

Minutes: Eugene Earthkeepers, September 8, 2021, 1-3 PM,  
Location: First Congregational Church  
Chair: Merrily  
Minutes Submitted by Carl B.

Present:

Katharine, St. Mary's Episcopal; Bob, First United Methodist;  
Penny; Lynn; Jane, Resurrection-Episcopal; Jerry, First Christian;  
Mark, First Congregational, U.C.C.; Phyllis W., First Christian  
Church; Merrily, Central Lutheran; Carl, Buddha Eye Temple.

In lieu of a Drawdown update, Merrily called attention to an Earth Day action where the United States, the United Kingdom and Norway joined with several multinational corporations to form LEAF: Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finances--- committing an initial \$1 billion to create a new international market for tropical nations to sell carbon credits to private companies that commit to rapidly reducing their emissions. More here in the Environmental Defense Fund's Summer "Solutions" newsletter: <https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/documents/solutions-Summer2021.pdf>

Old Business:

1. Sept. 25 Ocean Beach Picnic Area Clean-Up – Mark reported on addition details of the EK clean-up effort and shared this publicity email that was sent out to First Congregational families as an example of a publicity effort. Please note that prior registration is required (including filling out an online waiver) and that link can be obtained from [markl@fccc Eugene.org](mailto:markl@fccc Eugene.org) Also, please note that no park pass is required, necessary equipment and restrooms will be available, and directions can be found by searching for "Ocean Beach Picnic Area."

***Environmental Justice: Ocean Beach Clean-up  
Intergenerational Event!***

Where: **Ocean Beach Picnic Area**, just North of Rock Creek Campground, on the beach side of Hwy. 101. Driving time from Eugene is approximately 1.5 hours.

When: **Saturday, September 25th, 4:00 - 6:00**. Please plan on arriving by 3:45 if possible (leave Eugene about 2:00). Stay after the clean-up to enjoy sunset on the beach! Bring a picnic dinner if you are so inclined!

What: **Beach clean-up** (remove litter and tidy up the site), gloves and bags will be provided through our partnerships with Interfaith Earthkeepers ecumenical group and SOLVE Oregon.

Who: 'Ohana MS & HS Youth Groups are strongly encouraged to attend with their families! **All are welcome to join us!** Children younger than 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Please join us in welcoming individuals and families from other local area churches combining with us in this effort.

Why: *"Ever since the creation of the world, God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things God has made." (Romans 1:20) "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." (Romans 8:22)*

Fellowship, beach, sunsets and care for creation...what a combination! Please join us for this FCC intergenerational opportunity to care for our oceans and beaches!

Contact Mark, Youth Minister, for the registration link today! [markl@fcceugene.org](mailto:markl@fcceugene.org)

2. Faith Community Fund update - Betsy H.: The Earth Care Interfaith Fund, now in its fourth year of operation, is getting a new flyer as well as updates to the McKenzie River Trust webpage.

The goal is to increase awareness about the fund through EK member organizations. Yes, this is a great way for folks to consider making local donations to offset carbon usage (travel/etc.). Since the fund was created in 2017 \$16,330 has been raised. More details on updates and plans for dissemination

in the attached pdf. The Fund webpage is here:

<https://mckenzieriver.org/get-involved/earth-care-interfaith-fund/>

3. Fossil Free Eugene update -postponed.

4. Lane County Climate Action Plan/Climate Advisory Committee - Sept. 24, 12:30 (online)

Access to meeting here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6858364724341884942>

5. Discussion of current meeting plan in light of burgeoning covid infections: Consider one more outdoor meeting before returning to indoor or zoom. Doodle poll to decide format for next meeting.

### **New Business:**

1. Divest Oregon report - Ron's report on Aug. 25 meeting: Divest Oregon is a large coalition of Oregon groups including 350 from PDX, Eugene, Corvallis and Bend, OIP&L, Oregon PSR, Beyond Toxics, Rogue Climate, etc. We should look for other active groups to join like the UUCE Earth Action Committee, the group at Beth Israel (name?), etc. One key focus will be on PERS divestment from fossil fuels.

The Oregon Investment Council is meeting today, and the public launch of Divest Oregon is in a week or so. We will continue to support and look for opportunities to act. Next meeting later this month. Notes from the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G9KmPrsfAFCTo3dp15Pe-g5kj-pAu7K4Fa81wt7hUY/edit>

Slides from meeting here:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1m2Hs65tlaRhGVR\\_PgAnGVSB6shtKUXoQyy8ow22tv3Y/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1m2Hs65tlaRhGVR_PgAnGVSB6shtKUXoQyy8ow22tv3Y/edit#slide=id.p)

2. The Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) drafted a letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission on how to spend new federal funds in Oregon--- highlighting climate and

equity.... EK signed on, the letter has now been sent and Sara Wright of OEC acknowledged EK and asked for additional input on how to “Spend the Money on Good Things, Not Bad Things”.

3. Post-wildfire logging plan contested; follow-up to our letter – Merrily: EK sent a letter to Willamette National Forest Supervisor Dave Warnick to support Nick Cady of Cascadia Wildlands and two other environmental groups calling for the Forest Service to conduct a standard environmental review before clearcutting forests within 200 feet of 400 miles of forest service roads. Mark L. knows Nick and will follow-up on what other kinds of support might be helpful. Story from OPB here:  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2021/08/19/environmental-groups-sue-over-post-wildfire-roadside-logging-plans/>
4. Judge rules to improve fish passage at dams – Merrily: On the good news front, “A federal judge has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to improve fish passage at dams in the Willamette Basin.... The Corps said in a written statement that the agency will review the judge’s order to ensure compliance.” Given the Corps failure to act up until now, this is a situation that deserves further monitoring. Story from OPB here:  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2021/09/02/salmon-steelhead-willamette-endangered-spill-drawdown/>
5. Ron C. asked to have attention called to NRDC article in “Nature’s Voice” which describes Northern Dynasty Mines latest effort to keep the Pebble Mine project alive in Bristol Bay. United Tribes of Bristol Bay is petitioning the EPA to veto the project once and for all. More information and an action link here: <https://www.utbb.org/public-comment>
6. Katharine H. announced that [Church Women United](#) (CWU) is holding a Forum on February 4 and is looking for a representative from EK to speak about the organization and activities. CWU includes representatives from 20 faith communities and could be a good group to connect with to

inform about EK work and particularly to spread the word about Divest Oregon and other EK projects. If anyone is interested, please contact Katharine H..

7. Mark L. updated the group on the United Nations Association on Climate & Oceans (UNACO) Youth Council. He reported that the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting provided youth from all over the globe, including youth from FCC, the opportunity to participate in discussing the most recent IPCC Report as well as other critical climate issues. He reported that the experience of being able to interact in real time with youth from around the world was a very powerful experience. There will be additional opportunities to participate in these meetings, with the possibility of youth being invited to join the Council. EK members are encouraged to reach out to local youth ((high school through college age) and to encourage them to contact Mark. There was additional discussion of possible contacts.... High school environmental teachers and Julia who has worked with the Children's Trust. For more details contact [markl@fccc Eugene.org](mailto:markl@fccc Eugene.org)
8. Merrily reported on Ridwell.com, a for profit recycling company currently operating in Seattle and Portland to help recycle somewhat more difficult recycling products. Merrily raised the question as to whether EK should become involved in helping them to enter the Eugene/Springfield market. There was discussion as to the work of the new company and merits of supporting them vs pressuring local companies to do more and provide greater accessibility. Interesting discussion of cities which have stepped up to deal with hard to recycle materials here: <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/03/13/fix-recycling-america/>
9. Katharine H. announced that the Raging Grannies will be performing at a recycling even on Sept. 26, from 1-3pm. For more information on what can be dropped off and how to get through the line more quickly see: <https://www.ecogeneration.org/eugene>

10. Opening discussion of projects/actions for the upcoming year:

- ! Invite Cynthia Black from the local E-Bikes group to talk about electric bikes? On the electric bike front, three things  
1) California just passed a \$10 million program to subsidize the purchase of electric bikes--- should Oregon follow?  
<https://www.calbike.org/10-million-e-bike-affordability-program-included-in-state-budget/> 2) A Federal program to subsidize e-bike purchases is currently being considered, should we contact our representatives in support?  
<https://www.theverge.com/2021/7/24/22590792/ebike-act-senate-brian-schatz-tax-credit-infrastructure> 3) and some utility companies have offered financial assistance to purchase an e-bike, should we ask EWEB what about them?  
<https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/bike-electric>
- ! Invite Rhianna and/or Phil Barnhart to talk about EVEVA his EV Car Group? Arcimoto spokesperson?
- ! Create a broader forum/panel to discuss transportation issues in general, including electric car solutions vs public transit improvement solutions?
- ! Solar: As Rouanna has pointed out, Oregon is relaunching its solar subsidy program, do we want to be involved in some way?  
[https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/Solar-Storage-Rebate-Program.aspx?\\_cldee=Y2x1YnM5MDBAZ21haWwuY29t&recipientid=contact-b799e6dfe970e911a97f001dd800b582-5397b935dbc649de97e977c4d5ba3e8f&esid=6eb370cc-4b12-ec11-b6e6-001dd8029cd0](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/Solar-Storage-Rebate-Program.aspx?_cldee=Y2x1YnM5MDBAZ21haWwuY29t&recipientid=contact-b799e6dfe970e911a97f001dd800b582-5397b935dbc649de97e977c4d5ba3e8f&esid=6eb370cc-4b12-ec11-b6e6-001dd8029cd0)

Next meeting October 13, 6:30 to 8 PM, location/format to be announced.

