

EarthKeepers' Meeting - Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021

This was our first evening meeting, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., designed to be accessible by people who work during the day and those who are not in Eugene.

Attendees: Rouanna G., Cynthia B., Sue C., Katherine H., Phyllis H., Dennis R., Britni C., Brian L., Merrily S., and Ron H.

Dennis gave the NAACP and Fossil Free Eugene updates:

- *NAACP has been given a grant which will provide extra staff time, possibly for leafleting and door-to-door contacting. They are planning a Climate Day in the fall.

Dennis attended most recent Eug. School Dist. 4J school board meeting. Luckily, Dennis gave his testimony early. The meeting had to be cut short due to disruptions by anti/vax and anti mask people. Dennis asked about gas installation plans for new schools, pointing out that gas provides no air conditioning in a warming climate. All EarthKeepers are asked to write a letter to the 4J School Board in opposition to gas heat and encouraging heat pumps which can both heat and cool!

- * Both Eugene and Springfield are noticing reduction in tree canopy. Heritage trees are being felled. Will be addressing the Eugene forester.

- *Fossil Free Coalition has done a lot of work with the City Council. Important for EarthKeepers to speak up now. City Council is meeting remotely.

Discussion about SOLV beach cleanup:

- *Bring N-95 mask against wind, sand, and Variant D.

- *Friends Church is too concerned about new variant and won't be joining.

- *Goal would be to have participants from various churches walk and talk about climate concerns.

- *One little action counters the weight of what's happening in the world.

- *Just recently the report from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has coincided with spike in Covid cases in Lane County. Working for the environment has become more challenging.

- * We will talk to Mark L. to see what his plan is. Is he still taking his youth to the beach? Those who wish may join.

Katherine talked about "Pasture Cropping" from Drawdown, p. 175. Story of a farmer in New South Wales, Australia, who began no-till planting after his farm burned completely. He was able to plant seeds directly into perennial grasses that had been feeding his cattle. He got two crops off of one piece of land. The vitality of the soil, crops, grasses, and animals all increased.

Ron H. added that he has planted no-till corn successfully this year.

Re: Faith Community Fund

Dennis reported that the City of Eugene is looking for places to invest in carbon offsets. He is interested in presenting the new brochure and complete package about McKenzie River Trust and Long Tom watershed. He will also connect with Brian L. about how the Corvallis group found certified organizations for carbon offsets.

Sue reported on the OIPL movie "The Other Side of the Hill":

Eastern Oregon has struggled to help people find sustainable work since 5 sawmills closed. Ideas included wind and solar farms, vegetables grown in greenhouses. These were people trying to make a difference, and trying to work together.

Lane County Climate Action Plan (CAP), advisors to the County Board of Commissioners, will meet Sept. 24, 12:30 p.m. online.

Ron reported that he signed a letter from EarthKeepers, along with 466 other environmental groups, to urge President Biden to appoint a nominee to the FERC(Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) who will champion environmental and energy justice.

Brief discussion of how participants feel about the new meeting schedule. Phyllis W. would prefer evening meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. We feel it is too soon to gauge whether the new schedule is a good one, so we will continue to assess it as we try new things. For now, every other meeting will be 2nd Wednesday evenings at 6:30 on Zoom. Otherwise, meetings will be 2nd Wed. from 1-3 PM on Zoom when weather turns. The September meeting will be outdoors; Merrily will ask Mark if we can meet again at First Congregational.

EarthKeepers are invited to join ILIPI (Illinois Interfaith Power and Light) on Sept. 12-13 for a 3-night immersive, interactive virtual journey into healing. Contact OIPL (Oregon Interfaith Power and Light) to register. This Faith in Place Summit is a free event.

Divest Oregon is pushing Tobias Read, OR State Treasurer, to divest state pension funds from the fossil fuel giants. We signed a request letter along with 350PDX. Ron will attend 70+ Zoom meeting on Aug. 25 and report back to us on progress.

We brainstormed creative ideas to continue our work:

- *people are turned off by "doom and gloom"; would like positive ideas for stewardship of creation,

- *new product ideas, such as bricks made with hemp + lye,

*mycellium product, biodegradable, instead of plastic for packaging,

*Biking—Climate Revolution, advances biking as a way to reduce carbon and get around town,

*3-4 person teams to make presentations to other churches. People are recognizing that things are changing, becoming more receptive to science + faith.

*continuing our letter-writing, testifying efforts

*help congregations/individuals invest in solar. Corvallis is providing solar for the homeless (S. Corvallis motel, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition campaign).

Sue C. is interested in how solar was organized in Corvallis (Seeds for the Sol, Solarize Corvallis, OR Clean Power Coop). EWEB buys produced electricity at 2.5 c/kwh and sells at 8.5 c/kwh. Will discuss further in Oct. meeting.

Next meeting: Sept. 8, 2021, 1-3 PM, at First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave, Eugene, OR

Moderator: Merrily

Minutes: Sue

Drawdown Presentation: ? Please let Merrily know if you would like to present.