The assumption that people and biodiversity cannot coexist; 2) Leaving conservation work to trained ecologists.

**Next Meeting: November 8, 2023 (online and in person at Unitarian Universalist Church)**

Moderator: Sue C

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: *Nature's Best Hope* - Read through chapter 3