

Minutes for Interfaith Earthkeepers

Nov. 11, 2020

Present were: Ron H., Rouanna, Merrily, Katharine H., Penny, Keith, Charles, Sue.

Congratulations were in order for Keith O., who has been elected to the United Nations Association, Climate and Oceans Committee. He will represent Seaside County, England, and Lane County, Oregon, USA. Thanks so much for all the effort you put into working for our planet Keith. Very special!

Keith gave us a report on Agriculture and Food systems, and the present situation gleaned from a UN report. There are 3 Billion people on earth that are underserved for subsistence food, and the food they do obtain is of poor quality nutritionally. There needs to be transformation of the agricultural system to deal with the issues of Power, Profit, and Delivery which presently are the structure that is not serving our food needs positively.

Solutions might be found if we had plant based diets, farming and distribution close to served populations, and were able to decrease Factory Farming which is the present model.

OLD BUSINESS:

1). Good discussion of the 2020 election results.

Chuck brought up these points concerning the effort to get a tax passed to support the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District.....which passed!

Concern the cost for this entity to put the tax up for a vote, Chuck gave us this information;

1. "The cost is related to the our potential cost from Lane County Elections. Those on the final ballot split the costs of Lane County running the election. Win or lose we will still have to pay a yet to be determined cost. The \$40K to 70K is our cost for actually running the campaign including our original needs survey, voter polling, contracting with Funk and Levis for our social and print media, and printing signs and postcards. Elections are shamefully expensive and we are just small potatoes!. Cost to get into the State voters pamphlet is about \$400 minimum and \$300 for the City pamphlet. We were not eligible to be in either because we are a special district, like fire districts etc. It would be a great thing to lobby the county and city to include everything that will appear on

people's ballots. ”

2. He also gave us the information that you will always see about a 40% no vote.
3. After the fires, in the McKenzie area, FEMA was really appreciative of all the help that Conservations groups gave. FEMA felt that this was the best organization and mobilization that they had witnessed.
2. Rouanna suggested that we again revisit, and get info out to our Churches, concerning the FAITH COMMUNITY FUND. As you will recall the FCF was created in 2017 to support the values of people of faith for stewardship of creation through partnerships with local organizations.

We donate money...either individually, or from our Congregations, toward a carbon offset. Payments may be made to “McKenzie River Trust” with “Faith Community Fund” in the memo space. McKenzie River Trust 120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd. Suite 270 Eugene, Or 97401 (I have copies of these brochures, if you need one...Sue Craig)

3. HR 763Ron H. reported that Rep. DeFazio has not signed onto sponsoring this bill. **The bill is the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act addressing climate change by putting a price on carbon pollution.** Please contact him, and also get your local Reps. And Senators (State) to support the national bill.
4. Plastics. Ron H. will continue to put schedules of recycling collections events on our web page. These can then be used to let our Congregants know of the times, and places. Merrily will contact Katherine Keller to see if we can use what she produced in the past, possibly for a poster.
5. Talked about Movies we might show. It was voted and approved to purchase “Kiss the Ground”. Penny will follow up on this. We will also work hard to find ways to show the movie with good resolution/sound.
6. Drawdown glossary will be put on future agenda.
7. Discussed different groups that we can be affiliated with. EMO, and possibly another group as Rouanna provides information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Started discussion of Earth day and of Ocean Day. Earthday is Thursday, April 22, 2021 and United Nations Oceans Day is Tuesday, June 8th.
2. Sue will send out the bill, a national bill, concerning our National Forests for peoples information. It is considered by many conservation groups, to be a poor bill.
3. Two books were recommended. One for our next "Education portion of meeting"
Please read if you will parts, or all of "American Nations" by Colin Woodard.
The other book mentioned by Merrily is "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson.
Both books help us to understand the division that we are now seeing in our country.

Our next meeting will be Dec.9 at 1 pm

Sue C. will be the Moderator, and Keith O. will be the minutes taker.

Sue will do the education part, and begin the discussion of at least 2 or 3 chapters of "American Nations."

Merrily will contact Katherine H., concerning poster material.

Charles and several others invite you to the WILD AND SCENIC film festival. November 19 at 7 pm. Online. \$10 admission with support conservation efforts. Sponsored by many groups, presented by Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

Tickets at: <https://qudio.com/event/UWSN>