

EarthKeepers' Minutes—Meeting 7/14/21 — 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Members present: Ron H., Sue C., Katharine H., Patty H., Phyllis W., Betsy H., Mark L., Merrily S.

This was our first face-to-face meeting after being in lock down for 17 months; it was so wonderful to see folks in person! Thank you to Mark and First Congregational Church for providing a cool breezeway with gorgeous garden views! We had a chance to catch up with each other during check in.

Time sensitive: Oregon Interfaith Power and Light is sponsoring a free movie, about 40 minutes long, called “Other Side of the Hill”, about environmental efforts of our neighbors east of the Cascades. Please go to OIPL’s website and sign up; the movie is available for viewing July 10 to July 25. It would be fun to be able to discuss it at our next meeting!

Betsy reported that the committee re-doing the Faith Community Fund (carbon offset) brochure will be meeting 7/15/21 to design a package of pages for use in promoting/explaining the brochure. It will include the history and goals of the fund. There will be a page for McKenzie River Trust, Long Tom, the nursery, and a page to explain calculating carbon footprint. The package will make presenting the FCF to churches much easier.

Fossil Free Eugene Report—Patty reported that Dylan Plummer, who has been a very active organizer with Fossil Free Eugene, has been hired by Sierra Club. He is eager to hire a young activist to take his place and is looking at the Breech Collective, a new group of young environmentalists active in the Eugene community. 80% of natural gas is fracked gas. NW Natural Gas’s 20-year contract with Eugene has been over for 2 years; they have been unwilling to work with the city council to reduce the city’s carbon footprint. Fossil Free Eugene meets every other week and momentum is growing. They are being supported by 350Eug, Beyond Toxics, and EarthKeepers, among other groups. Dennis Reynolds is our representative. When asked if there is anything more EarthKeepers can do Patty replied, “Yes, we need to see new faces at city council meetings!”

ODOT Letter — Merrily read the letter that was sent to Bureau of Land Management, ODOT, Gov. Brown, Ron Wyden, Jeff Merkley, and Peter deFazio from EarthKeepers regarding clear cutting in burned Oregon forests. The letter cited the newest science regarding leaving the snags vs. clear cutting. She then read sections of the reply from ODOT. It was clear that our letter was taken seriously and they are aware that the public is watching. This is a good way to make our voices heard.

Mark reported what he learned about SOLVE, the group who is sponsoring ocean beach clean-up on Sept. 25th, 2021. It appears that Honeyman Beach is not sponsored yet and is the closest to us. SOLVE will train us about beach safety and will provide us with supplies, bags, signage. We decided that it is too late for us to each organize our own church's youth to do this, but Mark is planning to do it with his youth. So we decided that, as many EarthKeepers who want to and can, will go with Mark's youth to Honeyman on Sept. 25th. That way we will have experienced it this year and will be able to organize our churches better next year. For more information about beach cleanup go to <https://www.solveoregon.org/project-oregon-beach-leaders?> At our next meeting we will find out who is planning to attend; please consider coming to this fun day of environmental service!

Patty Hine reported that EarthKeepers is invited by the Divest Oregon Coalition to become one of the undersigners of a petition to ask Oregon State Treasurer, Tobias Read, to stop investing PERS funds in the fossil fuel industry. In the last couple of years 11 billion dollars has been divested across the country. We told Patty that we would be delighted to join the coalition.

Patty also told us that Dawn Leslie, an environmental engineer, will be running against Jay Bosevich in the next election. She will need our support.

Look for a Doodle Poll from Sue re: preference time for our next meeting. We are currently scheduled for a 6:30 to 8:30 meeting in hopes of providing some working members a better time of day to attend. But, we need to know whether this will make it difficult for you to attend.

Next meeting: Aug. 11, 2021, TBD
Facilitator: Merrily
Minutes: Ron
Drawdown Discussion: Katherine H.