

Interfaith Earthkeepers
December 11, 2019
Unitarian Church

In Attendance: Keith, Kerry , Patricia , Ron H, Allan G, Phyllis & Len H, Katherine H, Rouanna G, Phyllis W, Betsy H, Eunice K, Bob G, Edith R, Sue C, Merrily S, Penny P
Chaired by Merrily

Additions to agenda:

1. Sue C - PIELC & Thank-you notes
2. Ron
3. Deb M letter Phil Barnhardt EV Cars

Draw Down – Merrily S Temperate Forests p. 128 These forests lie between 30 and 50-55 degrees. Temperate forest restoration will expand to to an additional 235 million acres and sequester 22.6 gigatons of CO₂ by 2050. Merrily went on to p. 130 and talked about “The Hidden Life of Trees.” Trees are social beings capable of distinguishing their own roots from others. They can share food with other trees. It was suggested we see Fantastic Fungi which show the interconnectedness of the mushroom infra structure.

Elliot Forest Hearing – Sue C – discouraging in that there is still an emphasis on raising money rather than the CO₂ sequestration capabilities of the old growth trees. We were urged to write letters to:?? Merrily – Bryan’s?? response to a letter?? Oaks are now replacing more of the firs, and are better suited to their environment.

Dammed to Extinction movie: Orcas are dying because of dams on the Snake River. They can’t get enough food to stay healthy and have successful pregnancies. Rouanna sent letters to Washington state senators, we can also write letters.

Tabling at PIELC – It was decided to table at the Public Interest Environmental Conference (PIELC) happening March 5-8. Sue will sign us up. Rouanna will get info from the Corvallis group. We will try and

have the website up and have Flyers with tabs. We will revisit this at a future meeting.

The Pollinators movie – It was suggested that this might be a good movie to show on Valentines Day. It would be worth talking with Glory Bee, Beyond Toxics, and Zerses in Portland. Merrily will check with them.

Biggest Little Farm movie – it looks Penny could order it for \$17.00. She assumes we would want the DVD version? The movie last 1 1/2 hours ... and has good reviews.

Merrily – attended meeting where her daughter presented and was given an award. We should all call our reps ... U.S. Hall phone number 202-224-3721 email sent to Merrily to help Wild and Scenic Rivers. The fall edition of Dispatch (Friends of Douglas-Fir National Monument) announced that Sen. Ron Wyden is taking nominations from Oregonians through Jan. 20, 2020 for rivers in the state that deserve addition to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers list. Nominations can be made by going to rivers@wyden.gov.

Keith ... items on hold?????

Interfaith Power and Light – April Faith Climate Action Week participation being considered as part of Earth Day activities.

Global Strike Rally – Keith goes to these meetings. To keep up with these activities we should sign up for Eugene 350 website. Also, the Interfaith Earthkeepers website has great information

Banks supporting fossil fuels: Ron shared info about the use of banks in funding oil and gas extraction projects. He would like to put more pressure on these banks and increase awareness by people using them. This might involve having a small group with youth at a bank every Friday with flyers. More information is at www.fossilbanks.org. We voted to support Ron in this effort.

Emissions from idling cars at schools – We discussed the efforts Cathy M shared with us about the emissions released from waiting cars at schools. 10 min = 1 lb of CO₂. How can we support this? Sue suggested (or did?) call the district to notify all schools. It would be good if we could get on TV, create pamphlets to pass out, write letters to all the principals. How to involve parents? Letter to the editor.

Movie events: Must always have an “ask” at closing. What can people do? Maybe show a movie at the Baptist Church? Reaching out to others.

Where do we go next:

1. Support action focused on bank financing for fossil fuel projects
2. Proceed with effort to decrease emissions from autos waiting outside schools
3. Education using movies. Facts are not how people change their minds. We should determine how people heard about the movie, and have an “ask” at the end.
4. Reconnect with 350Eug, show up at events
5. More family oriented presentations
6. Speak Up: US Hill 202 224 3121
7. Create strategy for faith community to talk about climate change

8. Art/Poetry ways to address climate crisis

Speaking for Jesus: www.reclaimingjesus.org