

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting
August 10, 2022

Attendees: Ron H, Britni C, Bob G, Cynthia B, Mark L, Tom P, Sue C,

Old Business

Lane County Climate Action Plan: The city is in agreement with home electrification first, then will move on to businesses. So far they have not allowed NW Natural to bring in more pipelines (these are Fossil Free Eugene goals). NW Natural wants to mix hydrogen and gas; keep talking to your city councilors! **Added by Britni: Mark Nystrom, Climate Strategist, is leaving this position to move to D.C., and there has been talk of ending the Climate Advisory Committee. Perhaps we should contact commissioners about the importance of community engagement.

Earth Care Interfaith Fund (Betsy and Catherine not in attendance): The Unitarians recently gave to the fund, which supports Long Tom Watershed Council and McKenzie River Trust.

River Clean up Sunday, Aug. 14th 2:00-4:00 at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum: Only four additional people have signed up so far. Please spread the word! Meet at Buford Park North Trailhead and parking lot. Sign a waiver when you arrive and receive a parking pass. Ron will email the sign up form. [Click here to register](#). Mark says they hope to do another cleanup on September 24th

Updated Interfaith EarthKeepers brochure: Ron is still working on it.

Tree planting plans for September: Mark and Dennis will follow up with this.

Protecting mature and old growth forests: Climate Forests Coalition (climate-forests.org) - Ron asked for authorization from the group to officially join the coalition. Keep an eye on the blog for more information for actions. There is an opportunity to comment on definitions of old growth; see Friends of Doug Fir National Monument Dave Stone blog post. Also see commenting opportunities from Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands. Important facts: 1) PNW forests are capable of storing twice as much carbon as the Amazon; 2) Oregon already cuts more soft wood than any other place in the world.

Leadership: If anyone is interested in leading the group and moderating future meetings please let us know.

New Business

Tom Peck presented on [Lift Every Voice Oregon](#), a coalition of a number of faith based groups that have been working quite effectively on gun safety legislation. Tom had been working on climate, and recently pivoted to doing work on gun safety. Last year there were 6 mass shootings in Oregon. Initiative proposal #17 received 160,000 signatures

and is now on the November ballot as Measure 114, which requires that a person who wants to buy a new gun will have to go through a licensing and training process. It does not affect current gun owners. The goals are to decrease gun sales, prevent irresponsible gun ownership, and reduce magazine size to 10 rounds.

**Tom recommends building a statewide infrastructure, a “machine,” to support an initiative, which can take a few years.

Options for Action:

Oregon Ballot Climate Initiative 2024

Eugene Home Energy Score initiative (similar to what is currently being [proposed in Corvallis](#))

Overcome Voter Suppression - Interfaith Power and Light has recognized the importance of this strategy. Something to focus on in the coming year?

Climate Forests Coalition (already discussed)

River Clean up August 14th (already discussed)

Discussion Topics:

Sue is interested in hemp and solar.

We discussed solar energy ideas:

- Churches work together to raise money to get solar for one church at a time.
- Oregon Interfaith Power and Light has a program called [Cool Congregations](#).

We briefly discussed ideas for getting people out walking in Eugene:

- Little libraries

We discussed local food production and sustainable landscaping:

- Produce sharing at churches
- Starting more gardens on church lots similar to Annie Mim’s Community Garden
- Permaculture - native and edible landscaping
- Britni will send information on sustainable gardening and permaculture for blog

There is a concern about the environmental impacts of mining for new technology (i.e. lithium). We discussed the importance of pairing Wisdom (Braiding Sweetgrass) with Technology.

Cynthia reminded us to talk about electric bicycles in addition to EVs. EWEB is offering up to two \$300 rebates per family for electric bicycles.

We also discussed plastics recycling. This has been a challenge for most people, and we briefly discussed the importance of preventing purchase of plastic packaging as much as possible. How can we support others with this?

Sue brought up the issue of microplastics. The city does not take out the microplastics; they are released into the river. How can we change this? What are they doing in the San Francisco Bay area? If anyone finds information on how to best deal with plastics please share.

Education Discussion: We had our final (brief) discussion of Braiding Sweetgrass. Everyone appreciated the wisdom conveyed by this book.

Next education topic: [We are going to read "Becoming Rooted" by Randy Woodley](#)

Next Meeting Online: September 14, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Moderator : Sue C

Minutes: Britni C