

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting  
August 9, 2023 at First Congregational UCC

Attendees: Sue C, Ron H, Ron C, Keith O, Rouanna G, Carl B, Mark L, Dennis R, Bob G, Katherine H, Betsy H, Philip B, Ruth D

Moderator: Sue C

**Continuing Business**

1. Possible [KEPW 97.3](#) program. The [Youth Radio Project](#) is Janna's personal project. Mark is interested in his youth possibly working on this. Janna visited last month, providing her email [stationmanager@kepw.org](mailto:stationmanager@kepw.org) for more information. Rouanna noted the website daily news blog has more than enough timely interesting climate/environment information to be used for discussion on any regular programming we develop.
2. Advocacy Updates
  - Sue discussed advocacy for black farmers, and the group endorsed our public support of this effort.
  - Sue also reported the issue of forest land ownership is beginning to be addressed. The Pacific Northwest Alliance is engaged in planning a protest on this issue at a large timber industry gathering.
  - [Climate Forests Coalition](#): Ron H. reported the final tally was over 500,000 comments submitted to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in support of protecting mature and old growth forests as a climate mitigation strategy.
  - Divest Oregon: Ron H indicated we continue to support this effort. The New York Times recently engaged a specialist to analyze the Oregon investment portfolio risk, and found it was much higher than they claim. Story also covered by Willamette Week, to be on our news blog in a couple of days.
  - Ron H also reported we are supporting the March to End Fossil Fuels in NYC in September prior to a UN session, as well as legislation in Washington to phase out bank funding for fossil fuels
3. Turtle Flats August 12 - Mark notes that he would like to have a few more people at the event, so we should resend our invitations. Dennis plans on going.
4. That's My Farmer Annual Dinner is October 2 this year, with food to be taken out only. The proceeds go to farmers for food baskets for low income individuals and families. Contact Katharine H to support this effort and the opportunity to enjoy delicious food.
5. Dennis indicated NAACP is planning a planting project in Springfield in the fall, further information pending.
6. Keith is monitoring the planning for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual Interfaith Earth Summit in February. Carl B will possibly be involved. An effort will be made to engage the Interfaith Hub and Ed Conrad

7. Next In person hybrid online meeting in September will again be at First Congregational Church.
8. We start reading *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy. First chapter is assigned for discussion in September.

### **New Business**

1. Ron C reported Unity of the Valley now has a climate group, and they are looking to be more involved in our efforts. He is interested in an event at western edge of the UO campus at Bank of America and US Bank. He is considering an action after students return September 28, possibly in coordination with 350EUG. There was general support for the issue, important to us since our early efforts in front of Chase Bank prior to the pandemic.
2. Rosanna noted there are petitioners circulating a protect animals petition that is focused on the extreme and impractical side of the issue.
3. Ruth indicated an effort to establish passenger rail service between Eugene and Florence is beginning. Contact her if you wish to support this.
4. Keith is considering the possibility of indigenous fire management and land restoration strategies as a 2024 Earth Day program. He is exploring the issue with connections which include the Long Tom Watershed team.

**Next Meeting: August 13, 2023 (online and in person at First Congregational Church)**

Moderator: Dennis R

Minutes: Britni C?

Education Session: *Nature's Best Hope*, First chapter

Minutes: collaborative effort by Ruth D, Sue C, Ron H