

Minutes--EarthKeepers' Mtg. 9/9/20

Attendees: Ron, Sue, Keith, Penny, Rouanna, Bob G., Phyllis & Len, Katharine H., Merrily

1. Election Issues/Info.:

*Sue reported that the Progressives of Lane County will be setting up tables in several places downtown on Sat., 9/26/20 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to **register voters**. Wear masks and gloves. Sue has the telephone number to call if you are able to help out.

*Merrily reported that there is a group writing postcards to mail to voters in swing states to urge them to vote. Contact Merrily if you would be willing to write postcards.

*Penny is aware of a group, Vote Forward, who are writing letters urging people to vote. She reports there is a pretty good success rate. Contact Penny if you'd like to help.

2. The Human Element movie--plans:

Penny developed an electronic poster for the movie. Sue came up with an email address to attach to the poster so that interested people could request a Zoom invitation. **That address is earthjoy777@gmail.com**. Merrily sent all Earthkeepers a blurb which they could use to invite church members to sign up for the movie. Ron has put all this information at the very top of our website: interfaithearthkeepers.org. **Please send this information to all the organizations/friends you normally contact when we are showing a film!**

Moderator: Merrily for welcome at the beginning and questions at the end

Ron: running Zoom

Sue: co-host, especially questions at the end

Rouanna: running the movie

3. Merrily reported on a webinar put on by OregonWild called "Taking a Stand Against Trump's Environmental Rollbacks". The webinar is now in blog form and can be accessed by anyone by going to **OregonWild.org**. The three people presenting were Doug Heiken (western Oregon), Ron Klavins (eastern Oregon), and Chandra LeGue.

*Doug talked about more than 25 ways in which the Trump presidency has attacked, rolled back, or eliminated protections for the environment in the last three and a half years.

*Ron discussed the current attack, rolling back the restrictions on logging old trees, over 21-inches in diameter, in Oregon's public forests as a way to prevent forest fires. The Forest Service has skipped normal steps, ignored the conservation community, and outcries from Senators Merkley and Wyden. Comment time is still open.

*Chandra discussed how we can be effective in fighting back:

*NEPA--National Environmental Policy Act--how the public gets to comment on proposals.

*write legislators, county commissioners, governor, congress people, federal courts, local Forest Service offices, BLM

*talk to your friends

*write letters to the editor

*go to OregonWild.org for right person, right place, talking points

This decision is being RUSHED. They want to have logged by inauguration day. Make your comments now!

4. Merrily reported on BottleDrop, Oregon's way during this pandemic, to enforce our bottle bill. In a nutshell:

a. open an account at **BottleDrop.com**

b. put up to 30 bottle and cans purchased in Oregon into the green bag provided

c. affix the provided bar code sticker

d. drop your bottles off at a BottleDrop location near you

e. BottleDrop will send you your updated account by email

f. questions, sites, and hours--BottleDrop.com

5. Keith was going to report on The Douglas Fir Monument Trail Guide, but this information may change due to the fires. As of last email from David Stone the town of Detroit was badly burned, but large areas of the proposed monument are still safe. We will hope for more information from David at our next meeting.

6. Plastic Recycling: Sue

* glass is 100% recyclable, so try to purchase in glass whenever possible

* 80% of glass is melted and made into new containers. How can we get producers to use glass containers **without** melting?

* hemp is biodegradable in 4 years. Good idea but would require a processing plant.

* bamboo can be cut and grows back so it is a reusable resource. Can it be used for packaging?

Penny reminded everyone of a local business called **Werfillit**. You leave replacement canning jars with lids on your front porch and they drop off cleaning products in canning jars. List of products can be found at their website.

7. Ron reported on the legislation update. It's time to think about what we can do after the election. We can 1. support the Green New Deal, and 2. put a price on carbon emission. Research **HR 763** and **Columbia Study** to see how this would affect the health of people living near big coal and oil plants. Ron will work on composing a letter that EarthKeepers can use, listing bullet points, to inform their congregations.

8. **That's My Farmer** is doing their benefit dinner this year, but it will be "take out" style. Parties Downtown will be creating exquisite cuisine on Oct. 12th. Half of the fee is a donation to the TMF Low Income Fund. Check out the TMF website or call Katharine Hunt for more details. Katharine also reported that **Fill Your Pantry** is coming; she will give more details at the October meeting.

9. Sue is composing a letter about American values and how Trump is violating them. She is welcoming anyone who would like to add, edit, or comment on the letter to please do so. Find her letter in your email.

Next Meeting: Oct. 14, 1-3 p.m.

Moderator: Merrily

Minutes: Ron

Educational Presentation: ?