

Minutes for Interfaith Earthkeepers June 9, 2021 1 pm

Present were: Ron H, Merrily, Katharine, Cynthia, Bob, Rob, Rouanna, Dennis, Betsy, Britni, Penny, Keith, Mark, Sue.

We enjoyed each other's check-ins. We want to thank the new folks especially. Do come back and bring others!

Merrily used Drawdown to talk about it's chapter on Artificial replication of photosynthesis.

..... has done research on this process for over 20 years. He and a colleague were finally able to split Hydrogen from water (HCO₂), but application of this process has not produced results that can be applied. This was a really interesting reading to present.

Amalia wrote up her article on IE for the OR Magazine that she helped produce at the U of O. She interviewed 4 of us, and spent a lot of time with us, attending two of our meetings.

It was generally felt that she did an excellent job. This story will be shared with you all soon. Penney offered to send a thank you note.

Betsy shared more information on the Earth Care Interfaith Fund brochure which encourages donations to Long Tom Watershed Council, and McKenzie River Trust to help with riparian restoration, and tree planting. It was voted, and passed, that the Brochure would list EK, with our website if possible and not individual Congregation names. Thanks to Betsy and Len.....for all your work on this.

Dennis suggested with all agreeing, that we should put our Logo on it also. Rouanna sent the logo.

Dennis talked of his involvement with Fossil Free Eugene. He suggests that we continue to talk to Eugeneto encourage further distancing from any new infrastructure for the Fracked Fossil Fuel called Gas. NorthWest Natural Gas has a strong PR program with a lot of misinformation concerning their proposals throughout the state. 1) No new infrastructure for gas. 2) Help from equity funds for low income people to change out their gas appliances. 3) Work to get 4J Schools off gas, and not put in any new. 4) "Green" hydrogen is mixed with 85% fracked gas. 5) Biomass, with much investment, would still only provide, at best, 20% of our energy needs, with a lot of methane leaking into the atmosphere. 6) The gas imported into our state from 4 other locations have a lot of fracked gas in it. To frack gas a great deal of water is used which is then contaminated and removed (the best they can) from planetary use for thousands of years.

Sue will be working with these same issues at the county level. We are hoping to work with the Lane County Climate to ask that the County issue restrictions on gas infrastructure in all new County Buildings.

Merrily reported that her church is going Solar, and is also installing a battery system so the church could become a shelter during times of emergencies. :~)

Dennis reported on NAACP. They have been working on a community garden at the Mim's House to provide food for the marginalized. He mentioned several bills that are in the Legislature, several of which have been passed by the House and some by the senate aswell, that are dedicated to help marginalized communities.

Please send letters of support for these bills: HB 2475 HB 2842 HB2021 They are currently in the Committee on Ways & Means and need to be pushed to move out of committee. Please send your testimony to the 3 chairpersons and your own OR Representatives. They need to hear from us now.

Ron suggested that we develop a link that would allow us, online, once a week to help us send to our Legislators. It was suggested that we could develop this for the next session.

Sue will send out information on Senator Merkley's push to log our national Forests throughout the state as a fire prevention measure. It's strongly felt that Sen. Merkley has got this wrong and we need to tell him so. All of our forests burn from time to time. This has gone on forever. Research shows that some forests burn every 3 years, some every 5, some every 10 etc. The problem we are having is that we have allowed towns to build in the forests. And yes, things are very dry, and yes plantation forests burn hotter.

We have, presently in Oregon, some of the few old growth forests left in the world. This world needs them.

A very good discussion ensued concerning Ocean Day...June 8th in 2021. The following are ideas that we want to pursue.

Join SOLVE for an ocean clean up day Sept. 25, 2021. Get all our churches involved, intergenerationally if possible. Sue wants to develop an "Ask" around plastic issues. Rouanna said that SOLVE seems to work with PDX 99% of the time and I want us to go to a local beach. Mark has offered to look into beach cleanup and see what our options are. He would also like to involve church youth in the project as well as instill "fun" into the day. He will report back next month.

Discussion was held on future meeting needs. We will meet in person next month. Mark invited us to the Congregational Church.....We wait for confirmation. Sue will send out a Doodle Poll for our August meeting to determine which night of the week we will meet from 6:30 to 8:30pm, on Zoom. We want to try an evening meeting to see if working people wish to attend. Sorry that both these new options will not accommodate Keith, unless he moves back to the States.

For July....Facilitator, Sue
Minutes, Merrily
DrawDown, Katharine
Respectfully submitted by Sue...