

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting  
July 12, 2023

Attendees: Dennis R, Sue C, Mark L, Carl B, Cynthia B, Jared T, Keith O, Marie R, Ron H, Rouanna G, Janna T, Charlotte, Katherine H

Moderator: Dennis R; Minutes: Britni C

## **Continuing Business**

**1. Janna from [KEPW 97.3](#)** (Eugene Peaceworks): The goal of the station is to bring the community back to community radio and provide a place for local voices, including music. It is a platform for people to be heard and share what's going on in Eugene. The random music mix features local Northwest musicians, and they plan to share more local music. Janna was doing a Water is Life show, inspired by Standing Rock, which featured interviews regarding water issues. The station airs some podcasts including Democracy Now. The [Youth Radio Project](#) is Janna's personal project. It empowers youth (mostly 10-18, some younger) to research and share on a topic of their choice. Kids learn how to interview and learn about local organizations. She is looking for youth to participate in the fall. Email [stationmanager@kepw.org](mailto:stationmanager@kepw.org) for more information. The station also airs public service announcements, and it has a news team, which is mission based and features local news. They do not air advertisements. Currently, the station's biggest need is membership for as little as \$5 a month. Volunteers are also needed.

EK connection: KEPW desires to share information about how to take care of the planet and how different organizations are working on this. Dennis: Is there a potential for a show on climate/environment that features local organizations? We will continue the conversation during the next meeting.

## **2. Advocacy Updates**

- Yes for Eugene: City Council voted to withdraw the proposal because a federal ruling declared that the City of Berkley did not have local authority to ban fracked gas. Eugene City Council made a commitment to look at other electrification opportunities such as incentives. Dennis would like to send a letter on behalf of EKs thanking and encouraging them to pursue other ideas. New York State passed the All Electric Building Act, which prohibits fossil fuel hookups in new homes and buildings up to 8 stories high starting in 2026. Building codes are established at the state level. Ron: New York state has passed electrification legislation. Could the Fossil Free coalition consider a state level strategy?
- [Climate Forests Coalition](#): Over 330,000 comments were submitted supporting old growth forest protection as a climate mitigation strategy.

- Divest Oregon: In June, a [strong letter](#) was sent to the Oregon State Treasury and Oregon Investment Council urging them to take action now. The letter was signed by EarthKeepers as well as over 100 other organizations and representatives.

**3. IRA information update:** Incentives, tax credits help make EVs more affordable. Final rules will come out this fall, and we will have more information about state level programs. Lane County Citizens Climate Lobby has a presentation on the Inflation Reduction Act for congregations. Contact Elizabeth Grant at [beeegrant@gmail.com](mailto:beeegrant@gmail.com). Ben Pendergrass is the Vice President of Government Affairs for CCL - [ben@citizensclimate.org](mailto:ben@citizensclimate.org)

**4. Location of the next in person hybrid meeting:** The August meeting will again be at First Congregational Church.

**5. Interfaith Summit Planning/EarthKeeper participation:** Is anyone from EKs interested in participating on the planning team? Keith is interested. Ron will contact Cheric.

**6. Ongoing educational ideas:** We plan to start reading *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy. Try to acquire the book by the next meeting in August. It is available as an eAudiobook (free) through Hoopla via Eugene Public Library (search the title on the [library website](#)).

## **New Business**

**1. Website traffic update:** Activity was hovering around 150 hits per month over the past couple of years. Earlier this month, it was up to 500. Every week there are actions and letters to sign onto. Remember to share the EarthKeepers website [link](#) with our individual congregations.

**2. Turtle Flats - next steps:** Mark Lindberg from FCC and Jared Tarr from Friends of Buford Park have been talking about Turtle Flats. It is a great example of how a special interest group can steward an area. The next work party is on August 12th from 8-11am (there is some flexibility around the time).

United Way of Lane County Days of Caring is a three-day long service event from September 21-23. They are currently in the planning stage, and they would love for something to happen at Turtle Flats including invasive species management and possibly ecological burning. People can register as a group on the [United Way Website](#).

Site adoption possibility: Friends of Buford Park would provide EKs with keys to the gate of Turtle Flats and access to volunteer tools, which would empower the group to do independent organizing of work parties. There would be a need for 2-3 representatives from the EarthKeepers who would meet with the lead land steward and stewardship staff once a month or every two months to understand priorities and guidelines for work on the site. Keith is interested in being on the team. Turtle Flats is adjacent to Willamette Confluence Preserve and Glassbar Island State Park. Contact Mark if interested at [markl@fcceugene.org](mailto:markl@fcceugene.org),

Invasive Species Utilization Project (contract with the county) - This looks at ways to utilize plant material that's been removed and encourages better relationship with those plants. Rooted Remedies Invasive Utilization Workshops are taught by a local herbalist every third Monday at 9am. The workshops teach participants how to harvest and use invasive plant species as food and medicine. [Click here](#) for the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah calendar.

Jared is in the process of putting together a group of volunteers to do ecological burning called "Friends of Flame Burning Corps." He is also looking for trail sentinels who would stand on the trail, tell people what's happening, and tell them to turn around. If anyone is interested, contact Jared at [volunteer@bufordpark.org](mailto:volunteer@bufordpark.org).

**3. Possible future tree planting projects:** Eugene/Springfield NAACP has plans for planting projects this winter in Springfield. Dennis will keep us posted as he learns more.

**4. NYC Climate Rally:** On September 17 a [mass rally](#) is planned in NYC to demand that President Biden take bold climate action ahead of the [UN Climate Ambition Summit](#).

**5. Talking Stones update:** UU Indigenous Connections Circle - Field trip to walk to the [Kalapuya Talking Stones](#) on July 22 at 10am. Meet at Aspen Street Boat Launch in Springfield at 10am. There will be a picnic potluck afterward.

**Next Meeting: August 9, 2023 (online and in person at First Congregational Church)**

Moderator: Sue C

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: *Nature's Best Hope* (acquire the book by the meeting)