

**Interfaith Earthkeepers Minutes,
Wednesday October 14, 2020
Online Meeting**

Present: Keith O, Katharine H, Merrily S, Dennis R, Bob G, Ron C, Charles A, Penny P, Sue C, Eunice K, Ron H

Moderator: Merrily S, Minutes: Ron H

Old Business:

1. Movie presentation, The Human Element, was marred by technical issues. We await clarification from Rouanna regarding use of the CD we purchased, since it did not function for the presentation. For future events, we will need a practice session ahead of time.

2. People continue get out the vote efforts, including registration, phone calls and writing postcards. We were warned to watch for and report unofficial drop boxes.

3. OregonWild efforts to deal with the current administration's environmental rollbacks continue with our support. Sierra Club's effort on large tree logging is also being supported.

4. A letter regarding the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, HR 763, to our US House of Representatives member, Pete DeFazio was presented for approval, and supported unanimously. Ron will send.

5. Proposed Douglas Fir National Monument update from David Stone notes fire affected parts of the proposed area. Revised government guidelines are pending, after which we will be updated.

6. Letter on American values being tabled for now.

New Business:

1. Invitation to sign Presidential Plastics Action Plan from large coalition (including Center for Biological Diversity, Beyond Plastics, Center for International Environmental Law, Greenpeace, Surfrider Foundation, etc) discussed and supported. Ron will sign on for our group.

2. Penny reported on her positive experience with Werfillit products to avoid single use plastic containers. She used one quart canning jars for items like soaps, detergents, shampoo. See werfillit.com. Other local options mentioned. We will discuss further next month.
3. Merrily reported on Soap Box brand of bar shampoo that works well, another strategy to avoid single use plastic containers.
4. New recycling site reported by Merrily. Garten will take #1 and #2 plastics, and labels do not need to be removed. Recycling issues remain complicated, and will continue to be discussed.
5. Katherine notes ordering needs to be done now for the Fill Your Pantry event, since delivery is upcoming. Order from Willamette Farm & Food website.
6. The movie Kiss the Ground is being considered for a future presentation. It's focus is on healthy soil and regenerative strategies. Its optimistic viewpoint makes it an attractive option.
7. BankFWD noted to be another organization targeting bank funding for fossil fuels, begun by Rockefeller grandchildren. We have been supportive of this issue for some time, and will sign on as a group.
8. Keith discussed a Carbon Drawdown Glossary as a tool for information and education, since many terms are unfamiliar to the general public. He and Ron will experiment with building a new section of the website.
9. Keith noted the announcement of new EarthShot monetary prizes, established as a Nobel-type prize for actual workable solutions to climate change. It is supported by Sir David Attenborough and Prince William.
10. A Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition issued a report in September including recommendations for senior leaders in countries and international organizations. Keith knows the director of the project, Sandy Thomas. Issues to be discussed further next meeting.
11. A strategy for timely signing to show support for compatible organizations and efforts was discussed. It was agreed that if the four rotating leaders and Rouanna agreed without dissent, the leadership will be empowered to sign for the group without the formality of a monthly meeting discussion.
12. Keith noted World Ocean Day next year could be considered as a focus of activity. WE need to be planning ahead for Earth Day and World Ocean Day. Issues to be discussed further at next meeting.
13. Sue suggested we begin to think ahead regarding post election efforts. The issue of money in politics is critical, and will be discussed at the next meeting. Topics include Oregon state issues and the Supreme Court ruling that corporations are entitled to the same protections as people.
14. Chuck Arrera is a member of the board of the Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District, www.uwswcd.org He discussed focus on soil health, forest health, and water quality. A funding source for their work is on the election ballot this year: www.cleanwaterandhealthysoil.com

Drawdown Presentation

The Hidden Half of Nature, pp. 70-71 presented by Merrily. This history of the agricultural industry was published in 2016. Very early experiments in plant growth in prior centuries lead to the eventual understanding that plants grow using CO₂ from air, with nitrogen and phosphates from soil. Natural fertilizers eventually gave way to chemical ones supporting plant growth. Subsequently it has been understood how complex soil composition is, and how growth also depends on a vast population of micro-organisms in healthy soil.

Next Meeting: Nov. 11th, 1-3pm, via Zoom

Moderator: Ron, Minutes: Sue

Education: TBD