

Interfaith Earthkeepers Minutes 4 14 21

Attendees: Phyllis and Len, Ron H., Dennis, Sue, Katharine, Bob, Betsy, Peny, Eunice, Rouanna, Mark, Ron C., Merrily. A special welcome to Cynthia B., representative to EarthKeepers from Eugene Friends Meeting; she has been a member of 350Eug and is a bike enthusiast.

Cherise B., from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL), also attended; her email is cbock@emoregon.org.

*Cherise has been conducting workshops on how to converse with Oregon legislators. OIPL will be meeting with legislators during Earth Day week; we are invited to contact Cherise if we would like to meet with our legislators. <http://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/oregon-listings/>

*She is also working to set up "Green Circles", people across the state with similar concerns and goals.

*Cherise sends out a monthly newsletter; please contact if you'd like to receive.

*OIPL connects to faith communities in eastern Oregon. The green circles is a way for western Oregonians to communicate with and possibly heal divisions with eastern Oregonians.

OIPL will host a discussion of **Kiss the Ground** on Sunday, **April 25, at 4:00 pm**. One of the speakers will be the author of *The Soil Will Save Us*, Kristin Ohlson.

Penny gave the "educational moment" from *Drawdown* from pg, 78-79 on Family Planning. Across the world 225,000,000 women would like contraception but have no access. In the USA 45% of pregnancies are unintended. We probably put more energy into technology when addressing climate change, not population control. We need more health care workers providing information door to door. The Global Gag Rule; the USA has provided no funding for abortion access. Impact: Increased adoption of reproductive healthcare and family planning is an essential component to achieve the United Nations' 2015 medium global population projection of 9.7 billion people by 2050. Next month Rouanna will report on Solid State Wave Energy, p. 187.

Ron reported that there would be a rehearsal on Friday evening, 4/16, at 7:00 with Kat J., tech person for UUCE, who is running our Earth Day event for us. She assures us that all will go smoothly. This is the last week we have to promote our movie to friends and acquaintances. Katharine will send the electronic poster to all EKs ; please invite folks! Penny will go to the Farmer's Market Sat. morning to hand out 1/4 sheets of our poster to interested shoppers. Both Paul A., Laughing Stock Farm, and Robert L., Deck Family

Farm, are ready to field questions at the end of the film. Hope to "see" you there!

Merrily reported that Rouanna had sent a website for a YouTube video on Blue Carbon to her as an idea for a World Oceans Day program. Merrily noticed that there were many ocean-related YouTube offerings, ranging in length from 10 min. to 45 min. long. Merrily suggested that we all search YouTube for ocean-related material to be strung together with Q.&A. sessions after each as our World Oceans Day program. Penny offered to help. Some topics might be: nurdles, Blue Carbon, resiliency, wave energy. Please come to the next meeting having searched YouTube for possible videos.

Dennis reported that conversations between the City of Eugene and Northwest Natural Gas continue and are opening out to more of Lane County. Multnomah County is not allowing gas heat to be installed in any county buildings. Talk is beginning with School Dist. 4-J to rethink gas heat in new schools being built and electrifying the school bus fleet. City Council is looking for fresh faces at the Council meetings: Dennis can send links for support if EKs want to testify. There are places in Eugene who are using geothermal heat. NAACP has invited someone to talk about geothermal energy.

Betsy reported that our old Faith Community Fund program is being changed substantially. It will be called Earthcare Interfaith Fund and will have an all-new brochure designed by Len H. McKenzie River Trust and Long Tom Watershed are writing up a new media packet. They are not including information on how to calculate carbon footprint because that changes so often, but a carbon footprint calculator is available at <https://www.corvalliscarbonoffset.us/footprint-calculators>. We can look forward to the roll-out of an all new product soon!

Ron C. reported that Liberty Mutual Insurance is the biggest insurer of the fossil fuel industry. He suggest divesting if you are doing business with this company.

Merrily will attend McKenzie River Trust's "Habichat" on Beavers and will report at the next meeting.

There was a suggestion to move our meeting time to 5:30 to accommodate working EKs. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Merrily reported that there has been an increase in requests for EarthKeepers to sign/underwrite letters on multiple environment issues with no turn-around time to ask the membership for their approbation. She asked what attendees thought about this. The response was that, if the leadership thinks it is a good

idea, members will trust judgment. It was requested that leaders tell everyone what got signed. Therefore, these letters were signed:

1. From Ben Goloff, Climate Law Institute/Center for Biological Diversity: Letter to urge President Biden to stop fossil fuel exports, and
2. Letter urging Congress to end all funding of fossil fuel industry and instead invest \$16 trillion over 4 years to ensure universal access to clean, renewable energy, rebuild our drinking water infrastructure, build 100% electric public transportation, and weatherize, electrify, and modernize our buildings.

Next Meeting: May 12, 1-3 PM

Moderator: Merrily

Note Taker: Penny

Homework: Look for Ocean-related YouTube videos for World Oceans Day program