

Interfaith Earthkeepers Minutes, Wednesday June 10, 2020

Moderator: Merrily S

Minutes: Ron H

1. Attendees: Rouanna G, Keith O, Merrily S, Bob G, Ruth D, Sue C, Allan G, Betsy H, Penny P, Katharine H, Ron H

2. Education Session: *Wilding, The Return of Nature to a British Farm*, by Isabella Tree. Keith discussed the rewilding concept and E. O. Wilson's recognition that half the earth is needed for ecosystem maintenance. An inherited farm of 3500 acres was not profitably farmed by industrial means, so heritage plants and animals were gradually introduced over the past 20 years while nature was allowed to take its course, including water management. As a result the ecosystem became more complex and more resilient with increased soil fertility and increased varieties of plants, birds and animals.

3. Sue announced the Sierra Club is hosting a presentation on Soil by James Cassidy, a faculty member from OSU. It will occur Tuesday June 16 via Zoom.

4. Merrily reported *The Human Element*, an extremely well made movie by James Blalog, is being reissued free this summer from June 8-17. It can be seen June 17 at 5pm pacific time as part of an Interfaith Power & Light event with James Blalog at low cost for seniors. Penny reports we've purchased this movie, so it will be available for a future showing.

5. Reports

a. Wild and Scenic River Campaign: David Stone's recent Friends of Doug Fir Natl Monument Dispatch posted yesterday to our news blog, <https://interfaihearkeepers.org/f/dispatch---friends-of-douglas-fir>

b. Bank Funding of Fossil Fuel Projects: Ron has investigated the economic status of oil projects since the collapse and partial recovery in oil prices. His analysis is that oil companies are facing major changes in the next year that they did not expect to occur until the end of the decade. Top management is aware that they have to adapt to a low carbon future. Our project is being put on hold for the foreseeable future, as other priorities like the election will have much greater change impact.

c. No new information on Horton Road Organics local produce online purchases.

d. Idling is Exhausting Campaign on hold as children are not in school at this time, per Merrily

e. Merrily noted the phone tree to absent members identified Phyllis W as potentially able to join by phone, or also by computer if she has some technical assistance.

f. Ron reported the Earth Day/Week video will be available on our website soon. After discussion it was felt reasonable to have our own YouTube channel. Sue will manage the channel that Kat has already set up for us. Rouanna suggested a poster for publicizing it, and agreed to make one.

g. Oregon Wild is involved in action to support beavers and their beneficial effect on ecosystems and water management. To support their effort to ban beaver trapping and hunting on federal land go to their website.

h. McKenzie River Trust is hosting *Upstream: Conversations Between People and Rivers*, an online live event with best-selling author Robin Wall Kimmerer Thursday June 18 from 6-7:30pm. Cost is \$5.00 for seniors, mckenzieriver.org.

6. Ruth reports drought is affecting farmers, and needs to be recognized as a priority. Conflicts between water to maintain salmon and water for crops noted. She will report back on strategies to impact the issue.

7. Bob Doppelt's Transformational Resilience Group crises management strategies continues to be considered for action. Penny will contact Jenny Gordon who put on a similar program at FUMC with Patty Hine of 350.org. Jenny will be invited to discuss options during our 15 minute education session at the beginning of the July 8 meeting.

8. The Frontline video, "Plastic Wars" highlighted this serious issue that needs to be addressed. We are all to continue to consider potential strategies for our individual reduction in use. A variety of sources of bulk household goods and foods are available in multiple locations locally (Friendly St. Market, Capella Market, Hummingbird Wholesale, Sundance and Market of Choice. Keith suggested putting together a compendium of sources, and Ron noted it could be put on the website. Merrily and Sue will look into options and report back next month.

9. Rural communities lack of access to 911 was noted by Sue. No immediate solutions evident as Lane county stretches from the sea to the Cascade mountains with quite large rural areas and limited county Sheriffs.

Next Month's Meeting: July 8, 2020, 1-3 PM

Moderator: Ron

Minutes: Sue

Drawdown vs. Jenny Gordon discussion.