

Interfaith EarthKeepers Minutes Wednesday February 10, 2021

Present: Keith O, Merrily S, Dennis R, Bob G, Elizabeth H, Ron C, Amalia B, Mark L, Eunice K, Rouanna G, Sue C, Eunice K, Ron H

Moderator: Merrily S, Minutes: Ron H

Check-In: People are seeing progress in multiple areas. We welcomed Mark Lindberg, Youth Minister at First Congregational Church in Eugene. His email is markl@fcceugene.org. Vaccination registration is now being done at lanecounty.org/covidvaccine

Education Discussion: **American Nations** by Colin Woodard, deferred.

Old Business:

1. **Kiss the Ground** movie showing is now definite for Earth Day. It will be at 7pm, Thursday April 22. Kat J will handle the technical issues. We need a poster and need to make announcements as soon as possible. Members can send the poster to various contacts around town, including as per our list of commitments which Rouanna will resend. There will likely be a discussion session afterward, possibly by someone from That's My Farmer.
2. Writing legislators about clear cutting and clean water--Merrily and Rouanna sent letters to local legislators
3. Poster for CALC e-news has not been done, to be revisited next month.
4. EK Website connection to Facebook is now functioning reliably. Traffic to the website has increased.
5. UO journalist Amalia Birch was introduced. She is interested in reporting on our group and its focus. Email is aj_birch@comcast.net
6. A Laudato Si' Focus on Environmental Justice Reported by Merrily. Their commitment is to economic, social and ecological well-being.
7. Dennis reported on the large Fossil Free Eugene Coalition. Interfaith Earthkeepers are now an official part of that coalition. The focus remains on not building further fossil fuel infrastructure. Northwest Natural is mounting a counter PR campaign. An enthusiastic postcard campaign is underway, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Information on this writing campaign will again be sent out by Rouanna.

New Business:

1. Keith is increasingly active in Sussex, including efforts affecting oceans and working with youth. There are parallel activities in Seaford and Eugene. He discussed a connectivity project movie focusing on faith and indigenous perspectives. COP 26 is expected to provide evidence of major changes in governmental approaches.
2. Mission Statement, Goals, Strategy, Metrics for success for EarthKeepers tabled til next month.
3. Sue reported on Oregon bills supporting beavers, and reiterated the positive effects

of a beaver population. She encouraged sending letters of support to Rep Marsh who introduced the bills. HB 2843 precludes hunting or trapping of beavers on federal land. Changing the current designation of beavers as predators is addressed in HB 2844.

4. The ICARUS Project (International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space) has been reported in New York Times Magazine 1/17/21. It's possible to track animal life and migration from space using electronic tracking and space based sensing instruments.

5. Merrily will contact Oregon Interfaith Power & Light regarding potential cooperation for World Oceans' Day

6. Dennis noted it is straightforward to provide testimony for state legislation. EMO (Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) provides a list on their website. They are the parent organization of Oregon Interfaith P&L.

7. Rouanna reported that the Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association is having Rep Peter DeFazio speak at their March meeting. Details to be provided.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 10, 2021 1-3 pm,

Moderator: Ron H

Secretary: Sue C

Education Session: Final Discussion of **American Nations**
