

Earthkeepers Minutes
May 12, 2021

In attendance: Merrily, Sue, Amelia B, Keith, Ron H, Kathy F, Rouanna, Betsy, Cynthia, Larry W, Phyllis and Len, Katherine, Mark, Dennis, Penny

1. Brief check-ins

2. Rouanna - Drawdown education p. 187 – Solid-State Wave Energy: There is a tremendous amount of kinetic energy in the oceans...80,000 terawatts of power. One terawatt is the equivalent of 1 trillion watts ... enough to provide electricity to 33 million homes. The problem is economic inefficiency. Oscilla Power in Seattle has created technology which can create energy without moving parts as they can't handle the stress and corrosion of the sea. Affordability entails maintenance, replacement parts, servicing in high seas, and underwater cables to transfer the power. Whether now or later, the ocean remains the largest untapped source of renewable energy on earth.

Amalia Birch asked if she could take a screen shot of all of us for the article she is writing for the Oregon magazine at the U of O. It will be published in the first or second week of June

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Kiss the Ground evaluation: Kathy did a great job with the post movie Q and A session with the two farmers. Sue wrote thank-you notes to Paul and Robert. Sue pointed out that this farming still requires herbicides or pesticides. The microorganisms in our guts are the same as those in the soil. Thanks to Kat Johnson. It was decided to send her a thank you gift of \$50. (already done by Penny) That leaves us with \$300 in our bank account. Ron thought the attendance was about 45... similar to the first movie we presented. Were we getting the information out to our churches? Mark reported on a showing of the movie the day after our showing. It was followed by a very engaging discussion. Merrily will share the email which covered this event.

4. Merrily reported on a "Habichat" presentation by McKenzie River Trust about the lives of beavers and how important they are to areas where they build dams. They like to build dams where they hear running water ... and they add to the aquifer. Beaver protection bills did not get out of committee and they should be protected.

5. Betsy reported on the newly named Earth Care Interfaith Fund. A nicely created flyer explains about the fund. Betsy said that if a congregation wants their name listed as a sponsor, that could happen. Should individual congregations have their names listed, or just have us listed as the Interfaith Earthkeepers? We delayed this decision until the next meeting when we will have all had a chance to read the flyer. Betsy reported that now both the McKenzie River Trust and the Long Tom Watershed have information on their sites about donating to the fund.

6. Dennis reported on the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition The current agreement with NW Natural gas has expired. This means they need to apply for a permit for every new project. Some new 4J schools are planning to heat with natural gas. The coalition is encouraging school boards to use

heat pump heating rather than gas. He explained that this group has many young people which is a good sign for the future. A Transition justice fund is being encouraged which would provide financial help for lower income people transition off of gas. Dennis also reported as the liaison with the NAACP. House Bill 2488 and senate bill 17 is just sitting dealing with environmental equity. He has signed a letter of support as Interfaith Earthkeepers. We have given permission to have him speak for us with these groups.

It was also decided that emails needing to go to the whole group will be handled by Rouanna.

7. Merrily – time to weigh in on BLM Plan to Log Fire Damaged Forest. There is new science. Burned forest can hold ground and some trees can recover. Send letters to ODOT (odot.wildfire@odot.state.or.us) Merrily will send a letter from the group and we can send individual letters.

8. Cherice – OIPL – Advocacy through the Lens of Racial Justice. She’s formed a Creation Justice Advocacy Team to talk to our legislators. Email her at cbock@emoregon.org if interested in signing on.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. World Oceans Day - possibility of stringing together shorter videos with Q and A sessions. Videos were shared. We would need help from Kat. We won’t know about this until next meeting ... so this won’t happen on June 8, which is UN World Oceans Day. Another possibility is a Wave Power presentation from Brian Lee of Corvallis. Keith talked about possibilities involving “nurdle” control, Surfrider Foundation, and Connectivity Project. Also, SOLVE will be having a Beach Cleanup Day on Sept 25. We could invite our congregations to work on this project.

We will be working on these efforts and present when we are ready. Contacts will be made to OIPL by Ron H, Keith will contact the Hatfield Marine Science Center, and Sue will contact NOAA in Newport.

Leadership announced that they have signed a letter from us about requiring a renewable energy standard by 2030.

Kathy F invited us to attend a gathering supporting Health Care for All Oregon on June 1 from 5 to 6PM at the free speech plaza. The task force can use more personal stories about the need for health care.

Meeting ended with discussion of meeting outside or continuing with zoom. Possibly those who want could meet outside, and use a hot spot for people who would prefer to meet online. No decision was made.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 1-3PM

Moderator: Ron H

Secretary: Sue

Education Session?